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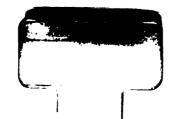




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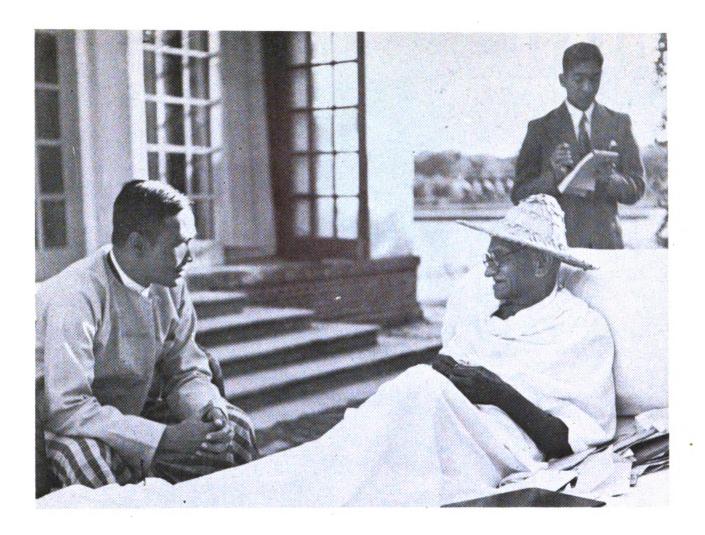


SMOLAN INFORMATION

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NEW FOOD POLICY



The Prime Minister of Burma, Thakin Nu, called on Mahatma Gandhi during his recent visit to Delhi. The Mahatma is wearing the 'khamauk (Burmese peasant hat) presented to him by the Burmese Tremier

Vol	22, No. 221, INDIAN INFORMATION, Jan. 1, 1	948
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Cover Picture: Tillers of the soil at wor	k.

Stacks

# PLANNED DECONTROL

### New Food Policy

THE principles of existing food policy and the general structure of food organisation and methods of administration were laid down after exhaustive review by the Foodgrains Policy Committee appointed by the Government of India during the middle of 1943. The recommendations of the Committee in the main were maintenance of a pre-determined price level, movement of supplies in accordance with an All-India Basic Plan and the building up of a reserve. Supplies were to be kept moving within the framework of the Basic Plan in accordance with local schemes of procurement, rationing and controlled distribution.

These controls which started from small beginnings in the second half of 1942 were extended throughout 1943 and further improved in later years. Two years later, the Famine Enquiry Commission reviewed the position and endorsed the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee of 1943, emphasising the need for continued adherence to them as long as shortage of foodgrains continued.

The present system of controls was evolved during the War in order to meet emergency conditions then prevailing. Though the War ended in 1945, these controls were not only not relaxed or removed but they were continued, intensified and extended. The reason for this was that though imports from abroad had become available in quantities exceeding pre-war average figures, seasonal conditions were adverse and the yield of crops suffered to an unusual extent for two successive years.

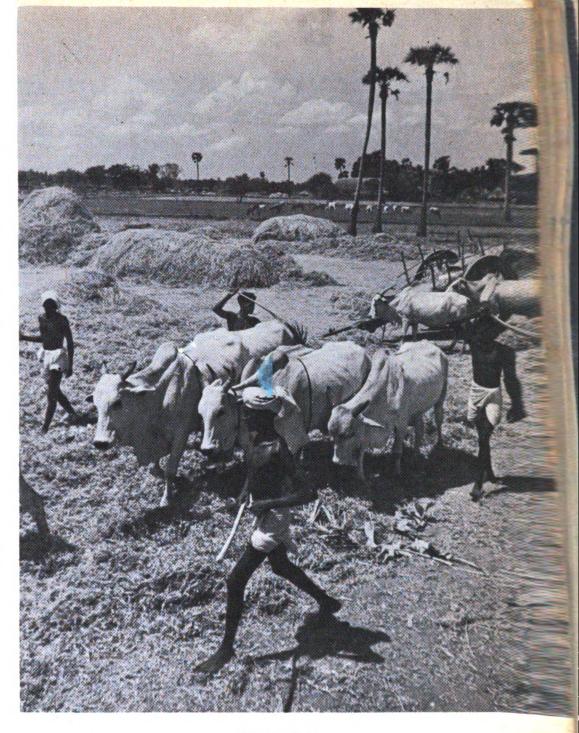
This will be seen from the following figures:—(See cols. 2 and 3)

As a result of this exceptional shortfall in production, food administration has been far more difficult after the Warthan during the War.

#### Serious Problems

A number of serious problems have arisen in regard to procurement, rationing, and imports which led to discontent amongst almost all sections of the population—traders, producers, and consumers. Internal procurement of foodgrains has been yielding poor results and causing great strain on administrations. Ration scales are diminishing and there is a constant threat of breakdown, with stocks steadily falling.

The allocations of foodgrains by International bodies have fallen far short of the minimum needed to maintain even a 12 oz. ration throughout the country. In spite of fullest co-operation by India and strong representation



Threshing Paddy

YIELD OF CEREALS (ALL INDIA)

( Figures in Lakhs of Tons )

		Rice	Wheat	Jowar and Bajra	Total (four cereals)	Difference from average
Average ending	5 years 1943-44	282	106	112	500	
	1944-45	301	108	109	518	-[-18
	1945-46	284	92	88	464	-36
	1946-47	302	81	85	468	-32

against increasing prices of foodgrains in exporting countries, the International organisations have been unable to hold those prices at a reasonable level. As a result, imports from abroad are proving more and more costly, causing an abnormal strain on the country's limited foreign exchange resources and involving heavy expenditure on subsidisation.

These difficulties have reacted upon one another so as to aggravate them. The consumer is discontented because of the feeling of insecurity owing to falling fations and complaints about quality of foodgrains. The producer feels aggrieved because he considers the controlled price as inadequate. The trader, as a class, has never liked the controls which have restricted his business.

The Hon'ble Food Minister discussed these problems at an informal conference held in July 1947 attended by Premiers and Food Ministers of certain Provinces, and in accordance with the consensus of opinion expressed at that conference, a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials, including leading businessmen and members of the Constituent Assembly, was appointed under the Chairmanahia of Sin Dunbatandan Chairmanship of Sir Purshotamdas
Thakurdas. The Committee was asked
to submit its conclusions regarding the policy to be followed in 1948, urgently and in advance of their long-term recommendations. This was done as the policy had to be decided before the Kharif crops came into the market. The Report of the Committee is not yet available to the Government of India, but its recommendations have been received. These are not unanimous. A dissenting minority has also submitted separate recommendations. The re-commendations made by the majority of the Committee, as well as those made by the minority, were released for general information on Dec. 1, 1947.

The recommendations of the Committee were discussed at a Conference of Food Ministers of all Provinces and important States, on Nov. 5 and 6, 1947. There was no unanimity of view. The Press and the public have also been sharply divided on the issue of control versus decontrol. The Government of India have given the most careful consideration to this vital matter. A sub-committee of the Cabinet discussed the issues further with the Provincial Premiers on Nov. 23, 1947. After most anxious consideration, and not without some hesitation, the Government of India have reached the conclusions given below.

#### Progressive Decontrol

The Government of India have decided that the existing policy should be revised and the revised policy should be one of progressive decontrol of foodgrains. Consistently with this basic decision of policy, the Government of India have advised Governments of Provinces and States that they should progressively reduce their commitments under rationing and controlled distribution in the reverse order to the original process of extension so as to be able to withdraw and end all rationing and control as soon as may be feasible.

All the imports of foodgrains in 1948 will continue to be made by the Central Government only, and the present Basic Plan arrangements will continue. Out of the quantities actually imported from abroad, not less than 5 lakhs of tons, and if possible upto 10 lakhs of tons, will be retained by the Centre as an emergency reserve. Provinces and States have been intimated the basic export quotas for surplus areas, and ceiling import quotas for deficit areas. Governments of surplus units have been asked to accept responsibility for pro-curing and making available the basic export quotas during 1948 and also to endeavour to make available as much additional grain as possible in the form of supplementary export quotas. Governments of deficit units have been asked to plan on the basis that ceiling import quotas will not be exceeded during 1948, and that they shall have to accept full responsibility for management of their food affairs without making larger demands on the Centre. They should also endeavour to reduce their requirements from the Centre as much as possible.

#### **Procurement Prices**

Decision regarding the prices at which procurement should be effected and foodgrains should be sold within their respective areas have been left to the Provincial Governments concerned.

They may fix the prices in such manner as may be considered by them fair and feasible in prevailing local conditions. Besides bringing to an end the constant argument between the Central Government and the Provinces on the question of prices, this decision to leave provinces free to fix their prices is a necessary corollary of the revised food policy. The Government of India have, however, suggested that Provinces should fix prices bearing in mind the need for preventing an undue increase in the cost of living.

The Government of India will not bear any portion of the losses, if any, arising from enhancement of procurement price which is not passed on to consumers by an equivalent increase of the consumer's price. The subsidy required for levelling down the price of foodgrains imported from abroad which is at present borne entirely by the Central Government will be shared during 1948 by the Central Government and the Provincial Governments concerned in the ratio of 2 to 1. In order, however, to encourage internal procurement and production and maximum assistance by surplus Provinces to deficit Provinces, the Centre will pay to every Provincial Government a Food Bonus. This Bonus will be assessed at the rate of 8 annas per maund of foodgrains procured and another 8 annas per maund of foodgrains exported, subject to the condition that the Food Bonus should be utilised either on meeting the loss, if any, on the distribution of foodgrains precured in India or on supplying to the foodgrain producer at concessional prices manures, fertilisers, and other commodities essential for production of foodgrains. Supplies exported under the Basic Plan from surplus areas to deficit areas will conti-

nue to be charged on a no-profit no-loss basis as hitherto.

It is hoped that these arrangements would prevent undue increases in consumer's price, improve procurement and reduce provincial demand for food imports on the Centre.

In so far as procurement, rationing and controlled distribution continue, controls will continue to be exercised in respect of rice including paddy, and wheat including atta and flour and jowar and baira and any other millet at present procured and distributed in rationed areas, and maize. Whether barley and gram should be controlled or not has been left to the decision of the Provincial or State Governments concerned. Governments of Irovinces and States are free to adopt any method they consider necessary and feasible for procurement to meet their requirements including in the case of surplus Provinces requirements for export.

Inter-Provincial barriers will continue to be maintained for the present.

Pulses other than gram, Sugar and Gur have already been decentrolled.

In order to assist movement of decontrolled foodstuffs and for distribution of controlled foodstuffs by the trade within a Province or State, arrangement has already been made that movement of foodstuffs on private account will be classified in class II(b) of the Priority Schedule as against the present classification in class IV. Government-sponsored movements of foodstuffs will continue to receive higher priority as hitherto.

This is the revised food policy as accepted by the Government of India in broad outline. Since existing controls, their nature and their intensity, differ widely from area to area, the implementation of this policy will take widely different forms. Some provinces have their special problems. The rabi-growing areas will not have their main crop until April-May 1948. East Punjab has the special problem of the refugees. The States of Travancore and Cochin do not produce more than a small portion of their total requirewest Bengal have large industrial populations to lock after. Then certain Provinces and States are normally surplus while others are normally deficit. In local schemes of implementation, provision will have to be made for these special features. In view of this, each Province and State has been asked to make an announcement en December 10 explaining what the implementation of the revised policy would mean in their own area.

#### Safeguards

It is fully recognised that the decision taken by the Government entails a certain amount of risk. The present policy is based on the expectation that decontrol would bring out more stocks than at present under control; and that these stocks would be distributed without serious hoarding or profiteering.

(Continued on page 64)

## PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF COMMITMENTS UNDER RATIONING

# Dr Rajendra Prasad's Statement in Dominion Legislature

THE new food policy has been integrated in such a way that dependence on foreign imports may become less, more encouragement to procurement will be given and in course of time we may come to a stage when normal conditions will prevail. Let me hope that this will succeed, and I hope the House will support this policy with all its strength and that the country will also give its fullest support", said Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Minister, initiating a full day debate on Government's new food policy in the Dominion Parliament on Dec. 10.

The Food Minister stated that the main decisions of the Government fell under four heads (1) gradual curtailment of Government commitments by withdrawing rationing in the reverse order to the original process of extension (2) reduction of dependence on imports and greater emphasis on internal procurement (3) greater freedom to provinces with regard to prices to be paid for procurement consistently, to keep them within limits for the consumer and lastly to watch developments and keep in readiness a reserve of grains to meet emergencies.

#### Wartime Emergency Measures

Here is the full text of the Food Minister's speech:

The food policy is the result of certain wartime emergency measures which had to be taken during the course of the war. It will be recalled that before the last war commenced India used to import something like 15 lakh tons of rice, mostly from Burma. The effect of the war was not felt during the first two years so far as food was concerned, but when Japan entered the war and Burma was overrun this import of rice from Burma ceased and difficulty began to be experienced throughout the country on account of the cessation of this import. The Government, towards the end of 1941, took note of the situation and ordered control of the price of wheat in December, 1941. But very soon the emphasis shifted from wheat to rice and the Provinces particularly in the South which were deficit in the supply of rice which were denote in the supply of the found it increasingly difficult to meet their requirements. It became necessary, therefore, to take steps to meet the situation which was becoming more and thore scute. Ad hoc action was taken from time to time by Provincial Governments or by the Government of India and movement of grain from one Province to another was restricted. Sometimes even movement within a Province was restricted.

The Government appointed a Food-grains Policy Committee which made certain recommendations. The principal recommendations of that Committee

were: maintenance of pre-determined price level, movement of supplies in accordance with the basic plan, and lastly, the building up of a reserve.

The Famine Enquiry Commission which was appointed after the Bengal Famine endorsed these recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee and the present policy which has been in vogue up till now is based principally on the recommendations of these two Bodies.

#### Extension of Rationing

As a natural corollary to these recommendations Government had to restrict movements, to control movements, to control prices, and had gradually also to adopt action for the purpose of distribution, that is to say, something in the nature of rationing. Pationing was introduced first in the bigger cities with a population of a lakh or more; gradually it was extended to smaller cities with a population of 50,000, and ultimately it had to be extended even to rural areas.

The areas in the South like the States of Travancore and Cochin which are heavily in deficit had to resort to rural rationing almost from the beginning. The rationing gradually expanded. It was hoped that with the end of the war many of the restrictions which had been necessitated by it would have to disappear. But unfortunately a situation developed, largely on account of the failure of monsoon and other natural causes, which not only made it impossible for rationing to be abolished but actually expanded it. And the biggost increase in the rationing area has really taken place after the end of of the war in 1946 and 1947.

I may just mention that in 1944 when rationing was introduced, there were only 26 million people under rationing; in 1945 the number rose to 52 million, in 1946 it rose to 100 million, and in 1947 before the partition it came to as much as 171 million. Now in India it is something like 148 million.

#### Scale of Ration

The rationing at its start was with a basic ration of one pound per adult, half a pound for children and half a pound extra for heavy manual labourers. It has not been possible to maintain this rate, and in 1946 the over all ration had to be cut down to 12 ounces for adults, six ounces for children and an extra four ounces for heavy manual labourers. But it has not been possible to maintain even this, and in 1947 in many places it has had to be reduced to as low as eight ounces or even less.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad

In Travancore, the over-all scale was reduced to 9.2 ounces from August, 1946. In December, 1946, it was increased to 10.6 ounces; in January to 10.7 ounces; in May to 10.9 ounces, and in July last it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and in August to as low as 6 ounces. From October it has again been raised to 8 ounces at which level it remains today.

In Cochin, the scale of ration never came up to one pound except for a short while in February 1945. Since then it remained at 12 ounces till July 1947 when it had to be reduced to 8 ounces and then to 6 ounces for some time. In Aug. it came to 8 ounces and remained there. In Mysore the over-all ration was reduced to 10 ounces in July 1947 and 8 ounces in October at which level it remains.

#### Difficulties of Control

In Madras, the over-all size of 12 ounces had to be reduced to 10 ounces in May, 1947, and to 8 ounces in July 1947; but it was again raised to 12 ounces from August, 1947, except in the case of rice eaters for whom it is 10 ounces now. In other areas also there were reductions in the over-all scale from 12 ounces to 10 ounces, as for example in West Bengal, in East Punjab, in Delhi and Ajmer.

We thus see that it has not been possible to maintain rationing even at the low rate of 12 ounces per adult; but there have been other difficulties too which have been experienced. The problem of rationing has created other problems, it has brought in its wake corruption among the staff, unauthorised agents and prevalence of black marketing and of ghost ration cards. For this purpose a special enforcement staff has been appointed in all areas; instructions have been issued to give exemplary punishments to offenders, in many areas mobile inspection squads have been appointed

to make surprise visits and a drive to unearth ghost cards, particularly in Delhi and Bombay, has had good results.

A system of checking retail shops by surprise visits has been introduced. Apart from this austerity measures have hid to be resorted to. But in spite of all this it has not been possible to maintain rationing at the low figures of even 12 ounces, and difficulties have mounted from day to day.

There are only two ways in which Government could secure the supplies that were required for meeting their commitments: Government could get them from internal sources and they could get it from imports. The difficulties in procurement from internal sources have also mounted: it is becoming administratively more and more difficult for the province to enforce procure-ment. Various systems have been adopted in the different provinces, some have adopted a system of levy, some have adopted monopoly purchase, while some have adopted a combined system of lovy and monopoly purchase. But the difficulties have not been solved and in one case at least force had to be used even to the extent of shooting to enforce procurement.

There has been a general demand from the provinces that prices of foodgrain for procurement should be raised. In pursuance of the policy which was laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee and endorsed by the Famine Inquiry Commission, the Government of India have tried to resist this demand for increasing the prices. It has to a certain extent succeeded but I cannot say that there have not been breaches. We have had to allow bonuses which are only another name for increasing the prices. In one case at least we have had to shut our cycs and allow an increase in price in the name of cartage. So, while difficulties have increased our procurement has not increased much.

#### Increasing Prices of Imports

The difficulty of import has also not been small. In the first place, there is an overall shortage of food in the world. The food that is placed at the disposal of the International Emergency Food Council is distributed to the needy countries by that international body. We have been making representations and we have been getting allocations from them. But our demand has not been fully met. We have only got something like say about 50 per cent of our demands from the international body. But it is not only that we have not got what we wanted but the prices which we have had to pay have gone on increasing. What we were getting at Rs. 10 a maund at the beginning of 1946 from Burma rose to Rs. 14 per maund in June of that year, and further to Rs. 17 per maund early in 1947. In 1948, the price that we have to pay is :38 per ton f.o. h., which comes to about Rs. 21 per maund landed in India. That is with regard to Burma.

The Brazilian and Egyptian rice is still more costly being at Rs. 26 and Rs. 24 per maund.

The Turkish wheat costs Rs. 20 per maind: Argentino maize has risen from

Rs. 10 per maund last year to Rs. 13 per maund this year. Even these supplies at such high costs have been got only because our delegations and deputations have been running from country to country and making representations to them.

In order to meet the difference between the internal prevalent prices and the prices of imported foodgrains, the Government of India has had to pay a subsidy. The subsidy was sanctioned in April 1946 and from April 1946 to March 1947 the amount came to Rs. 20.59 crores which the Government of India had to pay, and from April 1947 to December 1947 it is estimated to be something like Rs. 17.35 crores, and if it is continued to the end of the current financial year it will come to something like Rs. 22½ crores.

The price of the foodgrains that we have been importing is very high and the amount which the Government of India has to pay is tremendously high. Exchange difficulties have been mounting, and it is not known how long it will be possible for the Government of India to purchase this imported grain at such high prices to the tune of something like Rs. 100 crores a year.

It was because we fest that all these difficulties were mounting, our own procurement was not making as much progress as we wished, imports from other countries were becoming more and more difficult, we felt that something should be done to meet the situation.

#### Gap Between Demand and Supply

I might just point out that with the expansion of rationing and the resources of the Government to meet the increasing demand for supplies, we did not have a pari passu increase in the supplies. As I have said, in 1944 the rationed population was something like 26 millions and the resources of supplies at the Government's disposal were 4.93 million tons from local procurement, .76 million tons imported, total 5.69 million tons. In 1945, when the rationed population was 52 millions, procurement was 4.55 million tons, imported 91 million tons, total 5:46 million tons. In 1946 when the rationed population had increased to 100 millions, procurement was only 5.05 million tons, imported 2.1 million tons, total 7.15 million tons: and in 1947 up to September, procurement has been 4.17 million tons, imported 2.01 million tons, total 6.18 million tons.

This shows that a breakdown of rationing was inevitable because the amount procured and imported remained more or less at a constant figure, while the rationed population increased more than six times.

It became inevitable, therefore, for the Government to take a stock of the situation and in July last we had a conference attended by Provincial Ministers and others and the conference suggested that it was necessary to have some sort of of an expert committee to advise the Government on this matter, and so a committee was appointed. The committee was aked to review the whole food policy, to make suggestions about

the present programme and also to make recommendations as to how to increase production. It has made its recommendations on the first part; it has not yet made recommendations on the second part relating to increased production.

The recommendations of this Committee were circulated to the provinces and conferences have been held with Provincial Ministers and Prime Ministers and after prolonged discussions, the Government of India has come to certain decisions which I understand have been placed in the hands of Hon'ble Members so that they might study the decisions and take part in this debate.

#### Government Decisions

It will thus appear that the main decisions of the Government fall under four categories: (1) gradual curtailment Government commitments by withdrawing rationing in the reverse order to the original process of extension, (2) to reduce the dependence on imports from abroad and to put greater emphasis on procurement within the country, (2) to give provinces greater freedom with regard to prices to be paid for procurement consistently to keep them within reasonable limits for the consumer, and (4) to watch developments and keep in readiness a reserve of grains to meet emergencies.

As I have said und as the statement which has been circulated to Members also states, it is recognised that there are risks. I think we cannot shut our eves to the fact that there is a great deal of discontent against controls. Producers are dissatisfied because they feel that under control they cannot get the price which they ought to get and Government forces them to accept less then what they would otherwise get. Consumers, on the other hand, feel that they cannot purchase what they want and they have to be content with less than what they would like to buy if there were no centrols and they have sometimes to put up with certain kinds of grains to which they are not used and the quality of which is not always of the sort one would like it to

A vicious circle has been created by these controls....There is a sense of insecurity in the public mind on account of the continuance of the controls. They feel as if there is something very wrong and any day there may be trouble. And so the producer does not feel inclined to market all that he would if he felt secure about the future. consumer also, if he can manage it, tries to get as much as he can, so that he might be prepared to meet emergencies. And the trader, wherever he can, also tries to hoard. So all these factors combined together lead to shortage and shortage in its turn necessitates control. This vicious circle sometimes and scin. how has to be broken at some stage. The Government therefore had to take a decision. After all wartime emergency measures cannot be continued for ever, and especially when we feel that our difficulties are mounting we had to take some decision and we had to take a decision even though it involved a rick. We had to make a choice.

The risk involved in the policy that is now proposed is that there may be a rise in prices. Let us not imagine that this rise in prices will affect all. At present we have a large population which is either under rationing or controlled distribution. But all this population does not purchase its foodgrains. A considerable portion of the population now under rationing comprises of producers who produce more than they need. They are the surplus producers. Also there are producers who produce only a part of their own requirements and have therefore to depend upon rationing for the other part of their requirements. And it includes also non-producers who depend entirely upon rationing for their food.

#### Risk of High Prices

Any rise in the prices will not affect the first class which is of producers who are surplus producers. Any rise in the prices will not affect the second class, which is of partial producers except to the extent of the deficit which they have in their food supply. It will affect the non-producers undoubtedly. These non-producers are not confined only to cities. They are spread over rural areas also. While in the south rationing affects rural areas too, in the north, say, in the U. P., C. P., Bihar and Bengal, rationing has not spread to rural areas to any

appreciable extent. Therefore, this element in the population which is of non-producers in the villages, where there is no rationing today has to depend for its supplies on the black market and it is already paying very high prices in the black market.

Any rise in the prices of foodgrains as a result of decontrol, I imagine, will not be more than what is prevalent in the black market. It will not affect the non-producer who is not under rationing today. The number of such nonproducers who depend for their food on purchases made by them is not inconsiderable. It is difficult for me to give figures, but I can say this that their number is not small. In these circumstances the risk of rise in prices affects only a part of the population; it does not affect the other parts. The risk is there. But if we did not take the decision that we have taken we would have to face the other risk, that is of a complete break-down in course of time. I do not say that a breakdown was coming today. But I have no doubt that with the difficulty of procurement, with the rising prices of imported foodgrains, with the difficulty of exchange and generally the administrative difficulties which have arisen on account of control to which I have made reference, a breakdown sooner or later was inevitable. That breakdown would be infinitely more

disastrous than anything that may happen on account of a rise in prices. The Government had, therefore, to take the risk and it has decided to take what it considers to be the smaller risk.

I have said that I do not anticipate that the prices will go to the heights of black market prices. In this I am to a certain extent encouraged by what has happened with regard to prices of oils and oilseeds. In March last year oils and oilseeds were decontrolled. This was necessary because in large tracts of the country edible oil was not available at all, and if it was available it was available at very high prices. The Government had in these circumstances to decide to decontrol oil. The result was in a sense very satisfactory.

I will give some figures which will show how the decontrol of oil has worked. In Bengal and Assam particularly, where mustard oil is largely used, oil was not available at all in many places, and wherever it was available the prices were very high. The controlled price of mustard oil in Calcutta in March was Rs. 57-12 per maund. But it was solling at Rs. 120 per maund. In many places it was not available.

Oil was decontrolled in March and the effect was to bring down the prices from Rs. 120 to Rs. 63 which was only Rs. 6



Members of the Indian Food Mission to Australia photographed with Mr. R. T. Pollard, Australian Minister for Commerce and Agriculture. (Seated L. to R.) Mr. N. Wadia, Mr. R. T. Pollard, Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, Mr. V. Sahay and Mr. A. I. Sexena



above the control price. Since then the price has fluctuated and as the stock of last season's produce has decreased and is now approaching its end the price has gone up to Rs. 72 or Rs. 73. It is even then very much less than the black market price of Rs. 120.

In the U. P. the control price was Rs. 45-8- a maund. The market price was Rs. 55 a maund. It rose in November to Rs. 68. Now, it is worth nothing that the effect of this decontrol has been. The U. P. is a surplus province so far as oils and oilseeds are concerned. The effect of decontrol has been to push up the price of oil to some extent in that Province, whereas in the Provinces which are deficit the effect has been to 'ring down the market prices. The disparity in the price between the producing and the consuming Provinces which subsisted before decontrol has become very much less.

The same thing has happened in the case of groundnut oil. In March the control price in Bombay was Rs. 37.8-0 per maund and Rs. 35-2-0 in Madras. Madras is a surplus Province in regard to groundnut oil, while Bombay is a deficit Province. The market price was Rs. 75 in Bombay and Rs. 39 in Madras at the time when decontrol was introduced. After decontrol the price in Bombay went down, in June, from Rs. 73 to Rs. 55, and rose in Madras from Rs. 39 to Rs. 55. In November it came down to Rs. 51 in Bombay and Rs. 41 in Madras. So in this case also the result has been a levelling down in the case of deficit areas and a levelling up in the case of surplus areas and diminution in the disparity of prices between the two areas. I expect something similar will happen in the case of foodgrains also.

#### Sugar

Now I come to sugar. When a decision was taken to decontrol, gradually and in a progressive way, foodgrains, it was felt that there was no justification for maintaining control in the case of sugar which after all is not as essential a foodstuff as cereals. The control of sugar has also created a most curious situation. Under rationing everyone is entitled to a certain quantity of sugar like every other foodgrain. Many people who are not used to taking sugar have under the rationing system to take it. Many others who used to take more sugar formerly have to be content with the quantity that is rationed out to them. So, while on the one hand people who do not need it have to take it, on the other people who do need it had not got it. Those who do not need it pass on the sugar to the black market, and that markets are fed.

The price of sugar in the black market has been anything between Rs. 55 and and Rs. 65 as against Rs. 25-4-0, which was the ex-factory controlled price till yesterday. I am hoping that as a result of this decontrol the price of sugar will not go beyond Rs. 31 where it has been, but I am also hoping it will be nothing like Rs. 55 or Rs. 65, which has been the prevalent black market price today.

There has been also another effect of control of sugar. The quantity of sugar produced in the country has gone on decreasing progressively and the season 1946-47 has seen the lowest on record within recent years. We have had only 9,05,000 tons produced in India in 1948-47, or if you add the production in Pakistan, 9,25,000, as against more than 11 lakh tons which they had reached some years previously. The reason for this reduction that is suggested is that the growers have not been paid the price which they ought to get, and they have not been able to produce as much as they used to produce before.

#### Quality of Sugarcane

The quality of cane also has deteriorated leading to a fall in the recovery of sugar from the sugar-cane from 10.5 to something about 10 or below 10. It is suggested that if the price of sugar will naturally rise because sugarcane is the biggest element in the production of sugar. The cost of labour is also going to be raised. It was something like Rs. 22-8-0 before last year. This year in the United Provinces and Bihar, the minimum is going to be something like Rs. 45. The price of sugarcane was 14 annas a maund before last year. It was raised to Rs. 1-4-0 during the last season. This season it is going to be nothing less than Rs. 2. Now these elements are bound to raise the price of sugar which will be produced in the season which is now commencing, and when we think of increase in the price of sugar, we should not attribute the whole of it to decontrol because the greater part of it will be due to these causes, and I do not know what part of it, but only some part of it may be due to decontrol.

All these considerations have led the Government to come to its decision. Within recent months Hon'ble Members are aware that Mahatma Gandhi has raised his powerful voice against control. That is sure to make the continuance of control even more difficult than it has been in the past. But I am hoping that the policy which the Government has now decided to adopt will in the same measure be benefitted by the same powerful voice, and this policy has a better chance of success new than the policy which we are now giving up gradually.

#### **Precautions Against Emergencies**

But we are not taking risks without making some arrangement to get out of the difficulty if a really difficult situation arises. We have taken three or four precautions so that if a really serious situation arises, we may be able to avert it or at any rate to mitigate the effects of it. We have decided to continue the organisation which is now in existence so that when we have to revert to control again, we may have the organisation ready at hand. We have decided to build up a stock of grain which will be available in cases of emergency. It has been the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, as also of the Famine Enquiry Commission, that this reserve should be built up. It has not been done up till now, but it has been decided to build up this year

to the extent of 5,00,000 to 1 million tons, if possible.

We have also taken the precaution of continuing control on traders by insisting upon their registration and declaration of their stocks from time to time so that if an emergency arises, the Government may be in possession of information about the stocks and may take necessary action to rush stocks from places where they exist to places where they may be needed. But while we are taking all these precautions, we also contemplate that in course of time it would not be necessary to resort to any retrograde step in the direction of control again. These precautions are taken only to meet emergencies if they arise.

This new policy is undoubtedly a break from the policy which has been in force for some years now. A break has to be made at some time or other and it is much better that it is done at a time when we are still in a position to meet an emergency if it arises than when we shall be helpless and forced to abandon this present policy. In the course of these years such success as has attended the policy of control has been achieved by the co-operation of all. Let us not imagine that our policy of control has been a complete failure. Far from it. It has succeeded in a way which has attracted the attention and earned encomiums of foreigners. With all its defects, with all the other difficulties which I have mentioned, it cannot be denied that it has helped us in the past in tiding over crises which might well have overwhelmed us.

#### Appeal for Co-operation

If necessary we may come back to control in a more rigid form if that is forced upon us, but we must make a beginning to break it and that is what is proposed to be done in the new policy which the Government has adopted. We do not want to rush things. We want things to take their natural course so that ultimately normal conditions may be restored.

When I have said that our policy has achieved some success, I must say that success has been achieved by the cooperation of all concerned—officials of Government, Ministries in the Provinces, State Governments, the public at large, and last but not the least, by the Legislature. We have had co-operation all round so far, and I hope that in the new policy which the Government is inaugurating today it will continue to get the same kind of co-operation and help so that the return to normalcy may be quickened, so that the emergency measures which have been necessitated by exigencies of war may disappear and the people in this country may begin to live once again in normal conditions.

I therefore do not accept this policy in a spirit of defeatism or of despair; I have accepted this policy full of hope, and if I get the co-operation, if the Government gets the co-operation which it has a right to claim and which it has received in the past, in the future also, I feel confident that it may

succeed. More than that I cannot say; more than that you cannot expect anyone to say.

I am going to give up the Department with which I have been associated, to take up other duties very shortly. It would have been much better if my successor had had the opportunity of taking part in the decisions which have been arrived at by the Government. But unfortunately we could not wait and decisions had to be taken. I have no doubt that the country and this House will realise that after all it is not a decision of an individual, it is the decision of the Government,—although I cannot deny my own share in it which has not been small—as I have been in charge of the Department.

If the country, if the Members of this House, if all who are interested in this, feel that this has to succeed, this will succeed. I am hoping that the producers will place larger quantities now when they get higher prices, when they feel that they are not compelled but are free to sell as they like. I am hoping that consumers will also put upon themselves some sort of a self-denying ordinance and will not, because of de-control, make unreasonable and unnecessary demands upon the stocks of food. Let us not forget that every grain that is wasted by a consumer means so much taken away from another hungry mouth.

#### Choice before Trade

I have hopes that the trade will also play its part. If nothing else, its self-interest ought to dictate to itself that it is not wise to kill the hen that lays the golden eggs. If this experiment fails unfortunately, there can be no alternative but a more rigid control which will eliminate the trade altogether. That will be one of the incentives if nothing higher counts, which will enable the trade to play its part. But I am not counting only upon this; I am hoping and I have reasons to hope that the trade will play its part honourably in this.

I am hoping that the Provincial Governments, the State Governments and all others concerned will so manage their affairs that dependence upon foreign imports will grow less and less. We are trying to encourage procurement by giving a bonus of eight annas per maund for every maund procured. We are giving an additional eight annas to every maund that is exported from a surplus area to a deficit area. On the one hand these will encourage procurement, on the other we are throwing a part of the burden which the Government of India has so far been bearing, of meeting the deficit between the imported price and the internal price, on the provinces so that they may demand less and less of the imported stuff.

The policy has been integrated in such a way that dependence on foreign imports may become less, more encouragement to procurement will be given, and in course of time we may come to a stage when normal conditions will prevail. Let me hope that this will succeed, and I hope the House will support this policy with all its strength and that the country will also give its fullest support.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD POLICY LEFT TO PROVINCES

REPLYING to the food debate in the Dominion Parliament on December 10, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Minister, said:—

Sir, I am not at all surprised with the reception which the Government policy has got in this House. If in the course of the reply, I do not refer to every individual member who has participated in this debate, it is not for lack of respect for the views expressed, but because I think it would be best to deal with the questions that have been raised in a comprehensive way rather than by taking point by point raised by each speaker.

It has been suggested that control should be continued, because control is in consonance with modern economic thought and to the extent that we have already got it, we should not give it up, but rather we should extend it. I may assure Hon'ble Members that in 'coming to the decision to which I have come and which has been endorsed by the Government, we have not been influenced by any such larger issues as are involved in that suggestion.

We have not been thinking of the Marxist theory or of any other theory in coming to that conclusion, but we took facts as they are, the difficulties that we have to face and the further difficulties which we anticipate, and we came to certain conclusions. If it were a case of planned economy, as has been suggested by another speaker, which we were going to disturb, the position might be different. But, as we all know, these controls are a legacy of the war and war conditions. They arose, as has been pointed out, in a haphazard manner; they have grown equally in the same haphazard manner. And if we want to have planned economy the first step is to scrap this haphazard growth and then think of that planned economy.

#### Increased Prices

I should not like planned economy to be introduced by the back door in this way. Let the country, let this House, let the Government make up their minds about planned economy; let them prepere a Scheme of that planned economy and then introduce it. That may be something worth having. I would therefore not expect Hon'ble Members to look upon this decontrol as a rejection of the policy of planned economy. It has nothing to do with that. That is a different matter, an independent matter which has to be considered and will be considered when the time comes for it.

We have been told that decontrol, even if it is in a progressive way gradually introduced, is bound to lead to a spiral of inflation. In the very beginning I was careful enough to inform the House that we did apprehend that there were risks in the policy

which we are adopting. We did apprehend that there might be a rise in prices; and having appreciated the risks involved we decided that it was better to take those risks rather that to take the greater risk of a complete breakdown which will end in greater disaster. Therefore if there is a rise in prices we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go to such heights that it may upset our whole economy.

If there is going to be a disturbance generally in our economic life we should be prepared for that; only it should not be allowed to go up to such an extent as to make our life difficult in this country and to upset our whole economy. Therefore the policy which the Government have adopted is a policy of gradual decontrol. I am thankful to Mr. Senthanam who suggested the expression 'planned decontrol'. That is exactly what is intended; we are not going to decontrol—come what may—tomorrow or the day after; that is not the intention.

#### Government's Intention

What is intended is that we shall take each step, watch its effects, see the developments; and if we find that as a result of the step that has been taken any serious difficulties are taking place, we have kept the door open for retracing our steps if it becomes necessary. That does not mean that we are not going to stick to the policy which we have adopted; it only means that if this policy fails, if there are indications that it is going to fail and to end in disaster, we shall retrace our steps; not that the moment we have taken the step and we find that there is something wrong here and there we shall retrace our steps. That is not the idea and that cannot be the policy of Government under any circumstances.

If Government have to take certain decisions they have to stick to those decisions until circumstances arise which make sticking to that decision detrimental to the best interests of the country; and that is what we propose to do. I am not at all afraid that the prices will go up to such heights as are feared by some Hon'ble Member of this House. As I said, my own appreciation of the situation is this that the prices may go up to some extent but they can never go to the heights which black market prices have reached. We were told that there are various kinds of prices and markets now prevalent—white, grey, black, and another which was characterised by an Hon'ble friend as jetblack. While undoubtedly there are gradations I think we shall be somewhere near the grey; we shall not get near the black market and certainly not near the jetblack. I think in this country grey is the best colour for all things.

Sir, I listened with great respect to the speech of my Hon'ble friend,



Pandit Kunzru, whose devotion to duty, whose sacrifices, whose learning and whose knowledge we all respect. I listened to him with all the respect that is due to him, but I found that he relied upon the kind of arguments on which all who have fought against decontrol have relied. I should have expected from him an analysis and a consideration of the situation as it prevails in this country and then to arrive at conclusions which will be in keeping with those conditions.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: His time was short.

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: It may be that if he had more time he would have probably developed his argument, but I am sorry I can go only by the arguments that were advanced and I cannot wait for the other arguments that were not advanced by him. One argument that he put forward was that other countries like America are either maintaining or re-imposing control whereas we are thinking of removing control even though in a gradual way.

#### **Need for More Production**

I do not think it is always correct to take the analogy of other countries and to apply them in their entirety to our own country, because conditions differ. If the arguments that have been put forward by several Hon'ble Members in this House are to be accepted, namely, that decontrol can only possible if there is a surplus, there is absolutely no reason why America should have control, because it has not only a surplus for its own needs but it has a tremendously big surplus which it exports to other countries. If the existence of a surplus is all that is required for decontrol there is no reason why a country with a surplus should have any control at all at any time. But in spite of that big surplus I understand America is now reimposing control and control is being maintained or continued in some other countries which have a surplus.

It has been said that ours is a deficit country. Yes, from the figures available it is a deficit country. But the deficit is not very heavy and, as pointed out by an Hon'ble Member, it does not exceed 10 per cent; the deficit is probably nearer 5 per cent.

Now in a country of our dimensions, if we could raise one maund more where we are producing 10 maunds, the deficit will be more than wiped out, and that I believe is not an impossible task. After all, whether we have control or not, the food position in this country can improve only if there is more production and that is true not only of food but of every other thing which is in deficit. Therefore naturally the attention of the Government must be concentrated more on the production side than on the distribution side.

From my own personal experience of only 15 months in this office, I can say that this control has taken more of my time than production. I think that is a position with all who are engaged in this work and who are interested in it. Controls take an abnor-

mally long time: they take a disproportionate amount of more attention than necessary and the result is that control requires more control, and more control requires still more control, and we are landed in what has been called a spiral, not of inflation but of control with the result that we reach a position when we cannot think of getting rid of this control.

#### Legacy of War

As I said in the beginning, these controls are a legacy of the war. They are not normal things. The deficit which the country is now experiencing is not a new deficit. Even before the war we were importing 11 million tons of rice. That deficit was there. Did we have control then? Did we not manage without controls till before the war? And if war had not come, could anyone have imagined that we would have introduced controls in this country? Now that the war is over, now that the exigencies which made these controls necessary on account of the war have disappeared, isn't it better to come back in due course to the position into which we were before the war, that is to say, even if there is a deficit, let the deficit be met in the normal way in which a deficit has been met in the past, in which it is being met in some other countries, or in which it may be met in this country-without control.

What I have been pleading for is this: that the time has come when we should think of going back to normalcy and not stick to the abnormal conditions which have been created by war, and this is a step in that direction. But as I have said, because we felt that there were risks involved, we thought of going slowly and of waiting and watching at every step the effect of the action taken and then proceeding without taking undue risks. That is what we propose to do. Therefore, if normalcy has to be restored, this vicious circle has to be broken at some place, and we have decided that we should begin the breaking at this point, and we are going to do it.

The idea that decontrol will increase supplies, and will release larger quantities of grain from producers which will be brought into the market has been poohpoohed. Personally, I do not think that it is a thing to be pooh-poohed. We know how panic works. The mere existence of control creates panic and that panic leads to hoarding: hoarding not in a bad sense. I do not mean hoarding by profiteers. I mean hoarding by profiteers. I mean hoarding by people of ordinary prudence, with ordinary commonsense, with ordinary intelligence, so that they might not have to meet a certain emergency in future. Because of the existence of control they fear that something might happen when they would not be able to get

## LAND RECLAMATION SCHEMES IN U. P.

ESCRIBED as the largest land reclamation plan through mechanisation in the East—outside Soviet Russia—a scheme will be put into operation in the Ganga Khadar terrain of the U. P. shortly. On Dec. 17 heavy mechanical machinery costing about Rs. 10 lakhs turned up the first sods of 50,000 acres of culturable waste land, till then overgrown with jungle and tall grass. Kept as a preserve for the sport of pigsticking for two centuries, this land will now, under India's national Government, be soon grown with food crops to bridge the gap between food demands and available supplies.

#### Food Production Campaign

Explaining this new direction being given to the food production campaign, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that Government efforts during the last four years to grow more food had been greatly handicapped, by their inability to bring culturable waste lands under cultivation. Till recently the exact location of and acreages of these areas were not known to the Provincial Governments with any degree of accuracy. With financial assistance from the Centre, West Bengal, Bihar, C. P., Orissa and U. P., have carried out surveys of such lands, and there is now a better appreciation of the location of these areas, and the steps necessary to reclaim them. The tracts have long been breeding grounds for Malaria parasite, and the first task therefore is to undertake malarial control

measures before any reclamation work can be started. Such measures have already commenced in the U.P., where 250,000 acres are available in the Ganga Khadar and Tarai regions.

The 5-year land reclamation plan of the U. P. envisages bringing 160,000 acres of land under the plough. For this purpose it is necessary to have heavy land reclamation - machinery, heavy tractors and heavy ploughs. As this machinery is very expensive, the Government of India have decided to assist Provinces by providing the machinery, the operating staff and other appliances. They will also reclaim these lands for the U. P. on the principle of 'no profit no loss'. Without investing any large funds the Provincial Government will get the land reclaimed within 5 years, according to their own reclamation programme. As the time available between the reclamation of land and the actual cultivation in the U.P. and Bihar is very short, and the time for settling new colonists will be at least a year, the Provincial Government has asked the Government of India to undertake mechanical cultivation until the colonists can be settled. The Government of India have agreed to this and it is anticipated that the expenditure involved will be Rs. 50 lakhs for one

Operations on the next land reclamation scheme which will be in the Tarai region, are expected to commence in January, 1948.

grain, because if there were grain there would be no control. Because there is grain, there is control, and therefore we must keep back something which may be of use in time of need.

As soon as this panic disappears, as soon as people feel confident, more and more will come into the free market and more and more will be actually available, just as it used to be before the war, before controls were introduced and before coutrols were in force.

I anticipate that there will be not an inconsiderable amount of grain which will come into the market as a result of progressive decontrol, and there will thus be a larger quantity available. But let us look at it from another point of view. After all, by this method of decontrol, are we going to lessen the quantity of grain now available in any way? That grain that is now available in the country will be there. The imports will be there. We are not stopping imports. Therefore whether we control or do not, the grain that is now available will be available oven after decontrol.

PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: But will you get foodgrains if you decontrol now?

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: We used to get them before.

PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: But you used to after introducing rationing. Will you be able to get them now after accepting a policy of removing control over the distribution of foodstuffs?

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I have no apprehension that we shall not get the grain. All that the international body is interested in is to see that the grains we get are not used for profiteering purposes or used by private individuals for making undue or illegitimate profit out of them.

The position of the country is well known. That we are a deficit country is well known and we shall continue to press our case before international organisations. We shall continue to import from other countries on the understanding and on the condition that no profit by private parties or by individuals will be allowed to be made out of this grain which is imported. There is no reason why they should withhold the grain which they have been giving us up to now.

#### **Expensive Imports**

Therefore, I do not apprehend that we shall lose our imports. After all, these imports are very costly for us. I wish we could do without them. We should try to do without them, and the Government must try to do without them as far as possible. Members will be shocked if they learn the prices that we have to pay simply because we import.

The procurement price of rice from Burma is only £18 per ton, to which may be added certain charges to make it £25. That is how it was calculated last year.

Procurement price in Burma £.18
Handling charges, sewing
gunnics, etc. £.1.25

Overhead and loss by deterioration at 7½% ... £.1.5

Export duty .. £. 4.25

This came to .. £. 25 per ton

This came to ... £. 25 per ton
To this there is to be added 33-1-3
per cent rehabilitation charges, coming
to £8-6-6 and the price which we paid
was £33-6-6 in 1947.

SHRI BALKRISHNA SHARMA: What are these rehabilitation charges?

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: Burma needs money for rehabilitation and she wants to get that out of her experts.

MR. NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: Something like a donation for the price?

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: I cannot say a donation but they are entitled to sell their goods at whatever price they want.

#### High Import Prices

In 1948, this price is going to be Rs. 38 per ton. Now you can imagine how hard it is on this country to have to pay this high price. But Burma alone is not to blame.

I have got the figures for Argentine. In 1947, the producer's price of wheat was 15 pesos per 100 kilos which came to Rs. 5-7 per maund and the export price was 60 pesos, which came to Rs. 21-13. If we took corn their own procurement price was Rs. 3-10 per maund and we have got to pay 35 pesos which comes to Rs. 11-11 per maund. This is what we are paying to other countries on account of these imports.

Australia has been a very good neighbour, I must admit. Australia

has considered our needs and at the present moment we are engaged in very delicate negotiations. But even with regard to Australia we have to say that we have to pay very heavy prices.

For the purpose of maintaining control and rationing all these imports become absolutely necessary and if the Government has to import it has to pay the high prices. If things were left to return to normalcy I am not without hopes that the position might improve. I cannot say that it will improve.

#### Bonuses

Our dependence upon imports must be reduced as far as possible and that is the policy which we have adopted. We have decided to encourage procurement within the country by giving bonuses for procurement, so that if we have to pay anything it gots to our own people and in any case it dots not add to the poverty of the people but enriches them to some extent.

It has been complained that this policy does not say anything about increased production. As I said in the beginning, that matter was still under consideration and no decision has yet. been taken. In fact the Committee itself has not made any recommendations on that point but that does not mean that no attention is going to be paid to that aspect. As a matter of fact with control, with less attention required for maintaining control, more attention is bound to be devoted to the production side, and that is what is going, I hope, to take most of the time and attention and I hope also that the funds that are now being wasted on imports will also go to increase pro-

What I have said is only a hope and an expectation or as Pandit Kunzru would have it, only a pious wish, which he thinks is only another name for self-deception, if not hypocrisy. It all

### THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

THE holding of a Rice Conference either at Bangkok or Shanghai in February 1948, and the taking-over of the functions of the International Emergency Food Council and the Commodity Committee under it, were among the main decisions taken at the first neeting of the World Food Council held in Washington in November last, at which India was represented by Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswarry, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

#### Long-range Problems

The World Food Council is the executive body of the F.A.C. of the United Nations of which India is a member. The meeting of the Council dealt with several important questions relating to the immediate problems of food and fertiliser allocations, as well as the long-range problems connected with the development of agriculture. For the first time allied subjects such as the distribution of surplus foods

and the means of production like tertilizers, and plans for increasing production in the various member nations have been brought under one organization.

Two special committees were formed: one is to deal with immediate problems such as overcoming exchange difficulties in securing food supplies from surplus countries, maximising the output of existing fertiliser factories and cutting down consumption of cereals by cattle, poultry etc. The second committee of which India has been elected a member, will deal with schemes of agricultural production in the various countries and the steps necessary to implement them by securing the necessary technical personnel and material. This work of the Council, according to the Indian representative, is important and if carried out efficiently should justify the existence of F. A. O.

cepends on how one looks at it. If one really feels that it is all false and still expresses a hope it is hypocrisy. If, on the other hand, one really hopes that things will turn out well and expresses that hope it is not hypocrisy. I submit that it is, a genuine and real hope, and sometimes hope is fulfilled, even though it appears at first that it may, not, be fulfilled.

#### Mahatma Gandhi's Views

I did not bring in the name of Mahatma Gandhi to support the policy of decontrol. I mentioned him as a difficulty in the way of maintaining the control. Pandit Kunzru thinks that that is the argument in favour of decontrol. To many people that should he a conclusive argument. In this country we have seen that it has provid a conclusive argument on many points.

extending over 30 years of my close association with him that my intellect and my logic have very often failed to reconcile themselves to what I call his prescience or what Pandit Kunzru will call his instinct. But I have found that his instinct has proved to be true and my intellect and logic have proved to be false. I am not without hopes that in this case, at any rate, his instinct will prove to be true and all our intellect, all our intellectual gymnastics and logic will prove to be false.

ett is not necessary to go into the details of the other points that have been raised. I desire to give the assurance to this House that we propose to hasten slowly, to go along with caution and not to close the door for retracing our steps, if we find that we are treading on dangerous ground. As to the other assurances which have been asked for by some other members I am in a position to give some of them. I am prepared to say that we shall do the best that we can for improving and increasing our production. We shall try to build up a reserve. I must say that we cannot build it up in a day. In five or mx years of control we have not been able to build up any stock at all. Now in a year of progressive decontrol we are going to try to build it up. Hon'ble Members can very well understand the difficulty. They can realise that what has not been achieved during the period of strict control all these years cannot easily be achieved in a period of decontrol. Nevertheless we are going to do it and I am prepared to give this assurance that we shall do our best in that time.

There has been a lot said about deaths and things of that sort. Well, in spite of what has been happening I am not one of those who can revel in deaths, and I am sure nobody in the Government can think of deaths due to starvation with any sense of equanimity. The whole policy is not intended or even expected to bring about deaths, as some Member was pleased to say that it would end only in uncontrolled death. All that I say is that if any situation erises which threatens to bring about deaths due to starvation we shall be prepared to reconsider the whole thing and to do what is thought best in the circum-

stances. For the purpose, as I have said, we propose to keep the organisation more or less intact for some time. Whatever difficulty arises, it will be more in the beginning and gradually things will settle down. So it is in the earlier part of decontrol that all this difficulty will have to be experienced and faced, and we are going to face all these difficulties with the self-consciousness of being prepared to meet them, because we propose to have the organisation intact.

Some other suggestion has been made that in order to help grow more food we should institute a number of prices. That is a good suggestion and I am sure the Government will bear that in mind and will take steps in that direction. Other suggestions for improving our production will also returally be accepted with alacrity an I pursued.

#### Decontrol of Sugar

One word more about sugar. There has been a lot said about decontrol of sugar, that the price of sugar has suddenly shot up from Rs. 21-4-0 to something like Rs. 35. The increase in the price of sugar is not due to decontrol but, as I said, it arises out of conditions which now prevail when the new season is starting and when fresh sugar is being manufactured.

The price of sugarcane is increased; the wages of labour are increased; and these two between themselves make a very big difference—from Rs. 1-4-0 per maund for sugarcane to Rs. 2 and from Rs. 22-8-0 of wages to Rs. 45. These are big differences and we can easily understand that if the price rises to Rs. 35 it is not on account of decontrol but on account of these other elements which have come into force.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What about old sugar?

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD: The price is that of the new sugar. Can you have in the market two prices of sugar—one for the old and one for the new sugar? Can we do that and is it possible? And how is the purchascr going to distinguish between the old sugar and how can he insist on the old sugar for Rs. 21-4 or be prepared to pay Rs. 35 for the new sugar? That cannot be done. It can only be done by taking away the extra price which the old sugar now fetches, and that is exactly what has been done.

All that the Government has done is to freeze all the old stocks at the price at which it was selling on the day of decontrol. It is now for the Government to release this sugar at whatever price it likes and it proposes to take the bulk of this price to itself because it is not possible to maintain two prices in the market. That is what is being done.

I must pay a tribute to the Premier of U. P. who has been largely responsible for bringing this about. I cannot also refrain from paying a compliment to the millowners who have been coming

in for a certain amount of abuse. They have come forward with proposals to keep down the prices of sugar and an arrangement has been made with them, that the prices will not be allowed to go beyond what they would have been if control had continued. I think we should be satisfied with that. What we were able to enforce by law we are now getting out of them by their consent. I think that is any day better. I have no reason to think that we shall be let down. But, if that happens, we still have the power because we have still got the sugar under our control.

I hope, Sir, I have touched the points which have been raised, and I am grateful to the Members for the interest which they have evinced in this. That there is difference of opinion in this House is only a reflection of what prevails in the country at large. If I am not disclosing a secret it is only a reflection of what we have in our own Cabinet. So there is no reason to fear that anything disastrous is going to come about and we can in a spirit of helpfulness accept the decision and go ferward.

## GOVERNMENT FREEZES SUGAR STOCKS

The Central Government have decided, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Food, Government of India, on Dec. 7, to take over existing stocks of sugar from all sugar factories in the provinces of the Indian Dominion at ex-factory prices fixed under the provisions of the Sugar and Sugar-Products Control Order, 1947. Every factory is required to submit to the Central Government as soon as may be, but not later than December 15, 1947, full details of the stocks of sugar held by them or on their behalf on Dec. 8, 1947, to the Central Government. The sugar factories are required to hold such stocks until arrangements are made for their disposal.

This order shall come into effect notwithstanding any order provisionally made by the Sugar Controller or any Provincial Government in regard to stocks of sugar and any contract or agreement for the sale of such stocks made before the commencement of this Order

#### FERTILISERS FROM RUSSIA

Russia has promised to supply India-15,000 tons of ammonium sulphate which is in addition to the allocation made to India by International Emergency Food Council.

Allocations of ammonium nitrate have been made by the Ministry of Agriculture to Provinces and States for the use of cash and dry crops such as sugarcane, and they have been asked to restrict the use of sulphate of ammonia to food crops.

During November, 12,850 tens of chemical fertilisers were received in India from abroad.



# FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

THE Government of India have, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Food, Government of India, on Nov. 80, completed their examination of the Interim Recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. They have taken decisions which have been communicated to the Governments of Provinces and States. The implementation of these decisions is at present under the consideration of all the Governments concerned. Meanwhile, in view of the importance of the subject, the Government have decided to release the Interim Recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, which are as follows:—

- 1. Reduction of Government Commitments: Recommendations to be made to Provincial Governments regarding Food Control Policy:—
- (i) Acceptance of policy of reduction of Government commitments under rationing and controlled distribution.
- (ii) The beginning to be made with those rationing commitments which were accepted in recent years and reduction to be effected in the reverse order to the original process of extension.
- (iii) The basis of reduction to be decided with reference to local conditions with the definite aim of liquidating Government commitments as early as possible.

Three members of the Foodgrains Policy Committee substitute the following recommendations:—

- (i) No relaxation of any existing control over foodgrains during 1948.
- (ii) Relaxation of foodgrain centrol to begin as soon as possible, after supplies sufficient for honouring all commitments on 12 oz. basis, throughout the year, in all parts of the country are assured; together with a margin for emergencies.
- (iii) Education of the public on Foodgrains Control Policy; and Resolute Enforcement.
- II. Prices of Controlled Foodgrains:
  (1) An increase of procurement prices for controlled foodgrains is necessary. The amount of increase to be allowed in different areas to be settled in accordance with the principles and procedure set out below.
- (2) Provincial Governments to propose whether and if so what increase they consider to be necessary; and forward their proposals to the Central Government, with a statement of the circumstances justifying the increase proposed, whether and if so to what extent the increased cost is recoverable from consumers, and the net cost, if any, which is not so recoverable.

- (3) The Central Government, to approve the proposal after satisfying itself.—
- (a) that the increase proposed is not excessive in the circumstances of the case:
- (b) that it does not involve unduly wide differences in the procurement prices in force in areas adjoining the common boundary of different units; and
- (c) that the increase does not exceed Rs. 2 per maund in any case.
- (4) Before passing on the cost of increasing the procurement price in whole or in part to the consumer, both the Central Government and the Provincial Government should satisfy themselves that this can be done without raising the consumer price to an unduly high level.
- (5) The Central Government to reimburse to the Provincial Government one-half of the net cost of the increased procurement price which is not recoverable from consumers.

#### Food Benus

Three members of the Committee support these proposals as they stand, but prefer a modification on the following lines:—

Firstly, the ceiling for increase in the procurement price to be Rs. 1-8-0 per maund of rice, Re. 1-0-0 per maund of paddy, and 0-12-0 per maund of any other controlled foodgrain.

Secondly, the cost of such increase in so far as it is not recoverable from consumers, to be borne exclusively by the Provincial Government concerned.

Thirdly, the Central Government to pay a Food Bonus to every Provincial Government, assessed at the rate of annas 8 per maund of controlled foodgrain procured, plus another annas 8 per maund of controlled foodgrain exported and

Fourthly, the grant of the Food Bonus to be subject to the condition that it should be utilised exclusively on financing Provincial Schemes for the procurement and distribution at concessional prices to foodgrain producers of manures, fertilizers and other commodities essential for the production of foodgrains.

- III. Imports from Abroad and Basic Plan: The following recommendations to be made to the Central Government regarding Import and Basic Plan Policy:—
- (i) A ceiling to be fixed for imports from abroad during 1948.
- (ii) A decision to be taken and announced that the policy of the Central Government is to terminate its dependence on imports at the earliest possible date.

- (iii) Out of the quantities actually imported from alroad, not less than a specified quantity to be retained by the Central Government as an 'Emergency Reserve'.
- (iv) The Central Government to determine; in agreement with Governments of surplus Provinces and States, & Basic Export Quota' for each. The Provincial (or State) Government concerned to accept responsibility for procuring and making available this Basic Export Quota' during 1948; and to endeavour to make available as much grain as possible in the form of Supplementary Export Quotas'.

#### Ceiling Import Quota

(v) The Central Government to determine, after consultation with Governments of deficit Provinces and States, the 'Ceiling Import Quotas' to be made available to each during 1948. Decision to be taken and announced that the 'Ceiling Import Quota' will not be exceeded during 1948. The Government of the deficit Province or State concerned to accept responsibility for management of its food affairs, without making larger demands on the Centre and to endeavour to reduce its requirements from the Centre as much as possible.

Three members of the Committee agree with the above proposals.

The Committee has communicated to the Government confidentially its recommendations regarding the ceiling for Imports as well as the Reserve.

IV. Fixation of 'Basic Export Quotas and 'Ceiling Import Quotas': Recommended figures for 'Basic Export Quotas' and 'Ceiling Import Quotas' referred to earlier under Item III (iv) and (v), to be as follows:—

Basic Export [Quotas]	Figures in thousands, of tons.				
Coorg	••	••	12 50 150		
Central Province Orissa Indian States		••	150 150 120		
		•	482		
Ceiling Import	:				
Bihar Bengal Madras Bombay Central Provinc United Provinc Delhi Miscellaneous A Defence Service East Punjab Indian States	es 		0 150 150 350 50 0 120 100 80 100 400		
			1,500		

Three members of the Committee do not recommend any particular set of figures at this stage and suggested that the figures could be settled on a basis equitable as between different deficit areas only after discussion with the representatives of the areas concerned.

V. Specification of controlled Foodgrains. (1) The following foodgrains to continue to be subject to controls, viz.,—

- (i) Rice (including paddy).
- (ii) Wheat (including atta and flour).
- (iii) Millets (including jowar, bajra, and any other millet at present procured and distributed in rationed areas).
  - (iv) Maize.
- (2) Whether or not controls should be retained in respect of gram to be considered further later.
- (3) All controls to be removed and complete free trade established in respect of all cereals except those mentioned above and all pulses other than gram.

Exception: The control referred to later under item VI (2) to apply to these grains and pulses also.

#### Monopoly Purchase

Three members of the Committee recommend that Barley should be included among controlled foodgrains.

- VI. Nature of Controls to be retained and removed in respect of controlled Foodgrains:
- (1) In order to secure supplies necessary for meeting Government commitments, within the Province (reduced in the manner recommended already) and in order to meet the requirements for export from surplus Provinces, freedom should be given to individual Provinces to use the method of compulsory levy or monopoly purchase in selected districts, or a combination of both; details regarding the assessment and collection of the levy as also the operation of monopoly purchase, to be settled by Provincial Governments with reference to these commitments and other relevant local conditions.

#### Anti-Hoarding Restrictions

- (2) All grain traders, and those grain growers who fall within a category to be defined (so as to cover holders of stocks exceeding 50 maunds of controlled foodgrains) to be licensed, and made subject to the following conditions:—
- (a) Submission of returns of stocks and
  - (b) Anti-hoarding restrictions.
- (3) The control of movements across Provincial boundaries to remain. Restrictions on the movement of food grains within the Province should generally be removed, excepting in so far as they are necessary in the opinion of the Provincial Governments concerned to enable them to complete their purchases.

#### INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

In order to strengthen the friendly relations that already exist between them, the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of India have decided to exchange Ambassadors, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Dec. 10.

- (4) Apart from the liability to deliver either on a monopoly or a compulsory levy basis, at a fixed price, control over prices to be removed.
- (5) A sufficiently high priority on the railways, to be allotted for transport of foodgrains on private account; the quantities of which would be increased through complete decontrol of certain grains and the reduction of Government commitments in respect of controlled foodgrains.

Three members of the Committee do not agree with these proposals in so far as they involve relaxation of existing controls during 1948. In so far as they require the institution of new systems of control during 1948, the members feel that there is insufficient time for necessary administrative proparations so far as Kharif grains are concerned. They do not advise any

material change in the system of procurement during the middle of a crop year.

VII. Supplemental Foodstuffs:

- (1) Meat consumption in statutorily rationed urban areas. A suggestion has been made that arrangements should be instituted for ensuring that some part of his cereal ration is surrendered by a consumer who buys meat, in proportion to the quantity of meat purchased by him. The purpose underlying the suggestion is to secure greater equality among consumers, and to save cereals. Details regarding the nature of the arrangements to be made, their feasibility, and the amount of cereals likely to be saved, have not been examined by the Committee. The suggestion is commended to Provinces for examination with reference to these aspects.
- (2) The question whether such supplemental foods as groundnuts, bananas, sweet potatoes, carrots, and turnips, can be made available at reasonable prices, in such a manner as to bring about a reduction of cereal ofitakes, to be also suggested for examination.

The detailed report of the Cemmittee has not yet been received by the Government.

# DISPOSAL OF INDIA OFFICE "CONTENTS"

ASTATEMET on the disposal of the India Office building and its "contents", was made by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nchru, Prime Minister, in reply to a question in the Dominion Legislature on Dec. 12.

The Prime Minister said: The Government of India are informed that the United Kindgom Government would wish to discuss with them the whole question of the disposal of the India Office building and its "contents", and that with that view the United Kingdom Government are setting up a fact finding committee to start work on the essential preliminary of surveying the "contents" of the India Office. The committee's functions are to be the preparation of a statement of "contents", sources from which they came, the various claims made to the "contents" and the various schemes suggested for their disposal.

#### Fact Finding Committee

The Government of India were invited to send a small party of representatives to London to join this committee. This invitation has been accepted and a tentative selection has been made of Government's representatives on the committee. According to the latest information the committee is likely to meet about the third week of January, 1948.

The committee is only of a fact finding nature and will not have anything to do with questions of policy. The idea is that after the committee's work is finished any questions which may arise for decision should be discussed at ministerial level, and only at that stage the question of a policy decision will arise.

## WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

For the benefit of plantation workers, the Government of India intend to bring forward a Bill to regulate the conditions of work and to provide for their welfare.

Revealing this in the Dominion Parisment, on Lec. 12, the Holdble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, recalled that the Minimum Wages Bill, now before the House, provided for the fixation of minimum wages in agricultural occupations.

He added that legislative regulation in case of agricultural workers other than plantation labour in respect of matters other than wages was somewhat difficult. He proposed to hold a random sample survey of a number of villages to collect data for taking definite action.

He would, however, be happy to consider suggestions suitable for legislation from the Members of the House.

### TERMS OF INDO-PAKISTAN PARTITION SETTLEMENT

# No Need to Seek Arbitral Tribunal's Aid, Says Sardar Patel

COMPLETE agreement between India and Pakistan on outstanding issues relating to partition, including those affecting the Armed Forces, was announced by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 9.

The Deputy Prime Minister said:

I have to make a short statement in connection with the negotiations that were going on between the two Dominions on the question of division of assets and liabilities and other allied questions. I am glad to say that there has been complete unanimity on these questions. I will now read this short statement:

A series of high-level discussions has been held in Delhi and Lahore during the last fortnight between the representatives of India and Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues between the two Dominion Governments relating to partition, including those affecting the Armed Forces. These discussions were conducted in a spirit of friendliness and good will. Complete agreement has been reached on all these issues. No references will now be made to the Arbitral Tribunal and those already made will be withdrawn.

The major issues on which settlement has been reached are:

- (1) Division between the two Dominions of the cash balances of the undivided Government of India as on Aug. 14, 1947.
- (2) The ratio in which the uncovered debt of the undivided Government of India, being the excess of liabilities over assets, should be divided between the two Dominions.
- (3) The manner in which Pakistan would discharge its share of the public debt to India.
- (4) The division of the sterling balances between the two Dominions.
- (5) The division of military stores between the two Dominions.
  - (6) The Ordnance Factories.

A detailed statement will be made by me later in the session on the settlement reached on these and other items. (See Col. 3)

#### Refugee Property

During the course of these discussions, problems relating to the property of refugees, bank accounts and safe deposit vaults were also considered. Both Governments re-affirmed the principle that the ownership of the property, both movable and immovable, of refugees continues to vest in the appointed to look after and manage the property on behalf of the refugees.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Both Governments appreciate the anxiety of the refugees in this matter and are engaged in working out schemes relating to problems connected with the property of refugees, such as the sale of property and the transfer of sale proceeds and the extent to which exchanges of property would be permitted, etc. These schemes will be discussed between the two Governments firstly at the official level in the third week of December, and as soon thereafter as possible at Ministerial level.

A full statement regarding the policy governing the operation of safe deposit vaults, arrangements for the safe transfer of such deposits, and the transfer of bank accounts between the two Dominions will be issued within the next few days.

This is the general statement that I am making today. A detailed statement will be made by me either tomorrow or day after as soon as the statement is ready. This will give an idea of the amount of work that has been done and the issues that have been settled between the two Governments so far as the partition of assets and liabilities and the allied questions are concerned. It leaves no question to be decided by the Arbitral Tribunal. To that extent we have done the work very satisfactorily.

I know there is considerable anxiety in the House and outside about the mein question which gives us trouble; that is the question of Kashmir. That question is not before the Partition Committee and it is no part of this reference but the manner and the method and the time by which these will be executed will be decided later. I can only announce this today that we are all anxious that if it is possible all issues should be settled, including that of Kashmir, so far as possible simultaneously. Every effort will be made to that end, if it is not successful, we shall act in a manner which is to the best interests of the Dominicn of India.

#### COMPLETE AGREEMENT

"Rarely indeed have matters of such complexity been settled in so reasonable a way between two independent and sovereign states. Both India and Pakistan may justifiably take pride to this achievement", said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, in a statement on partition, in the Dominion Parliament, on Dec. 12. Complete agreement he added, had been reached on all outstanding issues and it would no longer be necessary to seek the assistance of the Arbitral Tril unal so far as the two Dominion Governments were concerned.

#### Sardar Patel said :

"As soon as the principle of partition was accepted by the major political parties the Interim Government appointed a Special Committee of the Cabine' to examine the administrative consequences of partition and to take necessary steps for the transfer of power to the two Dominions. This Committee was composed, at the outset, of H. E. the Governor-General, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself.

#### **Cabinet Committee**

From July 1, this Special Committee of the Cabinet was replaced by the Partition Council, again with H. E. the Governor-General as the Chairman, and two representatives, each of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League as the parties which would be called upon to form the Dominion Governments after partition. Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself, with Mr. C. Rajegopalachari as alternante, represented the Congress while Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar as alternate, represented the Muslim League.

"The Cabinet Committee —later, the Partition Council—worked through a Steeping Committee of two officers—. Mr. H.M. Patel and Mr. Mohammad Ali. In addition, there were appointed to Expert Committees which, among them, covered the whole field of administration and dealt with important and varied subjects, such as division of the Armed Forces, of the existing administrative organisation, of records of personnel, and of assets and liabilities; problems relating



to currency and comage, domicile and nationality, trade and economic controls, central revenues and budgets and accounts.

It was the function of the Steering Committee to ensure that concrete proposals were evolved within the given time by these Expert Committees, adequately dovetailing into each other to form a comprehensive whole, and to present these proposals to the Partition Council for decision, and after obtaining these decisions, to take steps wherever necessary, for implementing them.

The Partition Council was continued after Aug. 15 by an Order issued by the Governor-General under the Indian Independence Act, 1947. Its composition was revised, two members being drawn from each of the Dominion Cabinets: India's representatives continued to be Dr. Rajendra Prasad and myself, Pakistan being represented by such Ministers as were able to attend the meetings which were held in Delhi.

- 2. Expert Committee commenced investigations in the third week of June and were called upon to submit their reports within a month. Over a considerable area the Committees were able to make agreed recommendations, while the steering Committee, which considered the reports in the first instance, was successful in reaching agreement on the bulk of the unsettled points. The field of differences was further reduced by the Partition Council, leaving over on Aug. 15, only a few important matters to be settled by the Arbitral Tribunal. The Partition Council had not altogether given up hopes of an agreed solution being found by discussion, and its confidence in this respect has been fully justified.
- 3. It will give the House some idea of the work of these Expert Committees if I review very briefly—indeed, it must, I fear, be a rather sketchy review—the more important of the numerous problems for which the Partition Council had to find solutions.

#### Civil Machinery

4. Perhaps the first important problem set to us was to reconstitute the personnel of the Civil machinery of the undivided Government of India into two cadres to serve the two Dominion Governments. For this purpose it was decided to give every Government servant an opportunity to select the Government he wished to serve and also to say whether he wished to have an opportunity to reconsider his choice within a period of six months from the day of transfer of power. Separate cadres were then drawn up on the basis of replies received but actual transfers had necessarily to be arranged over a period of time.

To enable the new Government to function effectively, provision was made on an agreed basis for the supply to Pakistan, of office equipment, furniture, stationery etc., belonging to the old Government of India. It was also decided to make over to the new Government records and documents of exclusive concern to them and to duplicate those of common interest.

5. It was no easy task to list and divide the assets of the then Central

Government, but when the problem was examined in detail by the departmental Sub-Committees of the Expert Committee on Assets and Liabilities there was found a wide measure of agreement regarding the allocation of the fixed assets on a territorial basis. The division of the railways, telegraph lines, the post offices, the mints, etc., was decided in this manner. Movable stores allocated varied with the type of stores. Thus, the railway rolling stock was divided on the basis of mileage-cum-traffic, while other stores, including the postal and telegraph stores, were divided on the basis, broadly of maintenance requirements.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Before Aug. 15, 1947, agreed decisions had been reached on the division of all fixed assets other than Ordnance factories and of all movable stores except Army stores and stocks of leaselend silver. No agreement could also be reached on the basis for the division of the cash balances of the old Central Government and the sterling assets of the Reserve Bank. of India. Nor was agreement reached as to the share of each Dominion of the old Central Government liabilities, though, as regards the initial responsibility for the liabilities of the old Central Government, it was agreed that India should assume it, subject to Pakistan contributing its share, fixed either by agreement between the two Dominions or if agreement were not possible, as determined by the Arbitral Tribunal.

- 6. In regard to the Central revenues accruing in the two territories after Aug. 14, 1947, it was decided by the Partition Council on the report of the Committee on Central revenues that each Dominion would retain the amounts collected in its territory. India agreed, however, to discuss at a later date, if Pakistan so desired, its proposal for pooling and sharing the revenues collected up to Mar. 31, 1948. Arrangements were also agreed upon for the avoidance of double taxation of income.
- 7. As regards contracts, certain principles for the allocation of contracts to one or the other Dominion, or for sharing the rights and liabilities arising from them, or for terminating them were evolved, and the contracts of the old Government are being dealt with in accordance with these principles.

#### Currency and Coinage

8. Complete agreement was reached in the Partition Council over the issues considered in the Committee on Currency and Coinage except the allocation of the Sterling assets held by the Reserve Bank. As Pakistan naturally wished to have its own coinage and currency as soon as possible, India readily agreed to assist, in every reasonable way, and with that end in view, undertook to make available, for a period of time, a portion of the capacity of the Nasik Security Printing Press and of the Mints at Calcutta and Bombay. Since, however, it would take some time to have the new coins and overprinted notes ready, it was decided that the existing India currency and coinage should remain common to both Dominions up to Mar. 31, 1948 and that the Reserve Bank of India

should be the common Currency Authority and the Central Bank for the two commons.

It was realised however, that it would take some time before the Pakistan overprinted notes could be issued in sufficient numbers to replace adequately the India notes already in circulation. It was agreed, therefore, that the period from the April 1, 1948, to Sep. 3°, 1948 would be treated as a transitional period and during that period India and Pakistan notes and coins would circulate freely in Pakistan, the India notes and coins being gradually withdrawn.

The Reserve Bank of India would, of course, continue during the transitional period as the common Currency Authority. On Oct. 1, 1948, Pakistan would take over the management of its own currency and the currency reserve held by the Reserve Bank will be allocated between the two Dominions under the provisions of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.

#### Trade Controls

- 9. When questions relating to trade and economic controls were examined, it was found that the long-term policies to be pursued by the two Dominions could only be discussed after the new governments had had time to examine their respective problems. Meanwhile, it was agreed that until Mar. 31, 1948, it was agreed that until Mar. 31, 1948, the status que should be maintained as far as possible and modifications in and removal of controls should not be effected except by consultation between the two Pominions. It was decided that during the interim period terminating on Feb. 29, 1948.
  - (a) no customs barriers should be raised between the two Dominions;
  - (b) existing import and export policies should be continued;
  - (c) existing customs tariffs, excise duties and cesses should be left unchanged;
  - (d) no restrictions should be imposed on free movement of goods and remittances including capital equipment and capital;
  - (e) no transit duties or taxes should be levied on goods passing from one territory to another and the existing trade channels or pattern of trade should not be interfered with.

#### Nationality and Domicile

It should be added however that Pakistan reserved the right to revise her attitude in regard to these matters in view of the fact that her preposal that the Customs Revenue should be pooled and shared during the interim period had not been accepted.

The House will be interested to know that the two Dominions have agreed to initiate discussions with a view to formulating an agreed policy in regard to the trade and economic relations of the two Dominions.

10. When the jurists examined the question of nationality and domicile, they came to the conclusion that as

ndia and Pakistan would both be members of the British Commonwealth their citizens would continue to be regarded as British subjects. No immediate change was, therefore, called for as a result of partition; the two Dominion Governments could be left to formulate their respective nationality laws at their convenience. The Partition Council further decided that passport rules should be amended so that there should be no restrictions on the movement of persons from one Dominion to another. It is of course open to either to introduce such restrictions later.

11. The arrangements agreed to in regard to Foreign Alfairs were embodied in the Indian Independence (Internaional Arrangements) Order, according to this Order, the membership of all international organisations, together with the rights and obligations attaching to such membership, devolves upon India, it being left to Pakistan to apply for membership of such international organisations as it desires to join. Rights and obligations under the international agreements to which pre-partition India was a party devolve upon both Dominions and can, if necessary, be apportioned between them, such rights and obligations as have exclusive territorial application devolving exclusively upon the Government of the territory to which they relate.

#### Armed Forces

12. As for the Armed Forces, it was agreed that the personnel would be divided on a territorial basis with the exception that Muslims from India and non-Muslims from Pakistan would have the option to choose the Dominion which they wished to serve. The division of regimental centres, installations, equipment, stores, etc., raised innumerable complex problems, mainly of an administrative nature which were dealt with by the Armed Forces Re-constitution Committee, acting under the instructions of the Partition Council.

By Aug. 15, sufficient progress had been made to enable the two new governments to assume the operational control over the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A good deal of work of the reconstitution offorces, however, remained and for this purpose a Joint Dofence Council was established, consisting of the Governor-General of India as the independent chairman and the Defence Ministers of India and Pakistan as members. A Supreme Commander was appointed to act as the executive suthority of the Council.

#### Agreed Decisions

3. By Nov. 30, 1947, when the organisation under the Supreme Commander was abolished, virtually all the work of the reconstitution, except that of actually dividing and moving the storess had been completed. The Joint Defence Council has been reconstituted, with slightly modified functions, and is working through an executive committee, consisting of the Defence Secretaries of two Dominions and at least one Service Chief from each Dominion. The House will be gratified to learn that the Joint Defence Council, which dealt with bundreds of complicated military pro-

blems, was able to reach agreed decizions on all except two issues which, at one time, it was agreed to refer to the Tribunal, r.z., the division of ordnance factories and the division of Army stores.

14. A renewed attempt was made in the last fortnight to settle all the qutstanding issues. As I informed the House on the 9th instant, complete agreement has been reached on all of them and it will not longer be necessary to seek the assistance of the Arbitral Tribunal so far as the two Dominion Governments are concerned.

#### **Agreements Reached**

- 15. I shall now state briefly the details of the agreement reached on the more important of these matters:
- (a) The undivided, Government of India's cash balances, as on the date of partition, are estimated at a little under Rs. 400 crores, inclusive of the securities held in the Cash Balance Investment Account. Of these, Pakistan's share has, by agreement, been fixed at Rs. 75 crores. To this amount will be debited the Rs. 20 crores, already made available to the Government of Pakistan, on Aug. 15, 1947 and the expenditure incurred on that Government's account to date.
- (b) Under paragraph 4(3) of part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and

Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, Pakistan's share of sterling assests will be ratio of the note circulation after adjusting any expansion against P kistan securities in that Dominion. It has now been agreed that India should sell to Pakistan. for Indian rupees, additional blocked sterling up to an agreed limit as and when demand is made until Dec. 31, 1967. The formula for working out this agreed limit will be found in the paper which I am placing on the table of the House. (Arrangement regarding Stering assets is given at the end.)

- (c) As I mentioned a little earlier, the Government of India have assumed initial responsibility for all the liabilities of the old Government, subject to an equitable contribution by the Pakistan Government. It was agreed that Pakistan's share would be made up of the value of assets, physical and financial which lie in Pakistan or are taken over by the Pakistan Government plus the share allocated to Pakistan of the uncovered debt, namely, the excess of liabilities over assets of the undivided Government, less the liabilities assumed directly by the Pakistan Government. Pakistan's share of the uncovered debt has now, by agreement, been fixed at 171 per cent.
- (d) For the valuation of the assets taken over by the two Dominions it has been agreed that book values should be adopted in all cases; in the case of the strategic railways, however, the book

# RESTRICTIONS ON BULK TRANSFER OF COMMODITIES FROM KARACHI

RESTRICTIONS placed on the removal of certain items of merchandise from Karachi are a matter now under discussion between the Governments of India and Pakistan. This was revealed by the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil in reply to a question in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 5.

The Minister said that the Government of Pakistan had officially informed the Government of India that the Sind Government had armed themselves with powers under the Sind Essential Commodities (Control) (Second Amendment) Ordinance 1947 to prevent bulk transfers of certain commodities to places which had never before been supplied by or through Karachi. This was done, the Government of India had been informed, in order to meet grave threats to the economic life of Pakistan by the organised removal, in violation of normal trade channels and practice, of essential goods such as hardware, paints, varnishes, nonferrous metals, medical stores, cloth, white cement, paper and other articles of stationery.

The Minister added that the Pakistan Government had, however, stated that normal exports would be permitted on the production of satisfactory evidence that the goods had been imported for consumption in the Indian Dominion, but that removals clearly intended to deprive Pakistan markets of supplies would be prohibited.

In answer to another part of the quostion Mr. Gadgil said that if the restrictions, as stated by the Government of Pakistan, applied to the bulk transfer of merchandise from Karachi in violation of normal trade channels or practice, they would not affect the general agreement regarding freedom of trade between the two Dominions, "since the underlying object of that agreement was to leave undisturbed the pattern of trade as it existed before August 15, 1947". He added. 'If, however, the restrictions are, as alleged by several complaints enforced in a manner that would prevent the transhipment of goods which were imported through Karachi for markets in India, they would involve an infringe-ment of the agreement referred to".

Replying to another question. Mr. Gadgil declared that the High Commissioner for India in Karachi had been instructed to make strong representations to the Pakistan Government, in consultation with the shipping agents concerned, regarding the detention at Karachi of an Indian ship with her cargo. He explained that there were difficulties in the case as S.S. Jalaratna had almost completed loading operations when the Sind Essential Supplies Ordinance was issued.

"It is considered unlikely that similar difficulties will arise in future," the Minister concluded.

value by agreement is being written down arbitrarily by about 50 per cent.

(e) With regard to the payment of debt by Pakistan to India, it has been agreed that the total amount will be paid in Indian rupees in 50 annual equated instalments for principal and interest combined. The instalments will be payable on Aug. 15, each year but no instalments will be payable for the first four years from the date of partition. The rate of interest adopted will be the same as the average yield over a period of two years preceding the date of partition of the rupee and sterling securities of the Government of India, with an unexpired currency of 15 years or over rounded to the nearest one-eighth of one per cent.

#### **Pensions**

- (f) Each Dominion will continue to disburse the pensions now in payment in its territory, India continuing to pay the overseas pensions. The value of all pensions, both part-earned pensions and pensions in issue, will be capitalised and the liability shared in the ratio agreed upon for sharing the uncovered debt. To the extent that the capitalised value of the pensions disbursed by a Don inion is more or less than its share thus determined, an appropriate adjustment will be made in the financial settlement.
- (g) It has been decided that Pakistan's share of the military stores will be a third of the stocks held in India and Pakistan on the date of partition or a third of the maintenance and reserve requirements of the two Dominions calculated on an agreed basis, whichever is less. The balance, if any, will fall to India's share.
- (h) As for Ordnance factories, no physical division will take place, the Indian Dominion taking full liability for their book value, India has agreed to make available to Pakistan a sum of Rs. 6 crores to be drawn as and when required by way of assistance towards the setting up of Ordnance factories and a few other essential Institutions like a Security Printing Press. This amount will be added to Pakistan's debt to India.
- 16. Rarely indeed have matters of such complexity been settled in so reasonable a way between two independent and sovereign States. Both India and Pakistan may justifiably take pride in this achievement.
- 17. Sir, I have now given the House a complete picture of the machinery that was set up to devise plans of partition and of the negotiations which have been carried on to settle outstanding issues ending in the final settlement of all complicated issues amicably. I am sure, the House will appreciate that the Partition Council and other Committees, and organisation, set up to devise these plans and secure their implementation, have accomplished a great deal within a comparatively short time.

The House would perhaps appreciate it better if I reminded it that on the only previous occasion when a sort of partition took place in India, viz., the separation of Burma, two whole-time special officers with staff were appointed

in the latter part of 1930 and took eight months to complete their preliminary report. The Reforms Office then continued the work for four years when, in 1934, for adjudication of certain unresolved points, the Amery Tribunal was appointed in December 1934 and took another nine months to produce its award. In short, that comparatively small undertaking took five years to complete at considerable cost.

#### A Miracle

The present partition plans were, however, completed within a short period of six months, at little additional cost to the exchequer. This was made possible by the devotion to duty of our representative on the Steering Committee and all officers and men who were engaged in the task and spared no pains to secure quick and satisfactory results. I am sure when the history of the stress and strain, through which we have passed, comes to be written the partition will be recorded as a miracle of concentrated effort and consummate ability.

- In this connection, I would particularly pay a tribute—and I am sure the House will join with me in doing so—to the drive, energy, broadmindedness and impartiality of Lord Mountbatten, to whom we all owe so much for the quickening of the pace.
- 18. One word more and I shall have done. I bope the new State of Pakistan and their Government will regard this settlement as a gesture of our friendliness and goodwill. The successful implementation of these conclusions obviously depends on the continuation of the spirit of accommodation and conciliation on both sides. Discord or estrangement on any vital issue—we have many vital issues yet to settle—is bound to place the good work which we have achieved, in jeopardy.
- I hope, therefore, that, not only in the interests of the successful implementation of these conclusions but also in the interests of peace and prosperity in both the Dominions, cordiality, tolerance and amity will continue to guide both of us in the solution of other problems which demand urgent and speedy disentanglement.

#### Sterling Assets

Arrangement between India and Pakistan regarding the Sterling assets of the Reserve Bank of India.

(Vide paragraph 15(b) of the Statement of the Deputy Prime Minister.)

- It is agreed that in addition to the sterling to which Pakistan would be entitled under para 4 (3) of the part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, an amount of sterling calculated as below will be made available to Pakistan in the manner stated below:
- (a) The total of the sterling assets in both the Banking and Issue tepartments on Sep. 30, 1948 will be taken together.

- (b) From this total will be deducted the lump sure payable to H. M. G. at the time of the final settlement of the sterling balances on account of the capitalisation of pensionary liability, for H. M. G.'s military stores and fixed assets as on April 1, 1947, in India, etc.
- (c) Out of the remaining balance a sum in storling which, taken together with the gold held in the Issue Department, will be equal to 70 per cent. of the total liabilities of that Popartment as on Sept. 3t, 1948, will be allocated in the manner prescribed in para 4 (3) of Part IV of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.
- (d) Of the remainder, 17½ per cent. will be allocated to Pakistan.
- (e) The difference between the total of what will fall to the share of Pakistan under (c) and (d) and what Pakistan would obtain under pera 4 (3) of Part IX of the Order, is the amount of the additional sterling to be reade available to Pakistan.
- (f) In regard to the amount of this additional sterling, India agrees to sell to Pakistan, from its Account No. If or similar Account, sterling for Indian rupee on demand being made by Pakistan up to Dec. 31, 1967.

# AIR SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Describing the position in respect of air services between India and Pakistan, the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Minister for Communications, stated during question bour in the Dominion Legislature on Dec. 1, that the Government of India had agreed to the operation by a Pakistan airline of air services on the following routes:—(1) Karachi-Delhi; (2) Dacca-Delhi; (3) Karachi-Bombay; (4) Chittagong-Calcutta; and (5) Dacca-Calcutta.

In return, the Government of Pakistan had agreed to the operation of air services on the following routes by Indian Airlings.
(1) Jodhpur-Karachi; (2) Bombsy-Karachi; (3) Ahmedabad-Karachi; (4) Bhuj-Karachi; (3) Delhi-Lahore; (6) Calcutta-Dacca; and (7) Calcutta-Chittagong.

The arrangement was provisional subject to the conclusion of a bilateral air transport agreement between the two Governments on December 31, 1947, whichever is earlier. The terms of a long-term bilateral air transport agreement between India and Pakistan were under examination.

Mr. Kidwai added that at present foreign air services, excepting B. O. A. C. did not carry traffic between Karachi and Calcutta. The question of B. O. A. C. continuing to carry traffic between Karachi and Calcutta was under examination by Government.



H. F. Lord Mountbatten gave a reception in honour of the Burmese Prime Minister's visit at Government House on December 4. Picture shows (L. to R.) Win, Burmese High Commissioner in India, Lord Mountbatten, Thakin Nu, Premier of Burma, Pandit Nehru, Lady Mountbatten and Dr. Rejendra Prasad

# CLOSER INDO-BURMESE FRIENDSHIP Thakin Nu's Message to India

T is my happy privilege to tender to the people of the Dominion of India the greetings and good wishes of the people of Burms. Our culture is rooted in our religion, the gift of which we owe to India, and our two countries have behind them the background of long centuries of peaceful and harmonious relationship", said the Hon'ble Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma, broadcasting a message to the people of India from the Delhi station of All India Radio on Dec. 4.

The Burmese Prime Minister said:

"When British rule spread from India to Burma my country became a province of India till we parted politically with mutual goodwill in 1937. But the political separation did not severe the strong cultural and economic links which still bind our two countries.

'For many decades our two countries have in our respective ways sought to achieve political freedom. We have long admired and watched with strong interest India's fight for political emancipation which has since come to her; our own freedom is near at hand.

"At last our two countries are about to meet, and are indeed conferring, as two sovereign independent states, to regulate our future relations by agreement in the manner best suited to our mutual interests.

"Let me say how greatly the people of Burma rejoice that India is now master of her own destiny. We heard with distress of the temporary troubles which befell her but even as I speak the air is clearing. We in Burma have no doubt that your great Dominion will overcome these temporary troubles and emerge quickly into peace and prosperity. We rely on India to uphold the cause of Asia and know from what she has already done that this reliance is not in vain.

#### A Nation Reborn

"We shall leave your beautiful capital city tomorrow but take away with us imperishable memories of a nation reborn. We shall also carry with us the blessings of Mahatmaji and also happy memories of much personal kindners from the leaders we have met, from your illustrious Governor-General and your most distinguished Prime Minister, their colleagues in your Government down to those in humbler spheres with whom our few days in New Delhi brought us into contact.

'We seek the friendship of India in the new era that will be Burma's in a few weeks. We know that we shall not be disappointed. We offer our own friendship in return. May the future bind our two countries in closer bonds of friendship.

"In the next few days that will elapse between our farewell to New Delhi and our departure from Calcutta, we shall be visiting, by the courtesy of your Government, some of the places in India sacred to all Buddhists, for our Holy Land is in your country.

"It was Sakyamuni, the great Indian Seer, that showed our country and many others besides, the light of Truth. May the doctrine of universal love and goodwill, which he taught, inspire and unito our two countries in the centuries which will follow our rebirth as sovereign nations".

#### A COURTESY VISIT

Last October, the Prime Minister of Rurma, says a Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Dec. 5, invited the Prime Minister of India to visit Burma. Owing to pressure of business in India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was unable to accept Thakin Nu's invitation. It was hoped however, that, on his return journey from England where he has gone for discussions with His Majesty's Government in the U. K., the Prime Minister of Burma would be able to halt in New Delhi for a few days. Owing to the urgent need for his return to Burma, this also did not prove practicable.

In view of the new political status of

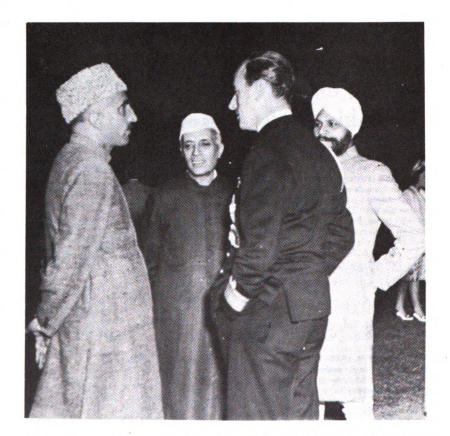


Pandit Nehru lalso gave a reception to the Burmese Premier. Here (left) India's Prime Minister Fgreets, Miss Saw Sau, daughter of Thakin Nu, and Mrs. Win. The Burmese High Commissioner Mr. U Win is on the left. (Right) Thakin Nu with Sardar Patel and Miss Maniben Patel at the Prime Minister's reception

Indua and Burma and the need for the two Prime Ministers to establish personal contacts, an early meeting between them appeared most desirable. The Prime Minister of India, therefore, invited the Prime Minister of Burma to visit New Delhi. Thakin Nu readily responded to this invitation. Accompanied by his Foreign Minister, U Tin Tut, and U Ba Swe, General Secretary of the A. F.P.F.L., the Prime Minister of Burma arrived in New Delhi on Dec. 1. The party left on Dec. 5, and after halts in Benares and Gaya, returned to Burma.

The Government of India were glad to have these distinguished visitors from a neighbouring and friendly country as their guests. It is hoped that their visit is the precurser of an interchange of other visits between members of the two Governments and of leaders of opinion in the two countries. There is a community of interests between India and Burma, born of their past association and inherent in their geographical contiguity. For the promotion of these interests on the basis of a united understanding the establishment of personal relations between prominent persons in both these countries is of the utmost importance.

The visit of Thakin Nu and his colleagues was primarily a visit of courtesy. Advantage was, however, taken of it for a preliminary and informal exchange of views regarding the settlement of certain questions outstanding between India and Burma. Both sides expressed a cordial desire for the speedy and friendly adjustment of these questions, and it is hoped that, in the near future, there will be an exchange of missions for this purpose. A further announcement on this subject will be made as soon as definite arrangements have been worked out.



Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, the Kashmir leader, Pandit Nehru. Lord Mountbatten and Sardar Baldev Singh at the reception

### INDIA WILL KEEP OUT OF POWER ALIGNMENTS

### Pandit Nehru Elucidates Foreign Policy

NDIA'S determination to out of group alignments of world powers was reaffirmed by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, replying to a debate on foreign affairs in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 4. He added, "Inevitably that means that to some extent we have to plough a lonely furrow in the United Nations or in international conferences of this type. Nevertheless that is the only honourable and right position for us to take up and I am quite sure that by adopting that position, we shall ultimately gain in national and international prestige, that is to say, when we take a long view of the situation, not a short view of getting immediately a vote here or there".

India, the Prime Minister said amidst cheers, was not going to join a war if she could help it but, if the choice came, she was going to join the side which was to her interest. "If there is a big war there is no reason why we should jump into it. Nevertheless, it is a little difficult nowadays in world wars to be neutral"

#### Friendly Relations

After defining foreign policy, he declared that the Government proposed to look after India's interests in the context of world co-operation and world peace in so far as world peace could be preserved. "We propose to keep on the closest terms of triendship with other countries, unless they themselves create difficulties. We shall be friends with America. We intend co-operating with the U.S. A. and we intend co-operating fully with the Soviet Union.

Pandit Nehru said: The main subject in foreign policy today is vaguely talked of in terms of "Do you belong to this group or that group". That is an utter simplification of issues and it is all very well for the Hon'ble Manuana (Maulana Hasrat Mohani) to hold terth that ludia will go to war under this banner or that banner. But that, surely, is not the way that a responsible House or a responsible country views the situation.

We have proclaimed during this past year that we will not attach ourselves to any particular group. That has nothing to do with neutrality or anything else or passivity. If there is a big war, there is no particular reason why we should jump into it. Nevertheless, it is a little difficult nowadays in world wars to be neutral. Any person with any knowledge of international affairs knows that.

The point is not what will happen when there is a war. Are we going to proclaim to the world, taking the advice of Maulana Hasrat Mohani, that when war comes, we stand by Russia? Is that his idea of foreign policy or any policy? That shows to me an amazing ignorance of how any foreign affairs can be conducted. We are not going to join a war if we can help it and we are going to join the side which is to our interest when the choice comes to it. There the matter ends.

But talking about foreign policies, the House must remember that these are not just empty struggles that are going on a chess board. Behind them lie all manner of things. Ultimately foreign policy is the outcome of economic policy and till that time, when India has properly evolved her economic policy, her foreign policy will be rather vague, rather inchoate, and will rather grope about. It is well for us to say that we stand for peace and freedom but that does not convey much to anybody, except a pious hope. We do stand for peace and treedom. I think there is something to be said for it. There is some meaning when we say that we stand for the freedom of Asian countries and for the elimination of imperialistic control over them.

Undoubtedly it has some substance, but a vague statement that we stand for peace and freedom by itself has no particular meaning, because every country is prepared to say the same thing, whether it means it or not. What then do we stand for? Well, you have to develop, then, this argument in the economic field. As it happens today, in spite of the fact that we have been for sometime in authority as a Government I regret that we have not produced any constructive economic scheme or economic policy thus far. Again my excuse is that we have been going through such amazing times which has taken up all our energy and attention that it became difficult to do so. Nevertheless we shall have to do so and when we do so, that will govern our foreign policy more than all the speeches in this House.

We have sought to avoid these foreign entanglements of joining one bloc or the other. The natural result has been that neither of these big blocs looks with favour on us. They think that we are undependable, because we cannot be sent a writ to vote this way or that way.

#### Our Delegations at U. N.

Last year when our Delegations went to the United Nations it was the first time that more or less an independent delegation went from India. It was looked upon a little askance. They did not know what it was going to do. When they found that we acted according to our own will, they did not like it. We were unpopular last year in the United Nations, I do not mean individually but in regard to our policy and they could not quite find out what we were or what we were aiming at. There was a suspicion in the mind of one group that really we were allied to the other group in secret, though we were trying to hide that fact and the other group in secret though we were trying to hide that fact though we were trying to hide that fact.

This year there was a slight change in this attitude. We did many things which the other groups disliked but

the comprehension came to them that we were not really allied to any group, that we were trying to act according to our own lights and according to the merits of the dispute as they seemed to us. They did not like that, of course, because the position today is that there is so much passion about it and so much fear and suspicion of each other between these rival great powers and groups that anybody who is not with them is considered as against them.

So, they did not like what we did in many instances: nevertheless they respected us much more, because they realised that we had some kind of an independent to be dragooned this way or that, that we may make a mistake as anyone can, nevertheless we were going to stick to cur own policy and programme, so that while we possibly irritated some of our friends even a little more than latence way got on much better with everybody, because they understood that we did stand for something. That is the brekground of it.

#### Attitude to Palestine

To give the House an instance of how we functioned, take this Palestine after which has given rise and will give rise to a great deal of trouble. We took up a certain attitude in regard to it which was roughly a Federal State with autonomous parts of it. It was opposed to both the other attitudes, which were before the United Nations. One was partition which has now been adopted: the other was a unitary state. We suggested a Federal State with naturally an Arab majority in charge of the Federal State but with autonomy for the other regions—Jewish regions.

After a great deal of thought we decided that this was not only a fair and equitable solution of the problem but the only solution of the problem. Any other solution would mean just fight and conflict. Nevertheless our solution—which as the House will remember was the solution given in the minority report of the Palestine Committee—did not find favour with most people in the United Nations. Some of the major Bowers were out for partition and they therefore pressed for it and ultimately got it. Uthers were so keen on the unitary state idea and were so sure of at any rate preventing partition or preventing a two-thirds majority in tavour of partition that they did not accept our suggestion.

When during the last few days partition somehow suddenly became inevitable and votes veered round to that owing to the pressure of some of the great Powers, then suddenly it was realised that the Indian solution was probably the best and a last minute attempt was made in the last 48 hours to bring forward the Indian solution, not by us but by those who wanted a unitary state.

It was then too late. There were procedural difficulties and many of the persons who might have accepted this

solution had already pledged themselves for the partition side. And so ultimately partition was decided upon by a two-thirds majority, with a large number abstaining from voting, with the result again of trouble and a great deal of trouble in the future in the Middle East.

I point this out to the House as an instance that in spite of considerable difficulty and being told by many of our rivends on either side that we must line up this way or that, we refused to do so and I have no doubt that the position we had taken up was the right one and I have no doubt, yet, that that would have brought about a solution as no other decision would.

That applies to many other things. But inevitably that means that to some extent we have to plough a lonely furrow in the United Nations or in international conferences of this type. Nevertheless that is the only honourable and right position for us to take up and I am quite sure that by adopting that position, we shall ultimately gain in national and international prestige, that is to say, when we take a long view of the situation, not a short view of getting immediately a vote here or there.

I have no doubt that fairly soon, in the course of two or three years, the world will find this attitude justifying itself and that India will not only be respected by the major protagonists in the struggle for power but a large number of the smaller nations which today are rather helpless would probably look towards India more than to other countries for a lead in such matters.

#### Tribute to India's Delegation

May I in this connection say that during this last session of the United Nations General Assembly, many very difficult and very controversial issues were raised, and our Delegation had to face extraordinarily intricate situations. I should like to pay a tribute to our Delegation, specially to the Leader of the Delegation. Hon'ble Members often put questions about appointment of Ambassadors, members of delegations and the like and rightly so, because the House would be interested in such important appointments. May I say to the House that nothing is more difficult than to make these appointments of persons who may be able, but appointments of particular persons to particular places where they must fit in, which is an extraordinarily difficult thing.

In the key places of the world the ideal Ambassador must be some kind of super-man. It is so difficult now not only to understand the intricacies—that is not difficult—but to keep friends with everybody and yet to advance your cause. After all we have been in the past discussing foreign affairs outside, in other assemblies, or incidentally here, rather in an academic way, rather in a college debating socity way. That is, we talk of high policies but we do not come to grips with the question as when we have to say 'yes' or 'nay' about a question and take the consequences of that.

If the House will forgive my saying so, even in today's debate many of the speeches were of an academic kind which did not take into account the vital questions which concern the world today which may mean peace or war. But when the House will have to face the question by a decision by which it may be in war or peace, when one comes face to face with realism, then one cannot bandy about merely idealistic principles when it may mean war and all manner of consequences.

Foreign affairs is utterly realistic today where a false step, a false phrase makes a difference. The first thing that an Ambassador of ours has to know is to shut his mouth and give up public or even private speaking. It is not a habit which we have developed in our past careers—of being completely silent almost. Yet that has to be developed and in private one has to be silent leat what one says might injure the cause of the nation, might create international ill-will and so on and so forth.

It is in this background that I should like the House to consider international affairs—this realistic background, the notion that this is not merely some naughty men playing about and quarelling with each other, some statesmen in America and the U.S.S.R. or the British imperialism lurking in the distance behind the curtain and doing something. We have talked so much about British imperialism that we cannot get out of the habit of it, whether it is there or not.

But it is coming to grips with this subject, in its economic, political and various other aspects, trying to understand and realise it, that ultimately matters. Whatever policy you may lay down, the foreign affairs of any country is to find out what is most advantageous to your country. We may talk about international goodwill and mean what we talk. We may talk about peace and freedom and earnestly mean what we say. But in the ultimate analysis, a government functions for the good of the country it governs and no government dare do anything which in the short or long run is manifestly to the disadvantage of that country.

Therefore, whether a country is Imperialistic or Socialist or Communist, its Foreign Minister thinks primarily of the interests of that country. And no doubt so. But there is a difference of course. Some people may think of the interests of their country regardless of other consequences or take a short distance view. Others may think "No, in the long-term policy the interest of another country is as important to me as that of my own country." The interest of peace is more important, so that in the long distance view, self-interest may itself demand a policy of co-operation with other nations, goodwill for other nations, as indeed it does demand.

Every intelligent person can see that if you have a narrow national police it may enthuse the multitude for the moment, just as the communal cry has

done, but it is bad for the nation and it is bad internationally, because you lose sight of the ultimate good and thereby endanger your own good. Thorefore we propose to look after India's interests in the context of world co-operation and world peace, in so far as world peace can be preserved.

#### India's Policy

We propose to keep on the closest terms of friendship with other countries unless they themselves create afficulties. We shall be friends with America. We intend co-operating with the United States of America and we intend co-operating fully with the Seviet Union. We have hard, as the House knows, a distinguished hepresentative of the United States here for some time past. Within a week or two we shall have a distinguished Representative of the Soviet Union here, in the Soviet Embassy which is being opened in New Delhi.

I should not like to say much more at this stage about foreign affairs partly for lack of time, partly because it is a little difficult to discuss these matters. Some of the Hon'ble Members may perhaps let themselves go about what should be done in China, Japan, Siam and Peru, but I fear it is a little difficult and it will be a little irresponsible for me to talk about these various matters. Naturally, India is interested in Asian countries even more than the rest of the world. We have had an Asian Conference, and at this moment we have a distinguished visitor, the Prime Minister of Burma, here.

#### Burmese Premier's Visit

May I say in this connection that some people are under a misapprehension that we are conducting special negotiations with the Burmese Delegation here? That is not quite true. It has been primarily a visit of courtesy. At the same time, of course, we have broadly explored the various questions, discussed various matters of common concern, not with the idea of suddenly coming to decisions in regard to these intricate matters now but rather to lay the foundations of luture talks.

May I also say that the Prime Minister of Burma is interested, as many of us have been, in closer association, not only between Burma and India but between various other countries of Asia also? We have discussed that also, not again with a view suddenly to coming to decisions because these things take a little time to grow. They all indicate the new spirit of Asia which wants Asian countries to draw closer together in defence of themselves and in promoting world peace.

Coming to another part of this cut motion in regard to Indians in the British Commonwealth, that is an old subject and a painful subject. I entirely agree with any criticism that might be made that we have not been able to do anything substantial in this direction. Something has been done in Canada or elsewhere but nothing substantial

has yet been done. Now, the odd thing is that this subject becomes more and more difficult to deal with and not easier. Indians have gone to these British Colonies and Dominions in the past in various forms, as merchants, traders, workers, indentured labourers and the rost.

Looking back on this history of Indian emigration aborad, and including in that the humblest of those who went from India, it reads almost like a romance how these Indians went abroad. Not even citizens of a free country, working under all disadvantages, yet they made good wherever they went. They worked hard for themselves, and for the country where they were in. They made good themselves and profited the country they had gone to.

It is a romance and it is something which India can be proud of, and may I say most of all of those poor indentured labourers who went out under unhappy conditions and who through their own labour, gradually worked their way up. That is so. It is also true that India, being a country that in spite of everything, has abounding vitality and spreads abroad, it rather frightens our neighbour countries, just like China which is also a country with abounding vitality and an abounding population. We spread. We tend to overwhelm others both by virtue of our numbers, and sometimes by virtue of the economic position we might develop there.

#### **A Difficulty**

That naturally frightens others who may not have that vitality in them, and they want to protect themselves against it, and then questions arise of vested interests which India has developed or Indians have developed there. Those questions have arisen, and while on the one hand we are obviously intent on protecting the interests of Indians abread, on the other hand we cannot protect any vested interests which injure the cause of the country they are in. There is that difficulty. Nevertheless, undoubtedly we shall try to do our best to protect all legitimate interests.

Now one word more. I will not take more of the time of the House. An Hon'ble Member, Mr. Kamath I think, referred to the expenditure incurred in Embassies. Now first of all, one of the minor headaches I have had to suffer from is a relatively new tendency in old and new newspapers alike to publish without check or hindrance the most amazing lies. It is impossible to keep pace with that. It is undesirable always to go about contradicting every little thing they say. It just cannot be done, and Delhi has been inflicted by some new types of papers and journals I have come across, which would not raise either the stature of Indian Journalism or anything else. So many of these stories are not true that have appeared. I read somewhere I think in Delhi paper about the U. P. Government presenting Rs. 20,000 and 200 saris to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit on her departure to Moscow. I read all manner of the most malicious and unfounded and false statements in these papers about Mr.

Now, coming to this question of cost, the figure Mr. Kamath mentioned of Rs. 5 lakhs, of course has no relation to fact. I do not know what the figure is.

MR. HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I did not vouch for the truth of it; I said it was only a press report.

Panidt Nehru: I suggest that if Mr. Kamath makes any statements, he might investigate them before he makes them

What I should like this House to remember is this, that these ambassadorial appointments have to keep up a certain dignity and a certain status. It is no good our sending an Ambassador and not giving him a house to live in, not giving him furniture in the house, not providing him with the minimum wherewithal to meet others properly and decently. I doubt if any country, big or small, is conducting its ambassadorial establishments in such a cheap way as we are doing.

A great deal of criticism has been made about our Ambassador in Moscow getting furniture from Stockholm. Well. how a house has to be furnished in Moscow, of course Hon'ble Members do not realise. It just is not possible to furnish in Moscow. You get an empty house. We thought of sending things from India, but it was almost a physical impossibility unless we spent vast sums over aeroplanes carrying chairs and tables from here. There is another way. Of course it could be furnished alternatively with Russian furniture. The Russian people, and all credit to them for this, ever since this war, are so intent on doing what they consider to be the fundamental things that they refuse to waste their time on accessories of life. They have to build up their country after the most horrible suffering and damage they suffered in the war and they are building it up in regard to the major undertakings. They go about in torn clothes and broken down shoes. It does not matter, but they are building dams, reservoirs and factories and the rest which they consider more important. So it is not easy to get any of these small accessories of life for the moment.

The only things you can get in Russia are antique pieces of Czarist days which are frightfully expensive. The result is that our Embassy in Moscow has to go to Stockholm for its chairs and tables, and as these are urgently required—office exuipment etc.—our Ambassador had to go there. But of course the visit to Stockholm was not really, Members of the House should realise, to buy furniture. When an Ambassador goes elsewhere, the Ambassador does other work too, and any kind of shepping that might be done is somewhat extra work.

I am grateful to the House for the rkind sentiments and their expressions of goodwill to the attempt to follow a certain rather vague policy in regard to foreign affairs. I wish it was a more definite policy. I think it is growing more definite, and in this connection may I say that at the present moment no country, including the Big Powers with their long traditions of Foreign

Affairs, has got anything which might be called a precise and definite foreign policy, because the world itself is in a fluid condition. Of course if you call it a definite policy of one great country looking with bitter dislike upon another and suspecting it, that may be the foundation of policy, but that is not policy, that is just passion and prejudice. Otherwise there is hardly any very definite policy in any country and they are trying to fit in their policy there day to day to changing circumstances.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE

As a result of arrangements recently agreed upon botweer representatives of the Governments of India and Pakistan in the course of conversations held in Karachi from Dec. 10 to 12, a system of separate accounting for the foreign exchange earnings and expenditure of the two Dominions will be established as from Jan. 1, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on Dec. 14.

Detailed instructions will be issued to the banks with the object of ensuring that foreign exchange may only be bought from or sold to a bank (which is an authorised dealer in foreign exchange) in the Dominion in which the applicant resides.

The new arrangements do not involve restrictions upon the transfer from one Dominion to the other of rupee funds owned by residence of India or Pakistan.

A five-year plan for the expansion and reorganisation of the Geological Survey of India, has been outlined in a memorandum, issued by the Director, Geological Survey of India. A note, published in the second number of the reviews, the activities of the Geological Survey of India before and after the war, depicts a plan of the organisation of the expanded Geological survey of India. It formulates its main functions as follows:

"The main function of the Survey should be the development of the country's mineral resources, but this can only be achieved if it is founded on a sound, scientific basis. Therefore, in planning the future work of the Geological Survey of India, a careful balance must be maintained between fundamental geological work, based primarily on accurate mapping and laboratory research, and activities concerned more directly with mineral development, such as drilling mining and geophysical exploring."

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Jugal Kishore Narayan, at present District and Sessions Judge, Monghyr, to be an Additional Judge of the Patna High Court rice the Hon'ble Mr. S.K. Das, I.C.S., appointed as permanent Judge, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Dec.22.

### INDIA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL

## Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia Presents Credentials

THE continued employment in the Indian Army of Gurkha troops, whose valour is famed throughout the world, is another link for the continuance of our ancient ties', said Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, India's Ambassador to Nepal, presenting his credentials to His Majesty the King of Nepal on December 10.

Sardar Surjit Singh said:

Your Majesty, as the first Ambassador of free India I have the honour to bring to Your Majesty, and through Your Majesty to the brave people of Nepal the most cordial good wishes and hearty greetings from the people of India. We wish the people of Nepal continued prosperity, happiness and progress in all walks of life. In my capacity as the first Ambassador of my country I will always do my best to strengthen and cement

the fraternal relations which through cultural associations reinforced by geographical contiguity has subsisted between our two countries from time immemorial and further sanctified by the sacred ceremony of Raktha Bandhan by our great Maharani Jindan, the wife of the late Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the lion of the Punjab.

The ready and willing agreement of Your Majesty's Government for the continued employment in the Indian Army of Gurkha troops whose valour is famed throughout the world is another link for the continuance of our ancient ties. We hope that Nepal and India who have got so much in common will together continue to work for the peace and contentment for our own people and lead the way for a confederation of all the Asiatic nations.

Your Majesty, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude and thanks of the people of India and of the Punjab, in particular, for the very good work done by the gallant Gurkha soldiers in conducting in an able manner the evacuation of our Indian sufferers from the Western Punjab.

The primary need of the suffering humanity of today is perpetual peace and Amar Shanti which can only be achieved by following the cardinal principle of the teachings of the greatest man of today, Mahatma Gandhi, i.e., truth and absolute truth. The right path to this sublime and noble goal of life is reached if the tenet preached by that great soldier saint-cum-prophet Shri Guiu Gobind Singhji Maharej as summed up in the words bhai kahoen ko det neh neh bhai manat un is strictly followed and pisetised.

It is our wish, as it will be our unfailing endeavour, to strive with you and with other friendly nations to the end that the power of our respective states shall be dedicated to the service of incedem, justice and peaco.



M. Psniel Levi (second from right) French Ambassador to Indie, arrived in New Delhi on December 8. He was received at the Palam aerodrome by M. Roux, then French Charge d' Affaires (extreme left), Mr. H. Dayal. (centre) acting Joint Secretary, Fxternal Affairs Ministry, and Mr. P. A. Menon (extreme right Joint Secretary, Fxternal Affairs Ministry. With the French Ambassador came Mr. S. R. Rane (second from left)

### MALAVIYA BRIDGE OPENED AT KASHI



Pandit G. B. Pant, Premier of U. P., opening the Malaviya bridge at Kashi

## Modern Transport Demands

Tis a truism to say that great civilisations have been built on transport. In our country at present we have reached the stage where the maintenance of our standards of living, and, therefore of all that is best in our civilization, depends more than ever on the transport that we can mobilise", said Mr. V. Nilakantan, General Manager, East Indian Railway, in his address of welcome to the guests at the opening of the Malaviya Bridge at Kashi by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. Premier of the United Provinces.

Mr. Nilakantan said:

"We are assembled here for the opening of the Bridge across the Ganga which you see in front of you. It is a new bridge which has taken the place of an older one which existed on the same site.

"The first bridge at this place was built in 1885 by the old O. & R. Administration and was designed to take a single line of railway, as well as a concurrent roadway. Inconvenience both to rail and road traffic was inherant in such an arrangement. In the beginning, therefore, the roadway was used only during the monsoon months when the pontoon bridge over which road traffic normally crossed the river had to be put out of

"The increasing development of the country and the growth of traffic in the early decades of this century imposed an ever increasing strain on the capacity of the bridge. The position was soon

reached when the bridge became a serious restricting influence. Rail traffic increased from about 10 or 12 trains per day in 1885 to about 30 trains per day in 1925. At present it is 50 trains per day. No statistics of road traffic are available but the growth thereof was not less than that of rail traffic. Serious consideration had therefore to be given in the twenties to building a bigger bridge, with a permanent independent roadway designed to take all the traffic that was then offering, as well as what could be anticipated future traffic. 86 future traffic. An examination of the steel work of the old bridge also brought out the fact that the condition of the bridge had deteriorated to such an extent that the building of a new bridge was inevitable and even urgent.

#### Combined Road and Rail Bridge

"The accumulation of evidence about the inadequacy of the bridge led finally in 1925 to a decision that a new bridge should be built. Investigations were then set on foot for determining the type of bridge that should be constructed. Several schemes were considered and examined in detail including one under which the then existing bridge was to be retained for road traffic and an altogether new bridge was to be built for rail traffic.

"The elaboration and examination of these schemes took a long time and it was not till sometime in 1935 that it was ually decided that a combined road and rail bridge should be erected at the site of the old bridge. The design of this structure was then taken in hand and between February 1940 and October 1941 all the preliminaries connected with the erection of the bridge at the site were completed. The work, however, had to be suspended in October, 1941, since the main fabricating contractors could not undertake the work of building the girders on account of their capacity being absorbed by higher priority war works. Throughout the war period, therefore, work had to be kept in abeyance. It was not without hesitation that this course was agreed to, as the safety of the bridge was in question, but by careful examination the Administration was satisfied that it could continue to remain in use for sometime longer.

#### Double Line Bridge

"Immediately on the termination of the war the rebuilding of the bridge was pushed on vigorously. By October, 1945 all fabricated steel parts were collected at the site and alterations to the masoury piers were taken in hand.

"The first big spans were launched into position on September 11, 1946, and the last on May, 19, 1947 all within a period of a little over eight months. Of the nine Secondary spans, the first was launched on September 5, 1946, and the last on January 13, 1947, that is in a little over four months. One of the stages in the erection of this bridge was the opening of the single line on the newly-built bridge. This was accomplished on September, 15, 1947 and, today the bridge will be opened as a double line bridge.

"The original estimated cost of the oridge was Rs. 53 lakhs and for the roadway Rs. 25 lakhs, making a total of Rs. 78 lakhs. In actual fact, it has cost only Rs. 48 lakhs for the bridge; this reduction in cost has been possible mainly because of the good price it has been possible to realise for the material salvaged from the old girders. Even if the amount realised had been as originally estimated, the cost would have been just about Rs. 54 lakhs."

Mr. Nilakantan then speke of the extraordinary amount of detailed planning for the construction of the bridge and paid a tribute to the outstanding efficiency of those responsible for the construction. "The actual erection of the bridge," he said, has been in charge of Mr. M. Ganapati, whose devotion to duty, determination, drive and capacity for hard work have been mainly responsible for the work being performed in such a short time and so smoothly. He has been ably helped by everyone of the staff under him without whose devotion and whole-hearted co-operation, the work could not have been accomplished. On behalf of the Railway Administration I wish to tender my sincere thanks to all of them."

Mr. Nilkantan continued: "Owing to last minute changes in requirements it has not been possible to finish the road

way over the bridge. It has now been decided that it should be built according to main National highway standards and the work is being put in train. It is hoped that it will now be able to proceed with the work without interruption as soon as the additional requirements of material are available.

"It is a truism to say that great civilisations have been built on transport. In our country at present we have reached the stage where the maintenance of our standards of living, and therefore of all that is best in our civilisation, depends more than ever on the transport that we can mobilise. It is a matter of gratification to the East Indian Railway that they have been able to add to their contribution to the communications in United Provinces by building this important task. That the services which the East Indian Railway performs for the country may be symbolised by this gigantic structure, is my carnest wish."

#### Mr. K. C. Bakhle's Speech

Addressing the gathering Mr. K.C. Bakhle, Chief Commissioner of Railways, paid a tribute on behalf of the Railway Board to the railwaymen and to the contractors who worked on the project and said:

"The public at large can know little of the tasks that hundreds of workmen performed during the course of fabrization, launching and completion of a bridge such as the one we see before us. In fact, in these modern days the world is used to taking many things for granted especially service at the hands of public utility bedies such as Railways and it receives this service as a matter of habit. Very few amongst the public know how even a train moves along from station to station and how many persons are required to perform their duty diligently in order that that train may pass safely from one point to another. When things go as the public has been habituated to expect, no word of thanks is given but when things do not go well, criticism is levelled at the service.

"Railways have unfortunately been the target for such criticism for some time now; explanations given of the difficulties with which we are faced, some of which are not within our power to remove, are often regarded as excuses. Some of the criticism may be justified and to that extent we, on the Railways, are endeavouring to do our best to improve the situation and to render better service to the public. Much of what railwaymen are doing in this respect is not visible, and it is therefore gratifying occasionally to show to the public some good work done and this is one such occasion when we can exhibit to them tangibly the profession of our faith and a pledge of our service.

Some one has said that an engineer's function is to overcome the hundred hindrances which the inertia of circumstances interposes everywhere against the transformation of an idea into fact. Today this function can be said to be that of every railwayman, be he an engineer or not, and we are endeavouring to change the circumstances which would eliminate, some of the hindrances and make it possible for us more quickly to improve the extent and quality of

service which we have so far been able to render.

"The old bridge was known as the Dufferin Bridge. I am happy to announce that the new bridge is to be named the "Malaviya Bridge" after the late Pandit-Madan Mohan Malaviya."

Mr. Bakhle then read out a message from the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport, and requested the Hon'ble the Premier of U.P. to name the bridge and declare it open for railway traffic.

#### Dr. Matthai's Message

Here is Dr. John Matthei's message;

"The opening of the regirdered bridge at Kashi to double line traffic is a significant event in the development of railway communications in this pert of India. The bridge which the new structure has replaced constituted a serious bottleneck in our transport system, and its renovation and enlargement would now make it possible for the railways to handle with greater expedition the increased traffic which they are called upon to carry.

"The dispersal of industries in India which has been brought about by war requirements confronts the railways with large problems of reorganization and reconstruction. The opening of this bridge marks an important step in the accomplishment of our plans for meeting them.

"From an engineering point of view, the manner in which the construction problems involved in this bridge have been handled by our officers and the relatively short time in which they have completed it have not merely been a matter of special gratification to us but have demonstrated the ability of our engineers to meet the demands which a free India may make on their technical competence and their capacity for loyal and devoted service.

#### Important Link

"I am happy to think that this bridge forming so important a link in our railway system will hereafter be associated with a name so deeply revered throughout the country and so intimately connected with this city of ancient and sacred renown. May the spirit of Madan Mohan Malaviya inspire and guide all those in our land who in this and in other ways will be called upon to face the tasks of a new age.

"I should like in conclusion to express my warm thanks to the Hon'ble the Premier of the United Provinces for agreeing to preside at this ceremony in spite of his many and grave preoccupations. It is a great pleasure to the Government of India and to me as Minister of Railways to learn that the opening of this important gateway of railway traffic in the United Provinces will be performed by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant who fills so unique and so worthy a place in the life of the Province".

# LIMITED IMPORTS OF UNCUT PRECIOUS STONES

The Government of India has decided to allow into the country limited imports of uncut diamonds and other precious stones, unpolished pearls and rough synthetic stones for the specific purpose of being cut, polished or finished in India and re-exported.

Licences will be issued to parties who can show that they have exported polished and cut materials during the first six months of this year.

Intending importers, who are required to produce documentary evidence of re-export during January to June 1947, should apply to the Chicf Controller of Imports, New Delhi. Applications should contain an undertaking that the materials imported will be cut, polished or finished and re-exported without delay by the applicant and will not be available for sale in the country. A certificate from the Reserve Bank of India or from a dealer in foreign exchange should also be furnished showing that either full payment for the articles re-exported between January and June has already been received, or arrangements to this end have been made.

### DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

In a written reply to a question in the Legislative Session of the Constituent Assembly on Nov. 20, the Hon'ble Mr. R. A. Kidwai, Minister for Communications revealed that the Government's plans for the development of Civil Aviation included the establishment of a Civil Aviation Training Centre for training in all branches.

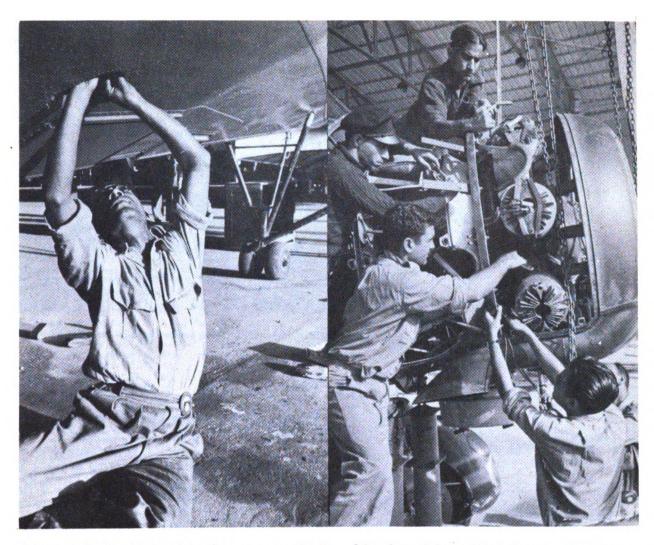
"It is proposed". he continued, "to open shortly a Flying Training School as part of the Centre. In addition to this, Government are also giving assistance to the Flying Clubs by loaning to them aircraft and by cash grants-in-aid, bonuses, etc."

He added that Government had considered the question of providing facilities for flying training in Indian Universities and colleges and had come to the conclusion that initial training in flying could best be given in Flying Clubs. Government, therefore, proposed to encourage the establishment of such clubs in all cities which were important educational centres.

An epidemic suspected to be infantile paralysis has broken out on a virulent form among the aborigines in Car Nicobar, one of the Islands in the Nicobar group.

The Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, immediately rushed a small medical party in a special plane kindly placed at his disposal for the ourpose by the R. A. F. authorities in Singapore, for their relief. Further medical assistance has been arranged by the Government of India.

A party of 8 doctors, organised by Dr. B. C. Roy at the instance of the Director-General of Health Services, and led by an experienced Pathologist, Lt.-Col.-Kapila of the Medical Lirectorate, G. H. Q. (1)., with necessary equipment including one iron lung, has been flown in a specially chartered plane from Calcutta, to Car Nicobar.



Release mechanism of parachute flare on a Catalina flying boat being adjusted by an expert at an Indian aircraft repair factory. (Right) A Bristol engine being installed on a Lysander aircraft

# AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURE IN INDIA

THE future programme of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. envisages the manufacture of aircraft in India, as recommended by the United Kingdom Aircraft Mission, who visited India in March, 1946, to advise Government on this subject. This information was given by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji, Minister for Industry and Supply in reply to a question in the Dominion Parliament recently.

Dr. Mukerji, reviewing the progress and prospect of the factory, said:

From April 1, 1946, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., ceased to be under the sole control of the Government of India. It has reverted to the position of a private limited company, with the Government of India and Mysore continuing as the only share-holders. The factory at present acts mainly as an overhaul, repair, assembly and conversion depot for civil airlines and Air Forces. It is also doing a certain amount of general engineering

work for the public as well as for Government. The future programme of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. envisages the manufacture of aircraft in India, as recommended by the United Kingdom Aircraft Mission, who visited India in March 1946 to advise Government on this subject generally. Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., has taken up the production of Percival Prentice Trainers for the Royal Indian Air Force, under an assistance arrangement with the Percival Aircraft Company, Luton, England. The Ministry of Defence has placed an initial order with Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. for 50 such aircraft.

The company has also undertaken the manufacture of an improved type of third class railway coaches for the Railway Ministry, which has alreedy placed an order for 100 such coaches, at a cost of Rs. 60,000 each. Further development in constructing other types for railways is shortly expected. To meet the expanded pro-

gramme, it has been decided to increase the share capital from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 175 lakhs.

The railway coaches, which the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., are supplying to the Railway Ministry are made of steel panels (in place of wood). The weight is reduced by a third and the coach provides sleeping accommodation and other amenities. The type of general Engineering work done by Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. are: (a) Fabrication of steel towers for the Mysore Electrical Department for transmission purposes; (b) Steel doors and windows for the Mysore Government and (c) a certain amount of machineshop work for textile mills, e.g., spindles, shafts, rollers etc.

#### First Aircraft

The first aircraft manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., is expected to be out by May, 1948. This, however, will largely be an assembly from imported components. The first aircraft of the same type manufactured in Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., using Indian raw materials to a large extent, with the exception of the engine and instruments, is expected to be ready by September, 1948. The

programme is to assemble 15 aircraft from components and 5 from detailed parts and to manufacture 30 from raw materials—all to be completed before June, 1949.

The assembly and manufacture of aircraft mentioned above should provide adequate opportunities of training to Indian technicians and workers, as, with the exception of a few British and American supervisory personnel, the staff employed consists entirely of Indian personnel.

The present strength of the factory is as follows:

Indian: Daily rated—2,341; monthly rated—1,187; Officers and Executive—63; Women—11; total—3,602:

Non-Indian: British—16; American 7; total 23. Total (Indian and Non-Indian together)—3,625.

#### **Advisory Committee**

Since October 1947, three British pilots have been engaged on an hourly basis for R. I. A. F. Dakota delivery flights.

It is the policy of Government that as far as possible requirements of the Royal Indian Air Force should be met by Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. For this purpose, Government propose to constitute an Advisory Committee, to advise the Directors on question of policy and to constitute a Liaison Committee between the Company and the main indentors. This Committee will include representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Director-General of Civil Aviation, and the Ministry of Railways. There is, in addition, a local Technical Committee of officers of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., and the Royal Indian Air Force, to co-ordinate the activities of the Company on technical matters.

#### Development of Designs

The decision as to what aircraft should be manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., is primarily a question for the Defence Ministry which is at present examining this matter. As soon as a decision on this major issue is reached, orders will be placed on Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. as far as possible for their manufacture.

It will be appreciated that, in the first instance, the Royal Indian Air Force will be confined to foreign designs but steps have already been taken to set up a Design and Development Section at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd, with the object eventually of manufacturing aircraft for the Royal Indian Air Force entirely to our own designs.

Insured letters, parcels and boxes will now be accepted for transmission to Burma, for delivery at Rangoon G. P. O only. The limit of insurance is \$\pm200\$, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 20.



Soldering passenger car bodies to remove surface irregularities

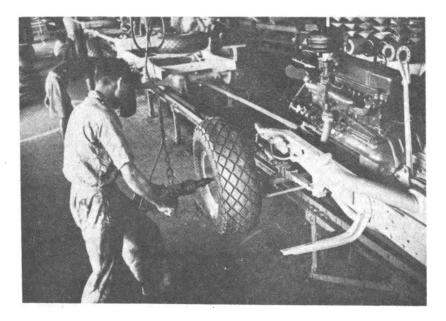
# MOTOR CAR FACTORIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

THREE motor car manufacturing factories, two at Bombay and the other at Calcutta are under construction. Their combined capacity when the entire plant has been installed is expected to be 20,000 vehicles per annum. The Government of India are aiding these three factories in obtaining building materials and foreign technical assistance and have provided dollar facilities. Government propose to promote and assist the establishment of two more factories.

This information was given in the Dominion Parliement on Dec. 4, by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mcckerji, Minister for Industry and Supply, in reply to a question.

It is understood that at present nearly half the number of the motor cars put on the read in India are assembled in this country. The three factories, now under construction, are expected to produce complete motor cars by 1950.

(Continued on Page 27)



Truck wheels being mounted on to the chassis on a moving conveyor

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INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY I, 1948

# NURSERY POWER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN CENTRAL PROVINCES

TYPICAL nursery power development scheme, which may be shortly taken up in the Central Provinces, is described in a recent issue of the Journal of the Central Board of Irrigation.

Drawing attention to the article which is based on a report submitted by the Central Technical Power Board to the Government of India, the Journal remarks, 'Nursery power development schemes are conceived to make the people 'electricity conscious' and to build up loads in advance of the construction of the major hydro-electric projects, to enable a large utilisation of the power developed by these projects as soon as they are constructed'.

The area chosen for the Nursery Power development scheme in the Central Provinces to serve as an illustration, extends ever 1,609 sq. miles with a total population of 390,000 scattered in about 800 villages in four teshils of three districts. As a first measure, it is proposed to bring electricity to 15 small towns and 43 important villages inhabited by about two-thirds of the total population of this area.

The area is proposed to be divided into three sections with three focal points. Temporary Power Stations each of two 250 KW. 400 V. 3 phase 50 cycles, diese alternators, are proposed to be constructed at two of these places, with necessary switch gear, arrangements for local supply and step up transformer stations. For the third focal point it is considered economical to tap off power from a proposed 66 KV transmission line to the Chindwara coal fields.

Eleven KV lines will radiate from the focal points to various towns and villages. Although the areas to be served by the two power houses are designed to be electrically independent and self-sufficient, provision is nevertheless made for interconnection of the two systems by a 11 KV line to facilitate supply from one power house to another during times of light load or during an emergency.

#### Potentialities of Development

The nursery area under consideration is predominantly rural; wheat, jowar, oil seeds, cotton and oranges being the chief products. The water table throughout the area varies from 18 to 30 feet and the average annual rainfall for the past 75 years in the three districts varies between 33 and 47 inches. Irrigation facilities are poor and the out-turn of crops and orange gardens is small due to inadequate watering. In addition, a large percentage of the land, now classified as culturable waste, can be brought under cultivation. All these provide good opportunities for pumping water from sub-soil and are the great potentialities of the proposed nursery development scheme. It is reckoned, that for irrigation pumping there will be an immediate connection of about 930 KW in the first year rising to 1,910 KW in

There are a number of processing industries for wheat, jowar, rice, cotton and oil seeds. The present installed capacity of the plants doing this job is found to be inadequate to cater for the needs of the local population and flours and oils are normally imported from outside the

province to make up this deficiency. With the availability of electricity the present mills may be expected to switch over to electric drive and more crushers and presses are likely to come into operation.

Resorting to power looms instead of hand looms as at present, extraction of oil from cotton seeds, for human consumption, setting up of small wood working industries and workshops, likelihood of the Manganese Mining Company taking power from the Government supply, railway station lighting, Municipal water supply and street lighting, coming into operation of cinemas and main centres are some of the developments for the growth of load.

#### Low Rates in Early Stages

If electricity is ever to be brought into wide-spread use in rural areas, it will have to be sold at extremely low rates during the early stages. Higher tariffs may be feasible at a later date; but for a long period, tariffs of a high promotional type will be unavoidable. The simple tariffs on which the gross revenue of the scheme have been calculated per unit are (n) domestic lighting, fans, etc., 3 annas; (b) street lighting, 2 annas; (3) industrial load with monthly load factor less than 25 per cent, (such as cinemas, flour mills and oil press) 1.5 anna; (d) industrial loads with monthly load factor greater than 25 per cent. (such as cotton gin or press and power loom) 1.25 anna and (e) irrigation pumping 1 anna. A minimum charge of one rupee per service is recommended.

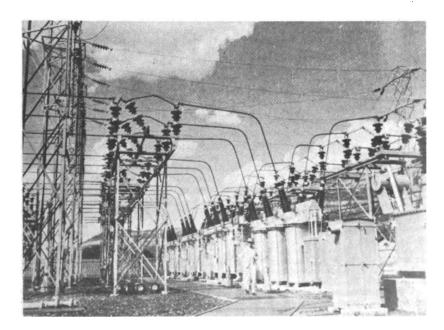
Calculations made at present show that the scheme, which may involve a total expenditure of about Rs. 49 lakes distributed over 10 years, will become remunerative from the eighth year of its commencement.

#### MOTOR CAR FACTORIES

(Continued from Page 26)

Of these three factories the Premier Automobiles, Bombay, is now assembling cars imported in kneeked down condition, and it will take three years to manufacture motor cars completely in this factory, which is being assisted in the enterprise by the Chrysler Corporation of U.S.A. The second factory is the Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta, which will be in a position to assemble motor cars imported in knocked down condition by early 1948 and expects to manufacture automobile engines by 1949, and complete automobiles in 1950. This factory is receiving assistance from the Nuffield Organisation of U.K. and Studebaker Company of U.S.A. A third factory, for which plant is still being built, is the Motor House (Gujerat) Bombay, which will work in collaboration with the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation.

Government propose, it is understood to promote the setting up of two more factories, preferably one in U. P. and the other in Madras.



An outdoor switchyard of an Indian hydro-electric system

## MORE STEEL FACTORIES FOR INDIA

### Dr. S. P. Mukerji Explains Plan

REPLYING to a question in the Dominion Parliament on Dec. 12, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji Minister for Industry and Supply, stated that steps were being taken to set up two new major steel producing units. Each would have 500,000 ingot tons capacity, capable of being doubled. The total estimated capital would be Rs. 48 crores. Matters regarding the operation, location, design and construction of the plants and the nature of the forsign technical assistance required were, he added, under active consideration.

Government were also giving every assistance to the industry both for their production up to existing capacity and for their schemes of expansion. The total production in the year 1947 (including re-rollers) was estimated at 960,000 tons, as against an estimate of 900,000 tons, as against an estimate of 900,000 tons made at the beginning of the year, but as against 150,000 tons of imports estimated at the beginning of the year, very little had been received, not more than 20,000 tons. As against this, the present demand for steel was estimated at 2 to 2 million tons per year.

#### Textile Machinery

In the Ordnance Factories, which were transferred from the Ministry of Industry and Supply to the Defence Ministry from April 1, 1947, steel products were being already produced against civil orders and Government also proposed to examine the possibility of increasing steel production in these factories. Steel billets, nonferrous alloys, hurricane lantern components, oil expellers and semi-manufactures (extruded rods, tubes and pipes) and a number of major components for road rollers were being manufactured satisfactorily in the Ordnance Factories. The value of such stores turned out by these factories during the last six months was estimated to exceed Rs. 25 lakhs.

Over 50 per cent of the components of steam-rollers and about 40 per cent. of diesel rollers were at present manufactured in Ordnance Factorics. They might manufacture textile machinery as well in future.

As for imports, strenuous efforts had been made to obtain steel from Australia, the U. K. and the U. S. A. and the Iron and Steel Controller had visited all these countries during the year. As a result of the re-imposition of the export control by the U. S. A., with effect from October, 1947, the Government of India prepared detailed statements of steel requirements for 1948 for submission to the U.S. Department of Commerce and obtained the support of the American Ambassador here. Owing to high priority demands of other countries such as China, France and Italy, exports from the U. S. A. in 1948 were not expected to be high. India might obtain a small quantity of billets from Australia for which a long standing order has been placed.

There was only one tinplate factory in India, stated Dr. Mukerji. It was the Tinplate Company of India, Tatereffer, to which the full quantity of tin hars produced in the country and a considerable proportion of tin available in India were allotted. The raw materials used in the manufacture of tinplates were tin bars, unopened packs and tin.

The potential tinplate capacity of the Tinplate Company was estimated at 75,000 tons per annum, but the maximum that they had produced so fer was only 73,050 tons. The total production for 1947 was expected to be only 52,496 tons. The maximum annual requirements of tinplates were estimated to be 90,000 tons, broadly falling under the three heads; namely, kerosene pecking (44,000 tons), packing of essential food (44,000 tons) and packing of medicines, tea, etc., (2,000 tons).

For the maximum production of 75,000 tons of tinplate per annum by the Tinplato Company, 80,000 tons of un-opened packs and 1,500 tons of the tin were required. Tinbars were used as raw materials only in the production of the tin and tinplates and so the full available quantity was allotted to the Tinplate Co. With the reduction in the output of steel,

the supplies of tin bars had been reduced proportionately. The actual allotment of tin bars, by the end of 1947, was estimated to be 66,366 tons. The Tatas were the sole suppliers of these tin bars and they were located in the same town as the Tinplate Co., namely Tatanagar.

Regarding allotment of tin to the Tinplate Co., the metal was not produced in India and allocations were made by the Combined International Tin Committee. The Committee consisted of representatives of the Governments of all tin producing countries e.g., Federated Melay States, Nigeria (British), Dutch East Indies, Bobira, etc. World's tin production was controlled by this Committee and allocated quarterly to the various countries.

#### Non-ferrous Metals Panel

The Tinplate Company required 1,500 tons of tin per year, i.e., 750 tons per half year. The actual allotment made to them was 400 tons for the first half year of 1947, against a total allocation of 1,140 tons by the Combined Tinplate Committee. Several localities were knewn in India where tin-ores were available. Hazaribagh district in Bihar, was most interesting of them but none of these were very promising.

The Non-ferrous Metals Panel, set up by the late Planning and Development Department, had made some useful recommendations on the future developments of the tin industry. Government decision on this Panel's Report was still to be taken.

### Visit of Indian Industrialists to Germany

PORTY-SEVEN experts representing industries have visited Germany during the last two years under Government auspices. The visits were arranged by the late Planning and Development Department of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mockeji, Minister for Industry, and Supply, whose statement in reply to a question in the Dominion Parliament on Dec. I contained this information, added: The experts sent by the late Planning and Development Departments were not required to submit reports to the Government of India. They were selected to form part of the teams of technicians representing various industries sent out by the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee, from time to time, to investigate and report to them on different German industrial organicatidus.

Reports of B. I. O. S. teams are submitted to U. K. Government and are made available to Allied Governments. Under this procedure, the Government of India have received copies of about 3,000 reports submitted by these teams.

The reports so far received are being examined with reference to their value to the development of Indian industries and copies of such of them as are likely

to be of interest to the Indian industrialists are being made available to them.

A limited number of Indian businessmen and industrialists are given facilities to visit Germany with a view to opening up trade with that country and to renew business contacts. It is proposed to continue this system.

Replying to another question the Hon'ble Minister said: There has been no proposal of transferring any German Patents to India. According to an agreement arrived at, at a Conference of delegates from various Allied countries, it has been decided to make German patents available for exploitation, free of royalty, to the nationals of all countries who have signed a document known as the 'Accord'. Besides India, 45 other countries are parties to this Accord.

It was decided that the Government of France would provide facilities for receiving and disseminating information of common interest under the Accord through a Central Office. That Office has not yet been established. As soon as it starts functioning we shall receive information about such German-owned patents in other countries, as would be available for exploitation by the Indian nationals free of royalty. Such information, when received, will be promptly placed at the disposal of the Indian public.

### SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

THE actual construction of the Fertilizer Factory at Sindri will begin early in 1948, according to a statement by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, in the Dominion Legislature recently. The statement which was placed on the table of the House, was in reply to a question on the subject.

Agreements have been concluded with the Chemical Construction Corporation of the U. S. A. for the design of the factory and with the Power Gas Corporation of the U. K. for procuring plant and erection of the same, the Minister added.

Resident Engineers of the Chemical Construction Corporation and the Power Gas Corporation are at the site and the necessary technicians for the erection of the factory are beginning to arrive.

Orders for the most important items of plant have been placed, orders having been distributed between the U. S. A., the U. K. and India.

After protracted negotiations the land required for the factory and township has been acquired and a great amount of preliminary work has been completed. Temporary housing for the construction staff and workmen has been built. Temporary water supply and power supply have also been arranged.

Most of the structural steel work required for the building has been ordered and fabrication is well advanced, notwithstanding difficulties regarding supply of steel. A considerable tonnage of plant has arrived at the site, or is in transit.

A permanent township is being built for housing the staff and workmen required to operate the factory, and all necessary services, such as water supply, electricity, etc., are being provided.

#### Training of Personnel

Contracts will have to be let out for executing the big water supply scheme for supply of some 12 million gallons of water per day for boilers and process work in the factory and for supply to the township.

For the present, only one kind of fertilizer, namely, amonium sulphate, is intended to be manufactured at Sindei. The quantity of amonium sulphate, which the factory is planned to produce, is 350,000 tons per annum.

The forecast for pilot production is the end of 1949 and full production, end of 1950, though, one or two months after this might be required in order to co-ordinate and tune in the various units to operate the whole most economically.

Agreement with the suppliers of plant and machinery and the consultants provides for the training of personnel for operating the factory. A considerable number of applications for training have

already been received, although the scheme has not yet been advertised publicly. The training scheme, as far as it has gone at present, is an obligation on the part of the suppliers of plant and machinery to train Indian nationals in the operation of similar plant and machinery. For this purpose Indian nationals will have to be sent to the U. K. or the U. S. A. according to sources of supply of each particular group of plant.

#### Main Problem

The availability of gypsum is one of the main problems facing the industry at the outset. The Sindri Factory alone is expected to require 0.6 to 0.7 million tons a year. On a rough geological estimate, the total quantity of gypsum within the boundaries of the Indian Union (including the acceding States) is a little above 30 million tons. Trichinopoly, in South India, is known to possess 15.3 million tons of gypsum, though mixed with clays and limestone. The Rajputama States, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaisalmir contain 15.5 million tons, of which nearly 10.5 million tons are in the mines of Bikaner. In the Rajputama deposits, the gypsum is in a soft crystalline form, enabling excavation

without troubles by mechanical shovers. Ther are a number of other minor sou: s like Uri in Kashmir, Nellore in Madras, Garhwal district, Jhansi in the the U. P., Rewa Tehri Garhwal, and Rajpipla States. The Ministry of Industry and Supply are appointing a Mining Engineer to report on the availability of this chemical. The Geological Survey of India has also been requested to give top priority to further exploration of gypsum deposits.

Comparisons have been drawn between the Sindri project and the factory at Alwaye, Travancore. The former is being designed to produce 3,50,000 tons of amonium sulphate per year, while the latter can produce 45,000 tons. While the Sindri factory is to produce solely by the gypsum process, the Travancore factory provides also for the sulphuric acid process, on which it is known to be operating now. This latter process necessitates the importation of sulphur.

Again, while wood is used in the Travancore factory, for making synthesis gas, at Sindri it will be manufactured from coke and, in this connection, it is proposed to instal coke ovens at Sindri for the coking of second grade coals. This proposal has special adventages, because the coke oven gas can be used for firing the kilns of the cement factory, which will operate on the calcium carbonate sludge by-product from the factory.

### Import Control Restrictions to Continue

WING to the continued stringency of toreign exchange, the Government of India have decided to continue the main feature of the existing import control restrictions for the January to June 1948 shipping period, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, on Dec. 12. Another important decision is to cancel Open General Licence No. IX with effect from Jan. 1, 1948.

Government are closely watching the world dollar position, and, for the present, it has been decided to make a distinction between dollar and non-dollar areas of supply in the administrative arrangements for licensing. The dollar area will comprise all the countries included in the continents of North, South and Central America, besides the Philippine Islands.

#### Clearance without Licence

Imports have been divided into three categories: those which will be licensed freely from (a) dollar areas, (b) non-dollar areas: and (c) those which will not be licensed at all. Lists of goods in these categories are published in a Cazette of India Extraordinary, dated Dec. 12, 1947. Goods not in these lists will be subject to over-all monetary ceilings.

With regard to the cancellation of O. G. L. No. IX, Government have decided that in order to enable importers to honour commitments already entered into, shipments made within a period of three months, i.e., until Mar. 31, 1948, will be allowed clearance without licence.

Further, all articles now included in O. G. L. No. IX will, on its expiry, be treely licensed for imports from non-dollar areas. It should, therefore, be possible for importers to obtain licences for any shipments made after Mar. 31, 1948.

It has also been decided that licences issued on or after Jan. 1, 1948, shall be valid for shipments made within a period of six months from the date of issue. A period of validity corresponding to one year from the date of issue may, however, be obtained in respect of articles which normally take a considerable time for delivery.

A new form of application for licences has been drawn up, and in their own interests importers are advised to furnish all the information required in it. For the speedier disposal of applications it has been decided to invite them in three batches:

- (a) Applications from actual consumers of goods will be received from Jan. 1 to 20;
- (b) Applications from parties who, in 1945-46 or earlier, imported goods similar to those in which they are now interested.

  —Jan. 20 to Feb. 10;
- (c) Applications from those who due not import such articles in 1945-46 or earlier—Feb. 10 to 28.

For the import of freely licensed goods applications may be made at any time.



# TRAINING FACILITIES IN MERCANTILE MARINE SERVICES

### Mr. N. V. Gadgil Outlines Government Policy

SPEAKING in the Constituent
Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 2,
on the non-official resolution,
"That this Assembly is of opinion that
immediate stops be taken by the Government of India for expanding the facilities
for training in various branches of
mercantile marine services so as to ensure
an adequate and efficient personnel for a
national mercantile marine", the Hon'ble
Mr. N. V. Gadgil said:

"I am much obliged to my hon'ble friend, Mr. Santhanam, for having given me an opportunity to enunciate the policy of the Government with respect to the matter raised in this resolution. I want to say in the beginning that Government accept this resolution. Having done that, I just want to give very briefly some facts which will go to show that the urgency of this question has not escaped the attention of the Government.

"Only a few days ago, the Hon'ble" Mr. Bhabha (Commerce Minister) while addressing a conference of representatives

of shipping interests, stated that it had been accepted by the Government that the target for the increase in Indian tonnage for the coming five years would be two million tons. It is obvious that this is not enough unless there is properly trained personnel to run our ships. My friend, the hon'ble Mr. Santhanam, has given some idea as to the number that would be required in order efficiently to run this tonnage. Very hurriedly, for obvious reasons, he gave a picture in which a complete scheme for training the entire personnel was visualised.

"In this connection I might to the notice of my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam, as well as the House that in order to see that the Indian tonnage is not only increased but the shipping industry is owned, managed and run by Indians, the principle having heen accepted, the Government have appointed a small committee, consisting of Captain H. I.. Davis, Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta, and Mr. M. A. Master, of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company,

as has been visualised by my friend Mr. Santhanam.

"This small Committee has been asked to report as early as possible and the Terms of Reference are so wide that I am sure we will satisfy every Member of this House; they are, among other things—

"(a) To consider what measures can usef:.lly be taken:—

"(i) to expand the existing facilities for preliminary training of cadets for sea-service; and

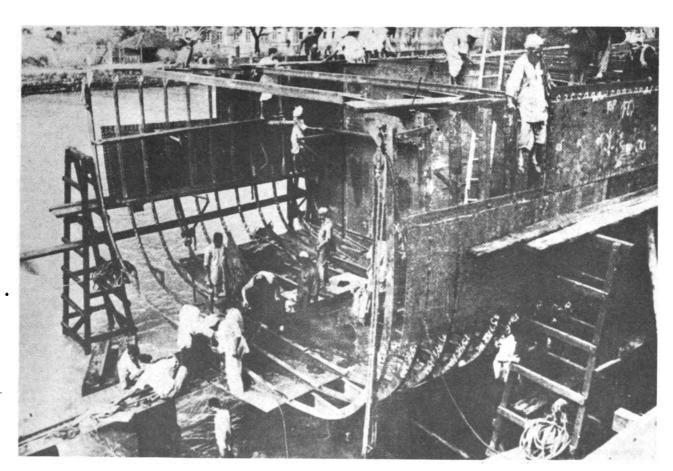
"(ii) to provide higher stages of training in navigation and engineering to prepare candidates for Board of Trade or equivalent certificates;

"(b) The Committee will also examine and report as to:—

"(i) whether for the purposes of higher training an independent Nautical College should be run or whether Nautical Classes should be opened in the existing Government or private institutions;

"(6) whether such a Nautical College should train for Ship Surveyor's Course and "Extra" examinations besides for ordinary certificates of Competency,

"(iii) whether such a College could undertake to train Nautical Surveyors, Engineers and Ship Surveyors and Examiners of Engineers and Masters and Mates for the Mercantile Marine Departments;



A trawler under construction in an Indian shipping yard

"(iv) whether and if so what arrangements should be made for the holding of Extra Master's and Extra First Class

Engineer's examinations in India; "(v) whether facilities for higher training should be provided to only those cadets who take advantage of the preliminary training scheme or to all candidates who come forward for such training;

"(m) what method should be adopted for the selection of candidates for higher training:

"(vii) what fees should be charged for higher training;

"(riii) what should be the length of course and the curriculum for higher training; and

"(ir) what arrangements should be made for the recruitment of coaching staff required for the Nautical College.

"(x) The Committee will be competent to make such other recommendations as seem germane to the subject.

#### **Useful Suggestions**

"You will see, Mr. Chairman, that the Terms of Reference are so wide that nothing more can be included in the same. At the same time, Sir, I promise to forward to the Chairman of the Committee the proceedings of this House covering the discussion on this particular subject for such consideration as they may consider necessary. I also earnestly request those Members who have taken a keen interest in this subject to make such useful and constructive suggestions as they can to the Chairman of the Committee directly, or if they so desire they may send them to the Chairman of this Committee.

"I agree with my friend, Mr. Santhanam, that there is another aspect which is far more important than merely manning the Mercantile Marine. In times of war this staff is bound to be taken over for the purpose of defence—in other words, this is the second line of our Naval defence. From that point of view, all I can say is that cost will not be a consideration in evolving any scheme which will secure an adequate number for running the ships the target of which has been very recently fixed at two million tons in the coming five years.

SHRIM. S. ANEY: When is the Committee's Report likely to be available?

MR. N. V. GADGIL: As early as possible, but within six months.

SHRI M. S. ANEY: When was the Committee appointed?

MR. N. V. GADGIL: About a fort-night ago.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: May I know whether the Board of Trade Examination which is now held for all these purposes in England will also be instituted in India?

MR. N. V. GADGIL: That is a matter on which the Committee will certainly report, and if it does, my friend may rest assured that the Government will accept its recommendations.

# WELFARE OF COAL MINES LABOUR

### 50,000 Houses Under Construction

REPLYING to Mr. Ramnaryan Singh, in the Dominion Parliament, on Dec. 9, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagivan Ram, Minister for Labour, disclosed that about Rs. 75,00,000 would be collected during the current year as welfare cess on coal.

The Minister placed on the table of the House a statement detailing the activities of the Coal Mines Labour Welfere Fund in the provision of housing, health and medical facilities and other amenities to colliery workers.

Housing—A start had been made on the proposal to construct 50,000 houses for miners. A number of quarters would be constructed for railway collieries including those at Bermo.

Health and Medical Facilities—Two regional hospitals, each with about 12 beds, had been built at Katras and Toura for the Jharia coalfield, and two more, for the Raniganj coalfield. They were expected to function shortly. The construction of similar hospitals for the Pench Valley and Chanda coalfields, in the Central Provinces, would be taken up soon. A dispensary had been sanctioned for Mugma.

Steps were being taken to construct a central hospital at Dhanbad with over 100 beds. Another hospital would be put up for the Raniganj coalfield on a site already chosen.

Other measures to improve medical facilities for colliery labour included reservation of beds in the hospitals at Jamadoba and Sanctoria, the sanction of an X-ray unit to be installed at the State Railway Collieries Hospital at Giridih, the provision of seven ambulances for the transport of colliery patients (two for Asansol Mines Board of Health, two more for the Jharia Mines Board of Health and threefor colliery labour in the Central Provinces) and the appointment of a Tuberculosis Specialist. A scheme for the establishment of veneral diseases clinics was also ready.

#### **Anti-Malaria Operations**

Anti-malaria operations, such as spraying of D. D. T., were being undertaken in all the important coalfields under the direction of the Director, Malaria Institute of India. In 1947-48 a sum of Rs. 12,50,000 had been provided for this purpose.

Grants had been made to the Leprosy Association in Bengal and Bihar for the maintenance of a certain number of beds. Contributions had been made from the Welfare Fund towards the cost of refresher courses for colliery medical officers, of training nurses at the Delhi College of Nursing, of baby shows, health exhibitions, etc. Annual grants were being given to the Asansol and Jharia Mines Board

of Health to meet expenditure on improvement of sanitation.

Water Supply and Other Schemes—Schemes for improving the water supply at Jharia, Asansol and Pench Valley were being considered.

Visual and craft education provided at demonstration centres had proved popular and it was proposed to have a net-work of such centres throughout the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields.

A mobile canteen to sell tea and snacks, a mobile shop for consumer goods and a mobile cinema to give shows on a nominal admission fee had been provided by the Fund.

A number of Inspectors of Labour Welfare, Propaganda Officers and a Lady Welfare Officer were employed by the Fund to visit collieries and ascertain the grievances of colliery labour.

# EXPORT OF RAW COTTON PROHIBITED

The Government of India announced in a Press Communique dated Agust 30, 1947, that exports of cotton from India would be free until November 30, 1947, and that restrictions would not be reimposed unless exports were likely to exceed 15 lakhs of bales for the year September 1947 to August 1948, or unless the export of any type or variety needed by Indian cotton mills excessive.

The Government have reviewed the position and have decided to prohibit the export of raw cotton of long staple (cotton 13-16" and above) to all countries including Pakistan, until it is known whether supplies of long staple cotton from Pakistan will be normal during 1947-48.

The bulk of the requirements of Indian mills in this type of cotton were met before the partition of the country from areas which now lie within the Dominion of Pakistan and discussions are in progress with the Pakistan Government in the matter of their cotton export policy. Since Pakistan depends for the supply of cloth on India, it is hoped that a common policy will be arrived at in the matter of cotton and cloth.

Exports of short and medium staple cotton will continue to be free, in accordance with the Press Communique of August 30, 1947, since the rate of export does not make it probable that the target figure of 15 lakhs for India and Pakistan combined will be exceeded. The position will be reliewed early in March.





Mr. N. 'V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, addressing the 18th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation

# INDIA'S RIVER PROJECTS---SCOPE OF MULTI-PURPOSE SCHEME

THE meaning of a multi-purpose project was elucidated by Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Chairman of the Central Waterways, Irrigation, Navigation Commission, while presiding over the 18th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation held recently in Delhi.

"The basis of multi-purpose treatment of a river valley", said Mr. Khosla," is that fullest advantage of the valley's water resources can be secured only by bringing together the several related water uses in a comprehensive plan of co-ordinated development. This comprehensive plan of development of the water resources should be integrated with the development of all other resources in the region. This total plan will include, besides irrigation, flood control, power development and navigation, such other activities as proper land use by means of soil conservation, regulated afforestation and deforestation, use of natural and artificial fertilizers, exploration of mineral resources, industrial and economic development, health measures and various other related activities which tend to raise the standard of living of the people.

## **River Valley Projects**

"The development of the Tennessee Valley in U. S. A. provides a model of total planning. The Bhakra, Damodar and Hirakud Projects, which have been recently sanctioned, are designed more or less on that model. Many other river valley projects, which are in various stages of investigation, will be prepared on similar lines.

"These include the Kosi Dam Project in Nepal and Bihar, the Tikarpara and Naraj Dam Projects on the Mahanadi in Orissa, the Narbada, Tapti and Sabarmati Valley Projects in Bombay, Central Provinces and adjoining States, the Indravati Project in Bastar, the Chambal and Sone River Valley Projects in the United Provinces and Central India States, the Dihang, Manas and Bharauli and other tributary stream projects in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam, the Eihand and Nayar Dam Projects in the U. P. and several other major and minor projects on the many other streams in India.

"The total power generation on these projects already under investigation may be 10 million kilowatts and annual irrigation, over 6 million acres.

"On the economic side, while a project conceived for a single purpose may not be productive or self-financing, it may become so if it is recast to include one or more additional allied purposes. With a judicious combination of tariffs in respect of the various purposes covered by a project it should be possible, in most cases, to more or less wipe out the unproductive part of any project without imposing undue burden on the beneficiaries from that project.

"There is yet another aspect which must be considered in assessing the financial soundness of a project and that is the many hidden and indirect returns from increased taxation, excise, etc., as a result of increased prosperity. To these may be added the invaluable asset of progressively increasing national self-sufficiency in foodgrains and industrial production.

"In his recent address at the Narbada Tapti Conference, held in Bombay, on Sep. 22, the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil truly remarked that 'where it is a question of life and death, cost is of little relevance. We have to be self-sufficient in food and in defence measures. Our ideas of productivity of a project must be viewed in the light of these vital needs'.

Speaking of the offects of the partition of the country Mr. Khosla said: "This has cut across our economic and cultural unity. Both India and Pakistan are the poorer for this division but both have enough potential resources for balanced development. India has more of the mineral resources, power potential and industrial production. Pakistan has more of irrigation and food production.

"The bulk of the magnificent irrigation works of the country now lie in the new Dominion of Pakistan. Out of the total of 400,000 cubic feet per second of water carried by the canals of undivided India nearly one-half is now carried by the canals in Pakistan. Of the total of 33 million acres irrigated by the State controlled canals, a little more than half lie in Pakistan. In respect of overall water resources and power potential, however, India is relatively more happily placed".

Welcoming the Government's sanction for three major projects, he said: "Three major river valley development projects, together estimated to cost nearly Its. 175 crores have been sanctioned for execution during the last few weeks. These are: the Bhakra Dam Project in East Punjab, the Damodar Valley Project in West Bengal and Bihar and the Hirakud Dam Project on the Mahanadi in Orissa. The project for the construction of the Ramapadassagar Dam on the Godavari is actively under consider ation. It is, therefore, reasonable to hope that, henceforth our dreams will progressively culminate in achievement and our blue prints translated into reality.

# **Priority for Food Production**

"In our programme of resource conservation and utilisation the first priority must be given to the production of food. According to Mr. Shanmukham Chetty's budget speech, India produces 45 million tons of foodgrains per year and has, in addition been importing up to 2.2 million tons from abroad. These imports are costing us over Rs. 10 crores a year and making a large hole in our foreign exchange resources. The total expenditure incurred on food imports during

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1948

the last 3 years is almost exactly twice the entire capital cost of all the existing Irrigation Works in undivided India. In the seven and half months between Aug. 15, 1947 and the end of March, 1948, the Government of India will be paying a subsidy of Rs. 22.52 crores for foodgrains. With over 4 million annual increase in the population of India the food situation will deteriorate still further.

"There is, however, no cause for undue alarm. Our imports of foodgrains so far have not exceeded 6 per cent; of our internal production. This state of affairs should not be difficult to remedy. Tens of millions of acres of culturable land still lie waste due to short and uncertain water supplies, while nearly 94 per cent. of the water wealth of the country, a good proportion of which can be put to beneficial use, is running to waste in the sea. By proper land and use planned conservation and utilisation of our river waters, we can not only become self-sufficient but can produce surplus food grains for export to deficit countries.

#### Flood Protection

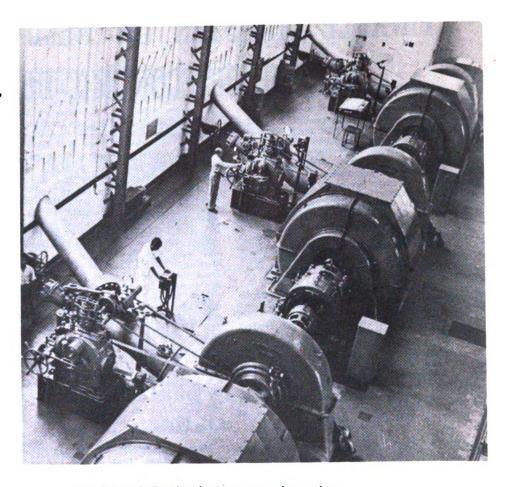
"The second priority in our schemes of resource conservation and utilisation should go to flood protection. Uncontrolled floods are a menace to the economic life of the people. They constitute a tramendous waste of national wealth.

"The ravages caused by the floods of the Kosi in Bihar and Nepal; the Damodar in Bengal; the Mahanadi, Brahmini and Baitarani in Orissa; the Bharauli, Manas, Kopiili and other tributary rivers of the Bahmaputra in Assam; the Narbada and Tapti in Bombay and several other major and minor rivers in the other Provinces and States of India, are an indication of the magnitude of the problem. The catastrophic floods which occurred in the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and Chenab rivers of the Punjab in Sept. 1947 added immensely to the toll of human life, already taken by fanaticism and human savagery.

## **Power Generation**

"The conservation of flood waters and their regulated releases with a view to provide equalised stream flow throughout the year, coupled with the utilisation of the natural falls in the river, would offer immense possibilities for the generation of water power on almost every major river and tributary in the country.

"The Brahmaputra valley in the province of Assam, alone, has a waterpower potential of between 5 and 16 million k. w. Orissa and Bihar have protential of 4 to 6 million k. w., each. Similarly, other Provinces and States have considerable water power potential. The total electrical power installed at present in the country is nearly 2 million k. w., of which less than half a million k. w. is water power. The per capita consumption of electricity in India is ridiculously low. It is 9.2 k.w. hours, against 906 in England, 1470, in U. S. A., 3510, in Canada, 1941, in Switzerland, 3090, in Norway and 2000, in Sweden.



The Pykara hydro-electric power generating station

"Our next need is navigation. India possesses numerous inland waterways, with a widespread network of tributaries. These waterways, if conserved, would afford the most extensive and the cheapest arteries of traffic. Navigation of inland waterways, which was fairly considerable in the past, has been progressively on the decline, partly as a result of a mistaken railway policy and partly, due to the reduction in dry weather supplies caused by the diversion of water for purposes of irrigation. Waterways purposes of irrigation. are a most important national asset both from the economic and defence aspects and must be conserved in the national interest".

Mr. Khosla also referred to a number of problems arising out of the execution of river projects. Referring to the resettlement policy to be adopted be said:

"It is desirable that the sacrifices and benefits be uniformly distributed. In case where no new areas are available for resettlement, this can be achieved by the owners of the areas benefited by irrigation being asked to part with a percentage of their land corresponding to the ratio, which the submerged area bears to the total area benefited, subject to the condition that no holding shall be reduced below a minimum economic holding.

"The problem of compensation and resettlement has to be faced with vision and sympathy. Compensation should, as far as possible, be land for land. Model villages with modern amenities should be set up in the new lands in place of old dwellings which will be submerged."

# Proper Land Use

"After explaining the disastrous results of inter-State water disputes," he said, "It is gratifying to note that the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly has made recommendations in respect of development of inter-unit waterways which will cut down delays in future. The Central Board of Irrigation has been consistently cressing for this essential reform for many years.

"Another matter of vital concern to integrated basin-wide development is proper land use. Unrestricted deforestation and soil erosion are widespread. These interfere with nature and adversely affect the economy of man. Floods are accentuated, productive lands are ruined, some beyond reclamation and heavy silt burdens are carried down the streams to shorten the life of sterage reservoirs or, by heavy deposition to render waste rich culturable lands, as has been the case in the Kosi flood plain-Urgent preventive measures, backed by legislative action, if necessary, are called for in this connection".

# FINANCE MINISTER ON NEED FOR PRACTICAL SCHEME OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPLYING to the general discussion on the Budget in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 1, the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukhan Chetty, Finance Minister, expressed the hope that outstanding differences on financial and economic problems between India and Pakistan would be amicably settled in "the very near future". It would be only after the solution of some of the economic and financial problems involved that a full and clear picture of India's economic position could be given.

The Finance Minister said:

I must at the outset express my grateful thanks to my hon'ble friends in this House for the generally cordial reception that they have accorded to my Budget statement. Notwithstanding the criticisms—and all the criticisms were really of a helpful character—there has been in amplee vidence appreciation—I would say a sympathetic appreciation of the difficulties under which the new Dominion Government in India is working, specially the difficulties of its first Finance Minister.

A great many points were made during the course of the discussion but I would like to touch upon two or three of the more outstanding points.

My hon'ble friend, Mr. Munshi said that I had not given a clearer picture of the consequences of partition. This sentiment was re-echoed by my hon'ble friend Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari, who said that a clearer picture of the economic situation in the country had not been given in the Budget statement. Straightway I plead guilty to the charge. I am myself not satisfied with the picture that I have presented of the economic and the financial conditions prevailing in the country after partition.

### Intricate Problems

If I am not yet in a position to see the picture in clearer light, with all the light and shadow on the picture, it is not entirely my mistake. A fuller and clearer picture of the economic pattern of the Indian Dominion can be gained only after some of the outstanding economic and financial problems have been settled with the Pakistan Government. All evidence tends to show that there is every hope that all these outstanding differences will be amicably settled between the representatives of the two Dominions in the very near future. In fact, I find for the last one week a conspiracy in which my hon'ble friend, the Home Minister, is deeply involved, to take away the work of Sir Patrick Spens, the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal. I think the House should wish him success in his efforts, and if, as we all hope, some of these most intricate and difficult problems are settled out of court, it will redound to the crecit of the two Governments and

to those who are in charge of the two Governments.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, also said that I should have given some statement of the account of the undivided India before Aug. 15. For one thing I still hold the view that even if it were possible for us to give these figures, they would not serve any useful purpose because those figures cannot form the basis for any comparison with the figures for the Indian Dominion that I have presented. Apart from the value of those figures, it was not possible for me to give them for the simple reason that the account of the undivided country for the period ending Aug. 15 has not yet been closed. The joint account is still kept open. and a great many adjustments have to be made before our joint family account can be closed. In these circumstances it was not possible for me to give even a rough idea of the state of account of the undivided Government as on Aug. 15, 1947.

# Loan Policy

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Munshi, again told the House that I had not given any clear indication of the loan pro-gramme of the Government of India. I have stated in my budget speech that it was not the intention of the Government to go to the market for any fresh loan before the close of the current financial year. Now that is a positive statement in one respect. But I agree that I have not given any clear indication of what our future loan policy is going to be. If I have not given any such clear indication, it is because I am not yet in a position to do so. What confronted me when I took office on Aug. 15 was the hard fact that the entire money market in India was seriously disturbed. There was a lack of confidence, with the result that there was no great demand for Government securities in the money market.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: Does the Hon'ble Minister think that the lack of confidence was the only factor in this?

THE FINANCE MINISTER: That is the main factor so far as I have been able to study the market.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: What about the reactions on last year's Budget?

THE FINANCE MINISTER: Probably that is one of the causes of the loss of confidence, but the fact with which I was concerned was the fact that there was loss of confidence. I had therefore to hold my hand before I went to the money market for any large loan. Naturally the investing public wanted to know what the policy of the Government of India was going to be in the matter of the future industrialisation of the

country, in the matter of the economic development of the country and more especially in the matter of the borrowing policy. There have been a great many plans and reports regarding industrial development. If the Government had not been preoccupied with the unfortunate events of the last few months, I have no doubt that the Government would have straightaway applied their mind to coming to some definite and positive conclusions regarding these plans that have been made. Now that some sort of order and peace have been restored, I am hoping that in the very near future we shall be in a position not merely to make up our mind regarding the future trend of our policy in industrial sation, but also take concrete decisions on the execution of some of the schemes which have been included in those plans.

# Chesp Money Policy

The market was also uncertain about our borrowing policy. One of my predecessors, Sir Archibald Rowlands initiated the cheap money policy. He very successfully converted our 3½ per cent loan into a 3 per cent loan, and he aimed at securing 2½ per cent. credit for the Government of India. He was lucky. In fact, now that I am on this subject, I an free to confess that the destiny of a Finance Minister is very often governed by the luck that attends him rather than his own cleverness.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: It is true of everybody.

THE FINANCE MINISTER: More specially true of the Finance Minister.

As I indicated in my Budget speech, even the British Government, which adopted this policy found that it could be carried very far. The position that faced us was somewhat difficult. Evidently, as the Reserve Bank Governor had observed, the cheap money policy had been carried a bit too far in our country. But then my difficulty is this: when once a cheap money policy had been adopted it is extremely difficult to retreat from that policy. In fact a retreat from cheap money policy will always be disastrous to the Government on the money market. Therefore it was decided that without following the policy any further or extending it any further I would attempt to consolidate the position gained so far. And from all the evidence that I see in the money market, I think the market has taken this decision well.

I felt confident that next time when I go to the market it will be for a fairly big loan and we would appeal to our country men to come to the help of the Government by lending funds so that our vast programmes of development might be put through. In fact, I am thinking whether that first loan should not be an independence loan—a loan the success of which will assure the success of our economic

policy and our stability. Knowing our people as I do, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that when the Government makes an appeal to the money market the market will respond. I know that the money market is a hard nut to crack; they are not easily moved by mere appeals—in fact the appeal must be to their pockets and not to their hearts; and the clear enunciation of our policy that it is our intention to consolidate the gains made so far would I think be a sufficient inducement for the market to come forward to the help of the Government.

I want Hon'ble Members to realise how much the stability of a modern Government depends on its capacity to raise loans in the money market. We are apt to think that the stability of a budget depends only on the revenue expenditure side of it. There is one other budget which very often is ignored by Hon'ble Members in this House and by the public at large, and that is the Ways and Means Budget. If you analyse the budget of any modern State, you will find that the outgoings of the Government on the capital side are very often more than the disbursements on the revenue side.

Take our own modest Budget for these 7½ months. While our revenue expenditure is about Rs. 197 crores, our Ways and Means Budget discloses a disbursement of over Rs. 145 crores. If we launch a more vigorous drive in the direction of industrial and agricultural expansion, the outgoing in the capital budget will be infinitely larger, and there it is that we must get the entire co-operation and help of the investing public. My main object in presenting the financial picture of the country as I see it is to instil that confidence which had been lost; from the reactions on the stock exchange and on the money market in general, I feel confident that that objective of mine has very amply succeeded.

# Private Enterprise

A great deal has been said, by various Hon'ble Members about the question of nationalisation versus private enterprise. Probably my observations on the scope and need for private enterprise in our country have not been sufficiently appreciated.

One Hon'ble friend remarked that the emphasis on private enterprise had been laid a little too much. What I intended to say is this, that the scope for production in our country for the next many, many years is so vast that there must necessarily be scope for private enterprise even though we decide on a downright policy of nationalisation.

The other day I said I am not a capitalist and the House was fairly amused. Probably they will be more amused if I say today that I consider myself a socialist. And my own interpratation of socialism is this: that economy which ensures a fair and equitable distribution of national wealth is really the socialist economy. State enterprise or private eterprise is only the means towards achieving that end. What does it matter if our entire industrial structure has been nationalised and yet the standard

of life of our people is low? You would not call that socialistic economy in the real sense of the term.

What has been ignored in the capitalistic economy of the world in the past is that sufficient emphasis has not been laid on distribution as that on production. What we in our country must aim at is to increase and increase a hundredfold the national wealth of our country and distribute that wealth equitably among all the people of this country. I am clearly against the concentration of wealth in a few hands. In fact, the whole system and structure of taxation in modern society is intended to prevent that concentrated accumulation of wealth in a few individuals. If we utilise that mechanism wisely and with prudence we could, in effect, achieve a really socialistic economy. But in exercising that right of taxation we have to be cautious.

If private enterprise has got a place in the national economy of the country, then you must create the incentive for investment in private enterprise, and if your scheme of taxation hinders investment in industry and damps the enthusiasm of private enterprise, to that extent it has defeated its own purpose. In fact the wisdom of a Finance Minister in these days in any country in the world is just to reach beyond that point in taxation which will prevent the concentration of wealth in a tew hands but which will at the same time not destroy the incentive to investment.

Speaking about the burden of taxation, probably the House will be interested if its monotony is relieved, if I nargate to the members a story. Three Englishmen were one day having lunch. All of them were businessmen. When the lunch was over each one wanted to vie with the other in paying the bill. So one man said, "No, let me pay the bill, because after all I am going to charge the cost of this lunch to my company; already the company is paying 19s. 6d. in the pound as tax, and therefore it is only 6d, in the pound that the company will be paying and the rest will be Government money".

The other man said, "No, let me pay", and added, "you see, my company is paying Excess Profits Tax and the Excess Profits Tax is 100 per cent. I will also charge this bill to the company which means that the entire cost of this bill will be paid by the Government".

The third man said, "No, no. I am still in a better position". Everybody was surprised and this is what he said: "You know, I am working for the Government on cost plus 10 per cent. basis. I am going to charge the cost of this lunch to Government and I will get 10 per cent. of it from Government". (Laughter). Now, that gives an idea of the burden of taxation today in the country.

But we should judge that burden from the criterion of how far it will encourage

# MINISTERS' SALARIES BILL

NOVING the Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers in the Dominion Parliament on Dec. 1; the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Petel, Minister for Home Affairs, said:

"Sir, I move that the Bill to provide for the salaries of Ministers be taken into consideration. I will not take much time of the House over this small matter. I may take the House into confidence and say that although this is a small matter it has taxed our minds considerably and we have spent a considerable time over it. We considered this question several times and we had two or three meetings of the Cabinet, and we had to reconsider proposals that we had once arrived at because any salary that you fix is liable to be criticised from one point of view or the other.

"But I may inform the House that looking at all the circumstances it may be said that the salary that we have proposed is not unreasonable. It will give an adequate amount for proper living in Delhi and, in some cases, by the deducation of income-tax, some of my colleagues, who have not got other income may, after the deduction, have very little and some will be out of pocket.

"So on the whole, taking everything into consideration, the amount cannot be considered to be unreasonable; and as we have given a good deal of time and consideration to it I hope the House will pass it without any dissent.

"In the matter of allowances it is not necessary to come to the House because it can be done by executive order or by a Cabinet decision, but we thought it better to put it to the House so that the House may know what the actual position is.

"The provision of double accommodation may require some explanation. I may inform the House that although we have provided for house accommodation here as well as in Simla, there is surely no probability of any of us going to Simla. Houses there are all occupied by the East Punjab Government, who are short of houses. Even if it were not so, we have no time or inclination to go to Simla because we think it an unsuitable place for conducting administration from those heights right down to the south, and we cannot go there.

"It may of course be necessary for some Minister or other to go there occasionally on State business or for a short change of climate and reasons of health. In such cases, the House will not grudge them such accommodation for a short or temporary period. But, on the whole, all the houses in Simla which belong to Government are now occupied. My Hon'ble colleague in charge of Works, Mines and Power will know more about it than I do; but I thought that the House should not carry a wrong impression on this question and feel that we are providing for double accommodation. In fact, there will hardly be any case for any of its going to Simla".

investment in industry. It is because I felt that there was some justification for the criticism that the taxation imposed in the last Budget has seriously interenterprise that I gave the undertaking that I shall re-examine the whole structure of taxation to destroyed. After all, whatever might be the ideological differences amongst some of us, if we sit down and evolve a practical scheme for the economic development of our country, we will find that notwithstanding ideological differences there is a great deal of common ground amongst all of us. Let us, for the next few years at least, exploit every point of agreement and not unnecessarily emphasize points of difference. It is agreed on all hands that the future of India depends upon her industrial and agricultural production and with that common objective, about which there is no difference of opinion, there is no doubt that we might be able to evolve a practical scheme of economic development.

Now, more and more production is wanted not merely for creating the future wealth of this country but for fighting inflation. Mr. Munshi was right when he said that we all know about the existence of inflation but we really do not know how to tackle it. Well, we know how to tackle it, but the thing is our efforts do not succeed.

#### **Economic Sub-Committee**

I am clear in my mind that inflation today is not so much due to monetary causes, but really due to the very rapid fall in production. I gave index figures to show how the inflationary tendency has become more acute in spite of a considerable reduction in the volume of notes in circulation and in bank deposits. How exactly we must bring about that increase in the volume of production is a matter that lies entirely in our own nands. There are various bottlenecks. A special Committee of the Cabinet has been appointed, called the "Economic Sub-Committee", to study this problem in great detail. As result of the preliminary study that we have made so far, I find that one of the greatest bottlenecks in our country which hampers production is the problem of transport.

Take, for instance, the position regarding coal. Production has increased and there is a danger of its coming to a standstill. Why? Eccause coal at the pits has accumulated and it cannot be quickly transported to the destinations because of the inadequacy of transport. And in transport, when you come to details our greatest want today is the want of locomotives. As my hon'ble friend, the Transport Minister, told us the other day, one of the greatest acts, amounting almost to a criminal act, by the previous Government was their ignoring the need for building locomotives in this country.

I came into the Central Legislature in 1924 and I can even today recall the debate during the Railway Budget year after year when those of us sitting or the Opposition Benches tried to impress upon the then Government the need for establishing a locemotive industry in this country. Twenty-three

years have passed and still we are not in a position to manufacture locomotives in this country. That is the unfortunate legacy we have got, but we are trying to do our best to rectify this state of affairs. It will take time.

As a matter of fact, to get over this difficulty, we are now seriously examining the possibility of buying or chartering a few ships and transporting coal, by sea, for the various places and thereby reducing at least the haulage of coal. For instance, instead of carrying coal by an all-rail route from the pit's mouth to Madras, it will be easier to carry it to Madras by sea. I think a great deal could be done to overcome this difficulty if we succeed in this effort. I am only giving this as an example to tell the House that not only are we alive to the problem, but that we are taking all positive and concrete steps necessary to solve it.

My Hon'ble friend, Pandit Kunzru. very prudently asked me whether I was going to be satisfied with merely increasing the production on the existing plant and machinery. I say: No. We have got plans, which are going to be put into execution very soon, for adding to our productive capacity. For example, a Steel Panel was appointed by the late Government and the Panel has sub-mitted two reports. The Panel has recommended the erection of two modern steel plants, one in North Bihar and one in the Central Provinces, each with a capacity of half a million tons, but so constructed that they might easily attempt at doubling the productive capacity. I have asked my Hon'ble colleague, the Industries Minister, to go ahead with that plan and I am hoping that before I

present the next Budget in February I might be in a position to announce that concrete steps had been taken to start these two scehmes. That is only one illustration of the concrete steps that we are taking to actually add to our productive capacity.

While we can do everything that lies in our power to restore the diminished production and to add to our productive capacity, there is one other factor which I submit, namely labour, also counts a great deal in the solution of this question. Here again, I am free to confess that by mere ordinances and orders we cannot persuade labour to produce more. We must get their wholehearted and willing co-operation. We must create an entirely new outlook in the relationship between labour and employer.

## Control Versus Decontrol

The time has now come when the Government with the co-operation of employers must make labour feel that it is an integral partner in the whole industrial structure of the country. Some Hon'ble friends referred to the scheme of profitsharing. That is again one of the problems which is now engaging the attention of the Economic Sub-Committee of the Cabinet. Speaking for myself, even four or five years back, I advised my friends engaged in industry to offer to labour a straight forward scheme of partnership and profit-sharing. I hope that the Cabinet will betere long be in a position to evolve a satisfactory formula which will ensure the willing co-operation of labour in our enterprises.

A great deal has been said about the problem of control versus de-control.

My Hon'ble freind, Pandit Kunzru, naturally expressed serious apprehensions

# CLAIMS FOR LOSS SUFFERED IN SIAM DURING THE WAR

LAIMS against the Siamese Government, under the terms of the formal Agreement between the United Kingdom, India and Siam dated Jan. 1, 1946, for "personal prejudice" (that is, personal claims unconnected with property of any kind), may new be lodged, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Reations, on Dec.

Claims formulated in India will be received by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, New Delhi, and will be forwarded to the Siamese Government through the Indian Legation in Siam.

The particulas of authorities appointed to receive claims formulated outside India will be published in the countries concerned.

Claims must be prepared on the official Claim Form and, in accordance with the Notes for Guidance issued therewith. Copies of such Forms and Notes are available from the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth

Relations, New Delhi. Five copies of each claim and supporting documents must be lodged.

Claimants who have previously registered their claims are required to relodge them on the official Claim Form in accordance with this notice.

Under the terms of the Claims Agreement, claims for personal prejudice must reach the Siamese Government within 12 menths of the date of this notice. To allow ample time for the examination of claims, for reference back to claimants, where necessary, and for transmission to the Siemese Government, claimants are advised to ledge their claims as above as soon as possible and not later than the Aug. 11, 1948.

Claims arising out of personal prejudice suffered by labourers on the Burma-Siam Railway need not be submitted as:
a separate announcement regarding such claims will be made in due course.

A separate announcement concerning claims in respect of property will also be issued at a later date. as to what would be the state of affairs if decontrol was effected and prices go up. He was answered by certain other Hon'ble Members, who, like Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar, spoke with practical experience of the working of control. There is no danying the fact that theoretically when there is a gap between supply and demand they should be controlled if everyone is to get an equitable share at a reasonable price. We must go one step further. If control is to be effective, it must be an integrated control. There is no use of tinkering with controls, controlling only one or two essential articles and leaving the rest unchecked, because an upward trend of prices with the state of the s these other commodities will have serious repercussions on the commodities under control. Control to be successful should therefore be an integrated control, covering all essential commodities. As I said, no one questions the soundness of the statement, but what has been our practical experience?

l am myself a believer in the value and the need for integrated control, but my sad experience is that in our country our mechanism of control has completely failed. We talk of a controlled price. Let us take sugar. What percentage of the consumers of sugar do you think are really getting sugar at the controlled price? Similarly take any foodgrains; except the growers of food it is my belief that not more than 10 per cent of our people get the foodgrains at really controlled prices. Probably 10 per cent is an overestimate. The rest really buy in the black market.

#### Inflation Problem

Today we have got in our country an inflation which really is not reflected in the index figures that we have published. The index figures are published on the hasis of our controlled prices. But if an index figure were prepared today at the black market price at which people have to buy these essential foodstuffs, you will find the index figure will be absolutely alarming. What is the use of keeping up this show of control when you really cannot manage?

The question of decontrol has been engaging the Cabinet for the last few weeks. We have given most anxious thought to this problem. For, meeting after meeting in the Cabinet we had to postpone decision because even though we came prepared to do something yet when we discussed the problem in all its aspects, we were frightened at the consequences of decontrol and yet we had to take decision. We know we are fully conscious of the fact that we are taking a risk, but a stage has been reached when that risk has to be taken. It is our intention not to disband our machinery of control, so that if things go radically wrong, we would again come back to control. Subject to these precautions, it is our intention to gradually decontrol certain things and take the risk.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Then what happens to integrated control?

THE FINANCE MINISTER: Integrated control, I wish freely to confess, has not succeeded in our country.

I can write quite a thesis on the need of controls in India. The point is, can we with the mechanism that we can control really put these controls effectively into operation. So, I have made a clean breast of the thing. I have nothing more to answer. If control has failed, this House and the public at large must share the blame with the Government and if the measures of decontrol that we propose to adopt gradually are to succeed, it will again require the co-operation of the public at large. After all you cannot legislate to a people unwilling to work that legislation in its real and true spirit. Let us, therefore, hope that the social consciousness of our people will be roused by the human misery that surrounds us and that with this gradual process of decontrol things might be better. That is all I can hope for and let us all hope for the best.

# Sterling Balances

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, referred to the question of the sterling balances and he criticised statement because it happens to coincide with a similar statement that Archibald Rowlands made. I am sure the House will agree with me when I say that the validity of a statement is not necessarily destroyed because somebody else corroborates that statement or concurs with that statement. I firmly hold the view that the sterling balances must be wisely utilised for the economic and industrial development of this country and not be frittered away for the payment of current consumption of luxury articles. Whether Sir Archibald Rowlands agrees with me or anybody disagrees with me, I am prepared to hold to that

My Hon'ble friend also referred to the negotiations that have taken place regarding the temporary settlement of the question of sterling balances. The last Delegation from India was purely on an official level because it was intended to bring about only a temporary settlement. The next stage of the discussion will also be on official level and I am glad to announce that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have responded to our invitation to send some of their officials to Delhi to discuss this matter. My idea is that we should make another interim settlement valid till June, 1948. Thereafter, we must think of a more permanent settlement which must really take place on ministerial level. When such a stage is reached, I am hoping to include in that Delegation private members who would be in a position to help the Government in coming to satisfactory settlement with the British Government.

These are some of the general matters, barring one. Having sat in this House for 12 years and having listened to the magnificent speeches that Pandit Kunzru used to make, attacking the Defence Budget in those days, it was so refreshing to hear from him that we are not spending enough on Defence. I welcome that attitude. That shows that there is a sense of realism among our responsible leaders.

As Finance Minister I um naturally very nervous about the rate of Defence expenditure; but I might assure this House that whatever might be our financial position; I am sure we can find enough finance to maintain a strong and adequate army in our country.

### Assam's Needs

These cover the general points. My Hon'ble friend from Assam spoke about the needs of his province. Only last week the Governor of Assam and the Prime Minister of Assam had discussions with me on this point and they went away satisfied. And this morning there is a report of a broadcast talk by His Excellency the Covernor of Assam from the Calcutta Broadcastig Station. This is what he says:

"During my recent visit to Delhi I was happy to get heartening proofs that our difficulties are understood and that our needs in the matter of overcoming them are now to be given the assistance required. It is now up to the people of Assim to rise to the height of opportunities offered. I have no doubt they will"

I am sure what has satisfied the Governor of Assam will also satisfy my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Chaudhury.

The right note regarding the appraisal of the Budget was struck by my Hon'ble friond Mr. C. Subrahmanyam. He said rightly that the financial soundness of the ccuntry should not be judged by the deficit or surplus in the Budget but by the deficit or surplus in the national income. That is the right way to study the Budget and that is why I attempted to give as accurate a picture as I could of the economic and financial position of our country, and gave my emphatic opinion that the financial position of our country is perfectly safe and sound. It is quite possible that I might prove to be a false prophet. But if it came to that I would prefer to be a false optimistic prophet rather than be a prophet like Jeremiah: because if hopes are dupes fears might be liars. I am one of those who believe that even faced with a difficult situation, with confidence in yourself and a stout heart, you can certainly overcome your difficulties.

# BURMA RE-ENTRY CERTIFICATES

The Burma Government has contented to extend the period for issue of Burma re-entry certificates to holders of departure and residence certificates from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on Dec. 19.

Permits will be issued up to this date and recipients will be allowed reasonable opportunity of returning to Burma after that date.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Sir Clifford Monmohan Agarwala, acting Chief Justice of the Patna High Court to be the Chief Justice of that High Court, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Dec. 22.



# ECONOMY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION

PEAKING in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 4, on a cut motion that the Demand under the head "Ministry of Finance" be reduced by Rs. 100 (to discuss the question of economy in the Central Administration) the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Finance Minister, said:

I welcome the discussion initiated by the motion of my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. B. Das. He and I have sat together on the Opposition benches for nearly 12 years in the old legislature and we have taken part in many debates, criticising the extravagance of the administrative machinery. Even though I am sitting in a difference place, Sir, my feeling, about the scale of expenditure in Government is very nearly the same as it used to be when I was sitting in those benches.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Santhanam said, that the Finance Minister should not be a mere compiler of figures. I whole-heartedly agree with that observation. The Finance Minister is really the watch-dog of this House. The Finance Ministry does not simply sanction as an automatic measure proposals for expenditure that come before it for scrutiny. In fact the financial implications of every proposal are clearly examined in the Ministry of Finance. Notwithstanding this check exercised by the Ministry, I would welcome the deduction of this House that every possible measure should be taken to reduce the scale of expenditure in the administrative machinery.

The Finance Minister is generally the most unpopular of the Ministers amongst his own colleagues, because he often has

to perform the unpleasant task of turning down proposals coming from the Ministries of his own colleagues. I can say the function of a real Finance Minister is not that of one who, without any meaning, turns down all proposals for expenditure, but who would help all other Departments to spend money wisely and effectively. That is the true function of a Ministry of Finance, and I certainly shall try my utmost to see that Ministry of Finance discharges its functions in that spirit.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, suggested that someone might go to the United States to find out about the expeditious methods of administration in that country. Well, Sir, it so happens that I was there myself for nearly a year in charge of the Indian Supply Mission. There is no doubt that during the War at least the machinery of administration in the United States moved very fast. In fact I made it a rule in the Supply Mission that there should be no note-writing on files. In fact every problem was practically solved by the officer or the Director concerned coming either to the Secretary or to one of the Directors of Supply or coming directly to me in important cases; and I found that the system worked very effectively indeed. In fact I used to put through great deals with the American departments just over the telephone. Under the normal practice of red-tape it would probably take months of note-writing before a similar problem was solved. I am therefore not merely familiar with the model of a more businesslike administration, but I am fully alive to the need for such an administration in our country.

There is no doubt that the scale of expenditure on the administration has gone up enormously during the last few years: probably Hon'ble Members themselves do not realise the extent to which it has gone up. We doubt during the war there was great demand for the expansion of the activities of departments. But the curious fact here is that after the termination of the war the scale of expenditure on the administrative services is really more than what it was during wartime. I will just give one illustration. If you take General Administration, the total expenditure in 1938-39 just before the war—was Rs. 1,87,00,000 in 1944-45, which was the peak war year, it was Rs. 4,25,00,000. But curiously enough in 1946-47, it was Rs. 6,23,00,000 and in 1947-48 the budget figure was Rs. 6,14,00,000. This was of course the pre-partition budget, but the pattern will be applicable even to the post-partition budget.

# Scope for Economy

That shows that there is certainly very great scope for retrenchment and economy. But one word of caution must be uttered in studying these figures. There are two factors which have resulted in increase of expenditure over which we have no control. The first and the most important of them is the enormous increase in expenditure resulting from the acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the higher scales of Dearness Allowance and pay that we have to give. So a great deal of that will be a reflection of this phenomeon.

Another factor which has contributed to increase in administration expense is the system of economic controls. The elaborate mechanism of controls that we maintain is really costing the country quite a good bit of money; but when we succeed in our measures of decontrol this item of expenditure will automatically go down. Notwithstanding these two factors—the importance of which should not be ignored—I feel certain that there is still scope for economy in expenditure.



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ne newly reconstituted in Tariff Board. (L. to K.) 3, V. Narayanswamy Naidu aber) Mr. G. L. Mehta ident) and Mr. H. L. Dey (Member)

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In the nation-building departments the expenditure has no doubt gone up enormously. For instance, in departments like Scientific Departments, Education, Medical, Public Health, etc., the pre-war expenditure in 1938-39 was Rs. 2.17 crores, in 1947-48 it was Rs. 18.03 crores. But that is developmental expenditure about which we need not quarrel.

Hon'ble Members were disappointed that I did not make any reference to the need for economy in my Budget speech. I was fully conscious of the need for economy, in fact it was my intention within a few weeks of my assuming office to appoint an economy committee. But on account of the great cataclysm that overtook us I thought the time was not appropriate to set such a committee in action.

I have now decided to set up very shortly an economy committee which will examine the entire field of administration covered by the activities of the Central Government. In fact I have already given instructions to the Ministry of Finance to prepare the necessary memoranda and documents so that when the committee is actually appointed within the next month or two the work could be done in an expeditious manner.

I have no doubt that the economy committee will keep in mind the desire expressed in all quarters of the House for the utmost economy and retrenchment in expenditure consistent with efficiency.

There is only one other matter about which I should give a reply. Hon'ble Members rightly criticised the expenditure under the Ecclesiastical Department. The position, I am told, is this that all the British Chaplains will go away before the end of this month, and we are bound to incur expenditure on the maintenance charges of churches and cemeteries only up to Mar. 31, 1948. Thereafter this charge will not fall upon us and Hon'ble Members will have no room for criticism. I have no doubt that the house will feel satisfied from the expression of my own opinion that I am one with them in searching all avenues for economy in expenditure.

MR. B. DAS: Sir, I ask for leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

A meeting of the Joint Defence Council was held at Government House, New Delhi, at 11 a.m. on Dec. 22.

Those present included Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister of India), Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Prime Minister of Pakistan), Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence, India), Mr. Mchammed Ali (Secretary-General, Pakistan), Mr. H.M. Patel (Secretary, Ministry of Defence, India), Lieut-Col. Iskander Mirza (Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Pakistan), Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart (Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army), and Gen. Sir Frank Messervy (Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan Army).

# BILL TO AMEND INCOME-TAX AND B. P. T. ACTS

N the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 3, the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, moved that the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Business Profits Tax Act, 1947, be taken into consideration. He said: There is nothing new or controversial in this amending Bill. It is only intended to clarify the original intention of the Business Profits Tax Act and the Capital Gains Tax, and to rectify certain drafting errors and omissions. The best way of dealing with this Bill will be for me to explain briefly the object of the two clauses.

Clause 2 is intended to make certain drafting amendments relating to the Capital Gains Tax. It was the intention that capital gains arising out of sale of agricultural land situated in the provinces of India should not be subject to the Capital Gains Tax. But it was not intended that if such agricultural land was situated outside the provinces of India, they should also be exempted from the operation of the Capital Gains Tax. The object of exempting from the operation of the Capital Gains Tax the sale of land in the provinces of India is that the income from such land is considered as agricultural income and therefore not subject to our income-tax. The agricultural income-tax derived from lands situated for example in an Indian State is, however, not exempt from the operation of our Indian Income-Tax Act, and therefore we want to provide by their amendment that any sale of land situated outside the provinces of India, if it results in a profit to the owner of the land, that profit will be subject to the Capital Gains Tax. That is the purpose of clause 2 (1) sub-section (a).

### Object of Amendment

Sub-Section (b). In the original Bill it was provided that only capital gains arising in the previous year for the asses-ment year 1947-48 should be chargeable. In the Select Committee, however, an amendment was made limiting the liability only to profits arising after March 31, 1946. A consequently amendment in the explanation to clause 6 (a) of section 2 was unfortunately overlooked. The objects of the present amendment is to rectify that error so that the intention should be made clear, namely that if a company distributed dividends out of capital gains made prior to April 1, 1946, such distribution out of capital gains will not be chargeable as dividends in the hands of shareholders. That is the object of clause 2 (1) (b).

Now I come to clause 2 (1) (c). This amendment relates to capital gains where the assessee acquires the property by succession, in heritance or devolution. Under the Act as it stands now, the value of the property is its cost to the owner, but if a person acquires it by succession, inheritance or devolution, he has not paid any price for it. Therefore, there is no value that he has paid. Now it is

intended to provide that in such cases th value will be the cost to the previous owner. That is the object of this clause

Now these three amendments cover the Capital Gains Tax. Clause 3 relates to certain amendments to the Business Profits Tax.

# **Business Profits Tax**

Clauses 3 (1) (a) and (d). These have got the following objects. This proviso existed in section 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Act 1940 but was omitted in the Business Profits Tax Bill as in the Bill originally drafted the abatement was fixed at a sum of Rs. 1 lakh in all cases without any reference to the capital or other circumstances of the business. It was also considered that the substantive clause 5 of the Bill secured that the application of the law would not be wider in scope than that of the IncomeTax and Excess Profits Tax Acts. Changes were made in the Bill by the Select Committee, and during the passage of the Bill the Act as it emerged varied the abatement in the case of a firm according to the number of its working partners subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs, and in the case of a company at 6 per cent. of the capital computed in accordance with schedule II, subject to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh.

In the case of a company the entire profits are not chargeable to Business Profits Tax. It is necessary that the capital for the purpose of abatement should not be the entire capital but should be in the same proportion as the amount of its profits chargeable to taxes bearing to its total profits. In other words the capital of the company is to be reduced by an amount which bears to the capital the same proportion as the amount of profits not so chargeable bear to the total profits. This explaining the fourth amendment inserting rule 2 (a) in Scdedule II relating to the computation of capital.

In amending Schedule II, opportunity has also been taken to insert a proviso which existed in section 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Act to make it clear beyond doubt that where a part only of the business is chargeable to Business Profits Tax, such part would be treated as a seperate business. Clause 3 (1) (b) enables the Income-Tax Officer to call for a return not only of the profits on business but also of the taxable profits.

Clause 3 (1) (c). The third amendment to section 19 of the Business Profits Tax Act is to enable the Central Board of Revenue to prescribe by rule the necessary formal modifications in those sections of the Income-tax Act which under the law are applicable to the Business Profits Tax Act. As section 19 now stands, it makes certain provisions of the Income-tax Act as applied to the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, also applicable to the Business Profits Tax Act, but those sections of the Income-tax Act as apply to Excess Profits Tax are unsuitable for

(Continued on Page 57)



# RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

# Pandit Nehru's Statement in Legislature

SPEAKING in the Dominion Legisture on Nov. 29 on the motion rolating to the Relief and Rehabilitation of refugees, the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, said:

Sir, the exports have spoken and others who have intimately been in touch with this problem have given us the benefit of their advice and criticism. There has been some praise of Government and plenty of criticism, and I think probably there is a great deal of truth in both. For my part I feel, not only myself but speaking on behalf of the Government, a certain inadequacy in having to deal with this problem because, however efficient or however able or competent a Government we might be, the problem is so big that one is aptrather to qual before it.

I do not know what in future might be said about the handling of this problem not only by this Government or by the East Punjab Government or by this llouse or by all our officials and others; but I do think that in future history it will be said that vast and colossal as this problem was—something which might shake the very foundations of Government and the social order—the people of India stood up to it bravely, tackled it and, I hope, ultimately solved it to the advantage of the nation (hcar, hear), for after all no Government, however good it may be, can tackle such a problem without a vast amount of public support.

It is essentially a problem in which the co-operation of vast numbers of people is required. We have got into the habit in past days or past periods of thinking too much in terms of a Government doing this or not doing it, of blaming a Government for this or that. Now I do believe that a Government must shoulder their responsibility.

## Full Responsibility

My hon'ble friend Mr. Aney asked the quastion whether we want to make ourselves responsible for the rehabilitation of all these people fully or just temporarily. Well, if he wants an answer I should say that any Government of India should make itself responsible for the well-being of every Indian in this country, and not temporarily responsible but permanently responsible.

But it is all very well for me to say that and I know that in this country vast numbers of people are starving or have no houses, are poverty-stricken and all that; but the point is that we as a Government and we as a House must realise that it is our responsibility that every Indian should have food to eat and a house to live in, and education and opportunities of progress.

If that is so for everyone in the country, certainly it is so for these unhappy

countrymen of ours who have sudden found themselves lost in the storm th arose. We recognise that responsibility fully. How far we shall discharge it is a matter of our ability and strength, and the country's strength, and it is a little difficult for me to be definite and precise about it.

# Psychological Aspects

We have heard in today's debate a great many points raised on the practical aspect of the question I should like to draw the attention of the House to certain other and psychological aspects if I may say so. When any great catastrophe comes, a Government or a country tries to ameliorate the lot of the sufferers; they address themselves to their task with all their strength. The process of healing starts immediately after the catastrophe. Here we have been dealing with a very peculiar state of affairs, the catastrophe was a man-made catastrophe—not a natural phenomenon like earthquake or some other calamity like that—and all the evils of man's passions followed it throughout and follow it still, so that while we tried to heal, the process of destruction went on.

On the one side there was a process of building on the other, of breaking up, actually—physically even more senin men's hearts. All the time many of us thought in terms of helping certainly, but also in terms of hurting others, and when you mix up these two feelings the result is that the helping part suffers. You do not create that proper atmosphere of helping and rehabilitation and building up when half your mind is turned to breaking down and hurting others.

There has often been talk of retaliation. In fact all this sorry and terrible business that has happened in these three or four months everywhere might be put in one word—" retaliation". Each person, each group, apparently thinks of retaliating so as to protect one's own interests. Now it passes my thinking and imagination how anybody can think that in the state of affairs that we have to face in India today, we can help our cause by widespread or small-scale re-taliation. I have not a shadow of doubt that if, as soon as the catastrophe overwhelmed us, most people had thought in terms not of retaliation but of healing and stopping it. 75 or 80 or 90 percent of this business would have been stopped. But we did not-I am not talking about this House of course; I am talking about the passions that were roused in this

People thought that they would protect their interests or the interests of their dear ones by hitting out and hurting others and thus by this process of retaliation possibly bringing presure on the other party. Exactly the same feeling worked all over the place on both sides with the result that every act of retaliation brought further retaliation and the vicious circle went on.



Pandit Jawaherlel Nehru

And yet I find people talking in terms of retaliating and yet I find newspapers and others blaming this Government for not adopting a retaliatory policy. I want to say quite clearly that so far as this Government is concerned, it is not going to adopt the method of retaliation. Of course every Government has to protect the interests of its citizens, of those who look to it for help. We are going to protect them by every means. If they are attacked or if they are injured it is our business to protect them in every way. But we do not think—leaving out any higher plane of action—even in the narrower plane of expediency and self-interest that the way of protecting is the way of retaliation and injuring others.

# Major Causes

I do not know if Members of this House or others outside when they talk or think about these problems give much thought to any future picture of India that they may have before them. After all, unless we have some such picture, what are we aiming at, what are we working for, and what kind of edifice are we constructing? It is important that we should do so because when we are dealing with millions of people who have lost everything and we are trying to help them and rehabilitate them, we must have some picture.

I am not merely talking in terms of actual rehabilitation, which is very important, but something even further than that. What exactly are we aiming at? We have seen a terrible operation—the cutting up of the living entity of India—and we have seen the still more terrible consequences of it. We may blame this or that individual—and no doubt many persons and groups have

been terribly blame worthy but something that has happened has been on such a cataclysmic scale that it passes human blame. It is in the nature, if I may say so, of some mighty tragedy of which the Greek dramatists have written, which comes and envelopes and overwhelms a nation and where human virtues and human foelings somehow count for little. This is a big thing that has happened, so that mere blame does not help nor saying that it is the result of so-and-50's ill-will or action.

In tracing these events it is easy enough to know, and we all know, what are its major causes. Nevertheless, the thing that has happened has been so big and so all-round in its evil nature that it does little good to excuse oneself by blaming this or that person. Let us be quite clear about this. Whatever the origin, whatever the initial errors and crimes that may have been committed, what has happened on either side in the Punjab has been terr ble in every sense of the word. And the most terrible part of it has been the psychological partfrom injury to poverty; injury to all manner of things, even injury to life. The terrible thing is how it has perverted men's minds and perverted the minds possibly of the younger generation that is growing up scoing these herrors.

# **Healing Process**

Now, what is the kind of picture that we have in our minds? What are we building for? Are we building for conflicts, wars, destruction and the rest, to satisfy a feeling of vengeence which may be justified? Or are we building for some other type—building for peace and ordered progress? For my part, I have no doubt at all about this.

Again, not from any high moral ground, but from the narrowest ground of expediency and the national good and the ind.vidual good, if we try to lay stress on the destructive part, on the vengelul part, on the retaliatory part, we shall build nothing at all. We shall carry on this misery and this trouble till some time or other the nation turns to other progressive acts.

Looking round, personally I see definite signs of the healing process starting. Probably that is a more hopeful thing than all the work that this Government or anybody else might ever have done. That healing process has started—no doubt every process tarts because of individuals working to that end—but probably it has started by the reaction to the shock of events, ultimately and gradually. As the pessions of the moment have cooled, people have begun to think a little more deeply and realise the folly of much that has been done.

May I say one thing rather personal, if I may say so? It has been a terrible time for those who had to shoulder any responsibility. It has been, no doubt, a terrible time for any sensitive human being who lives in India. The name of India—and when I say 'India' I am not referring to the Dominion of India but this country of India which will remain India, whatever political divisions may take place—became mud because of what many Indians had done, and Indians still

live in Pakistan and they continue to be Indians, whether they call themselves so or as Pakistanis.

The curious position arose that those of our detractors and enemies who live abroad and who often have to manufacture all manner of stories and tales against us d'd not have to manufacture anything. Reality was so bad. All that they had to do was to quote one person against another. All that they had to say was what certain persons in Pakistan wrote about India and what certain persons in India wrote about Pakistan.

Now, we need not balance that, I am merely saying that what appeared in foreign countries was just quotations from what Indians said against each other. Now, it may be, and I believe it is, that whin such things occur, there is a measure of right on one side, more right and perhaps a measure of less evil or more evil on the other.

I need not tell the House what my opinion on this subject is, as to where more right lies or more evil. But the point is that so far as the outside world is concerned, it is there—this mudslinging, there acts, these horr ble acts. Sometimes there may have been true statements. What could they think of India then? We may have been interested in clearing our honour as against Pakistan and the Pakistan people no doubt wanted to show that they were not evil-doors but the fact remained that whatever the rights and wrongs, the whole reputation of India suffered and it became a dreadfully difficult thing to clear that reputation.

Blood had flowed and many millions of people had shed tears in the country. It was not easy to wipe ourselves clear of that blood till at last we approached the question, not in the way we had been approaching it, but in a spirit of healing,

and not a spirit of revengeful retaliation or of recrimination, although recrimination may have been justified. Retaliation does not help. That is the first point which I venture to place before the House regarding the spirit in which we should deal with the problem.

The second point—and it is also related to the first one—is that in these days when we lived fevered lives, speaking personally, I do not think I could have carried this burden at all but for one fact, and that fact was the magic presence of our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi. I have not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that just as he performed a miracle in Bengal, so also he performed his miracle here. The obvious miracle may not have occurred here, but nonetheless there was the miracle of his presence which affected the situation tremendously. I would beg of you, therefore, to consider this problem in this context in regard to the future of India.

### Broader Things

Now, coming to the problem directly, I would mention two essential facts of it which I consider most important. We have to look after the refugees, do this and that for millions of people, but whenever there is a huge problem one inevitably has to give certain priorities. Talking about everything, trying to do everything, means sometimes that you do nothing at all. What are the obvious priorities in this problem? I say the obvious priority is that the youth, the students, young boys and girls should be saved, because after all the future of India depends upon them. All honour and respect to the older generation who are suffering, but the first priority must go to the youth who should be saved not only from the point of view of life, but saved from the point of view of broader things. They must be educated,

# Technical Training Facilities for Refugees

WITH a view to facilitating their settlement in life and to help meet the shortage of artisans who are urgently required for reconstruction work in East Punjab, the Government of India have sancticaed a scheme for imparting technical and vocational training to a selected number of adult male refugees from Western Pakistan. It will come into operation with immediate effect.

The existing training centres for ex-Servicemen in Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and East Punjab are going to be opened to the refugees and four new centres will be started in East Punjab in consultation with the East Punjab Governments.

To start with, the training will embrace 12 trades including smithy, carpentry, bricklaying, fitting, gas-welding, watch-repairing, mechanical draughtsman-ship, manufacture of footwear, tailoring, etc. The scheme contemplates provision of 2,272 seats, of which about one-half will be immediately available. The selection of candidates will be made by local selection committees;

presided over by the Regional Director.

The period of training will vary from trade to trade and from individual to individual but, on an average, it will be six months

During the period of training, the trainees will receive a consolidated allowance of Rs. 40 per month, in lieu of board, lodging and stipend. In addition, trainees undergoing training in technical trades will receive quarterly a free supply of workshop clothing, or an allowance in lieu thereof. In addition, free medical treatment will be available at each centre.

Trainees who report at the centre will be paid a single third class railway fare from their place of residence to the centre for joining and, on completion of training, from the centre to their place of residence.

Refugee candidates who wish to take up training under the apply at the nearest Exchange or District Office.

they must be looked after and they must be made proper citizens of India.

I think, if I may even as a Member of the Government criticise our own Government, that we have not paid sufficient attention to this aspect of the problem. We have, of course, generally speaking, but I think far more attention should have been given to this aspect.

We should concentrate our attention, even though evil may befall others, as in a war or some other calamity, to the saving of these children—boys and girls and students—and provide for their education and their future. That, of course, is also a big problem, but it must be tackled because the whole future of India depends upon them.

### **Abducted Women**

The second, though it is not second really, it is at least as important, is the saving of our womenfolk who have been abducted. When I say that, let me repeat again, this is not a one-sided problem. Women have been abducted in both the Punjabs and elsewhere. Women have been abducted by the thousands, not a few cases. Nobody knows the exact figures, but if you know the estimated figures, both for West Punjab and East Punjab, you will be staggered at the number. Therefore, one of the highest priorities should be given for the relief of these women.

Of course, attempts have been made and thousands have been rescued, but tens of thousands still remain. Now, this work cannot be done easily without the full co-operation of the two Governmonts in the Punjab. It cannot be done otherwise. You can take an army and march in and you may conquer and defeat the enemy, but you don't rescue anybody thereby. Therefore, we have to approach this problem from the point of view of co-operating with each other and, naturally, all parties are concerned in that co-operation. In a certain measure we have achieved that cooperation, but not enough yet. I hope that within the next few days a more efficient organisation will grow up in co-operation with both Governments for the rescue of these abducted women. These two aspects I specially place before the House for consideration.

# **East Punjab**

One thing more. We want to render all possible help to those people who have suffered. Members of the House have pointed out that if you can spread out the families in all the 700,000 odd villages of India, you can absorb them. That is very interesting, this mechanical calculation, but I don't think it takes us any distance. One way of looking at it would have been, which I think has not been considered in that way obviously, to tackle this question of temporary shelter for people. What did they do, it has been asked, in wartime in various countries where they had to deal with vast numbers of refugees? They were in the military fashion spread out to various families; each family had to take one or two members. The burden was distributed just like armies are distributed in that way.

No particular attempt has been made



Lady Mountbatten discussing refugee relief with the authorities of the Kuldip Refugee Camp in Ambala which Her Excellency visited recently

to think of that problem in that way. Take East Punjab. It has suffered greatly, but they have their millions of people living there. Why should not each family in the East Punjab accommodate one other or one, two or three persons. That would accommodate a million or two million persons. Let the Government help them, if necessary. Let them help them by money or by food or whatever it is, but immediately millions should be accommodated or be helped to spread out and then you may think about permanent arrangements.

Unfortunately, to some extent, our social conditions do not fit in with this kind of thing. People do not like these difficulties to arise. They can accept somebody and not somebody else. You cannot do it at the same time as they did in Europe during the war. It is a matter worth pursuing. Your problem of temporary accommodation becomes less, not only lesser if you spread out these people; these vast camps that have grown up.

Sccondly, there is this business of large numbers of refugees going into the rest of India. Now the rest of India ought to do everything in its power to help them. That is true. Apart from vague statements and heroics, let us examine the problem from the merits. If you look at the East Punjab population—I won't go into all these figures; I will give you the result of these figures—the pre-migration population of East Punjab is likely to be one million and a half less after the migration. For various reasons, whatever the population was, there were more Muslims going out and less Hindus and Sikhs coming in. The effect is about 600,000 Hindus and Sikhs

from the West Punjab have spread shout over the rest of India and that, unfortunately, large numbers of people have died and so on and so forth.

The result is that at the very least the population of East Punjab after these migrations will be one million and a half less than it was before; it may be more or less. Now, therefore, if that is so, then the question of large numbers of refugees from the Punjab not finding room in East Punjab does not obviously ariso. The question arises in another way.

## Prosperous Punjab

The Punjab used to be in a sense the most prosperous Province of India, from the middle-class point of view, from the peasant proprietor's point of view. In West Punjab, the average holding was, let us say, 20 or 25 acres of very good land.

They have not got that in East Punjab, neither good land nor the big holding. They are providing with I believe 10 acres, not so good land and there is the complaint. We cannot do with 10 acres.

When friends suggest that land should be given in the United Provinces or in the C. P. or Bengal, or wherever it may be, certainly if land is available it should be given. It has to be remembered that the average holding of the United Provinces is 2½ acres so it comes to this. In order to provide two persons with a room, you put them in a room where there are ten persons. You are putting two more in it.

We cannot be vicariously generous, we cannot be a greater burden on the poverty-stricken people of any place merely because you want to be generous. Let us be generous, but not obviously because, apart from everything else, this is going to give rise, as it is giving rise to grave discontent in various ways and an unfortunate tendency to dislike these refugees coming there. We do not want that to happen. This kind of thing sows seeds of bitterness for the future. Therefore, the problem has to be examined in all its aspects in this way and the burden has certainly to be spread out the financial burden and the burden in many other ways is, of course, being borne by the whole of India today and it will be borne.

## Urban Dwellers

But this business of taking land where there is none and giving to somebody something is not a proper way of giving relief. So far as the question arises, I see no difficulty. I think the land in the Punjab, including, of course, the States in the Punjab, is enough. The problem will arise in regard to the urban dwellers and I think we should try to absorb them and help them in every way in other parts of India also.

In fact, cities can be built in East Punjab—and will be built—which will absorb them, so that the problem, if analysed, is not so big or difficult of solution. People seem to think that somehow EastaPunjab is a tiny little place where people have not got room

to stay in and, therefore, they should spread out all over the place. The East Punjab from any Indian standard is not only enough but bigger from the population of India point of view to absorb those who come. But from another point of view the Indian and the urban point of view, it is not big enough to absorb it.

It is perfectly true at the same time, that the population of big cities cannot be absorbed in a few villages in East Punjab. That is a big problem and we must at any rate act promptly. We shall be able to solve it by not only building cities in East Punjab, but by taking them to cities in the rest of India having colonies, suburban areas, etc. As a matter of fact, the Punjabees fortunately are a very enterprising people, more so than, if I may say so the people in most parts of India. To them is due the prosperity of their province and with the help that they are obviously going to get from the State, I have no doubt they will make good far more rapidly than probably any other people in India might have done.

So big as the problem is, I do think that there is nothing in it which should really frighten us. But if I may come back to what I began with and say if we tackle this problem in a spirit of retaliation, we get into trouble.

Here in the City of Delhi there are

too,000 people who are refugers. All the time we are having trouble in regard to housing and there is a continuous pressure on owners of Muslim houses, where Muslims still dwell, to push them out. Now from any point of view, Government or other, it is highly improper to think that residents of Delhi, because they are Muslims, should be pushed out it is unbecoming to put up with it. It is unbecoming for the Delhi Administration. No nation, no Government, no country can carry on if it follows that kind of policy. If a national requires protection he must be given that protection, whether he is a Hindu or Muslim or anybody.

Now it is true that there is pressure of refugees coming in and the difficulties arise which in some cases are unfortunately insoluble. We must be clear about it and the Administration must be quite clear about it, that you do not solve the difficulty by creating another difficulty. That is not the way of solving the difficulty.

May I finally say that in regard to some of these problems, as Members will no doubt know, the All-Ind.a Congress Committee met some days back. They gave thought to that and they passed certain resolutions. Some of those resolutions may be termed 'unrealistic' in part, may be, nevertheless they wanted to emphasise that outlook and I want to say that we as a Government entirely adhere to that policy and will try to follow it.



Inmates of the Kuldip Refugee Comp, Ambala

# Mr. K. C. NEOGY ON MAGNITUDE OF REFUGEE PROBLEM

OVING that "the problem of the relief and rehabilitation of refugees be taken into consideration", the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, asid in the Dominion Legislaure on Nov. 29 that the magnitude of the refugee problem has been such that there has been no historical parallel to it. Nowhere in history has a transfer of population of such dimensions taken place in such a short time and under such circumstances.

The House will also realise, he continued, "that the Government was faced with this problem at a time when the administrative machinery was partly out of joint as a result of the partition, and we had hardly settled down to the task of the governance of Free India. The problem that faced us in so far as refugees are concerned was not really one problem, but literally scores of problems, each one having an importance and urgency of its own. I would like to tell the House of our short-coming, or our frustrations and of our frustrations and of our frustrations behaved in a large degree by Pakistan authoritics, and against the background of this bleak picture of our modest achievements.

#### Evacuation

Today we have recovered over four million non-Muslims from West Pakistan. The Military Evacuation Crganisation, started active operations on S.p. 4 and has evacuated so far by rail, by road transport and by foot 2,583,000 persons. Some five lakhs had come out before Aug. 15 and it is estimated that enother eight lakhs came out between Aug. 15, and Sep. 4. It may be said that over five lakhs still remain to be evacuated, but no accurate figures are yet available and this is a matter which is still the subject of investigation. Amongst those that remain to be evacuated about 50,000 are in the N. W. F. P.

Prom Sind out of a total non-Muslim population of 13 to 14 lakhs, about three lakhs have already come out. We provided all available shipping to promote evacuation from Karachi. With the assistance of the Jodhpur Government we had arranged for refugee specials to be run from Hyderabad (Sind) in addition to the scheduled trains.

## **Abducted Women**

In regard to the non-Muslim population still left behind in Pakistan, I would like to emphasise that there are three classes of persons who have been engaging our serious attention. There are abducted women, persons forcibly converted to Islam and the Harijans.

In regard to abducted women we have to depend on the active assistance of military authorities, d.st. ct authorities, women social workers and prominent persons of the locality concerned. Such activity must be organised on both sides of the border and must be complementary. A machinery for this purpose is already in operation and further proposels have been made to the Pakistan Government for the enlarging of such machinery and in the light of the reports we are receiving I am hopeful of some co-operation.

The problem of the Harijans still remaining in Pakistan is engaging the earnest attention of the Government. The Government recognise that the economic position of this class of people is such that they could not themselves move in the matter of leaving Pakistan and getting over to India without special assistance. It also seems l.kely that the services that they have been rendering to the people in the area in which they are living would make the Pakistan authorities unwilling to assist in their evacuation. I can assure the House that everything that is possible for this Government to do in this connection will be done.

Broadly speaking, the question of relief and rehabilitation of refugees not to speak of other ancillary problems that haffle classification can be classified under the following heads:—

Reception to refugees at the time of their arrival from Pakistan.
Provision of adequate shelter.
Provision of food.
Provision of clothing,
Medical relief.
Disporsal of refugees,
Resettlement of refugees in rural areas and finding employment for them..
Sottlement of urban refugees.

## Rains and Floods

I now turn to the question of affording relief to the refugees and would at once admit that the magnitude of the task with which we were faced was such that it was impossible to achieve any high degree of perfection. I do not cla m that the present arrangements are anywhere near being as good as I would like them to be. All I cla'm is that we and the East Punjab Government have put out our maximum effort. After making allowances for the disorganisation and disruption of governmental machinery in the affected areas and the abnormality of conditions under which the Government was working, I feel that the East Punjab Government have done their best.

The provision of adequate shelter for the incoming refugees is proving one of the most baffling of our problems. All available educational, religious and charitable institutions were impressed into service for the accommodation of refugees. Surplus military barracks, wherever available, were utilised for this purpose. It is needless for me to add that a large proportion of refugees have found accommodation with friends



Mr. K. C. Neogy

and relatives. Tents that were available were, or are being, put out for this purpose to provide accommodation by some amount of squeezing to about seven lakhs of persons.

As soon as it became apparent that exchange of population between East and West Punjab had become inevitable and that many of the refugees entering India were coming in with nothing except the clothes that they had on, Government took immediate steps for securing blankets, quilts and such other warm clothing as were available in the market. Orders were placed for the supply of nearly 10 lakhs of quilts and over three lakhs of blankets for free distribution amongst indigent refugees. Orders were also placed for the supply of two and a half lakhs of cotton-filler coats and three and a half lakhs of jerseys.

## Clothing from Abroad

About 1,25,000 fbs. of knitting wool has been issued to the Provincial Governments for distribution to the various voluntary committees and societies in their areas for knitting jerseys. This, it is expected, vill enable Government to secure six lakhs of jerseys and bandis ready by the end of this month (Nevember). Arrangements have also been made for the supply of about 40 lakhs yards of various kinds of cloth for the use of refugees. Ready-made garments such as shirts, shorts, trousers numbering about 20 lakh pieces, have been obtained from the Director-General of Disposals and are being rushed to East Punjab for the use of refugees.

Apart from the efforts of Government in the matter of obtaining clothing, large quantities of old and new readymade garments, blankets, etc., are being received from all over India and



abroad. In Delhi the Cloth Collecting Committee of the United Council of Relief and Welfare is collecting clothing and organising knitting parties. Government have also waived the levy of customs duty on gifts parcels received from abroad and also exempted such parcels from the payment of railway freight and postal charges.

Government in consultation with the East Punjab Government, has prescr.bcd a standard ration scale for refugees who are in camps For the use of refugees in the Kurukshetra Camp, Government is sending approximately 80 tons of atta per day. On account of the damage to the *kharif* crop, the food position of East Punjab has deteriorated considerably. In order to assist the East Punjab Government in the matter of food, the Central Government allotted 10,000 tons of food grains in October, and 16,000 tons in November. These allotments are exclusive of the despatches to the refugee camp in Kurukshetra. On receipt of information that in some places in West Punjab the non-muslim refugees were starving, Government has on several occasions to rush food supplies to them by air or road. Spiendid efforts on the part of Delhi public made it possible on three such occasions to fly several aeroplanes loaded with cooked food for the starving Hindus and Sikhs in different refugee camps in Pakistan.

"Up to Nov. 18, medical stores to the extent of over 76,000 lbs. have been supplied not only to East Punjab, Kurukshetra and Delhi, but also to non-Muslim camps in West Punjab and Kashmir. Over 70 lakh dozes of vaccine have been supplied to East Punjab. Thanks to the energetic steps taken by the Health Ministry, and the personal attention given to the matter by my colleague, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, there was no serious outbreak of any epidemic. As in other fields, here also voluntary organisations have been of immense help to Government. A large number of doctors and nurses have been provided by such organisations and they are doing splendid work in many parts of the country.

## Dispersal of Refugees

Immediate dispersal of refugees, if not on the basis of resettlement, at least on the basis of temporary shelter and care, is our first object. On Nov. 24, a Conference of Prime Ministers of a number of Provinces and representatives of a number of Indian States was convened and measures for the immediate provision of shelter in different parts of the country were discussed. I would be failing in an elementary duty if I do not acknowledge in this connection the splendid response of people all over India to our call for help to accommodate refugees, which has been the most heartening feature in an otherwise tragic situation.

We have decided on implementing almost immediately a programme of dispersal to various places such as Gwalior, Bharatpur, Kotah, Ratlam, Alwar, Indore, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Madras. The pace of dispersal is, however, limited by the number of trains that are available for the purpose. I have requested the Ministry of States to investigate immediately the possibility of

finding accommodation in Indian States in Fast Punjab. I am not satisfied that the accommodation available there has been fully taken advantage of. A conference of the Rulers of these States is likely to be held shortly to discuss this matter.

The natural desire of Punjab is not to move too far away from East Punjab partly explains the congestion in East Punjab, and the influx of a very large number of persons in Dell.i and in the U. P. The stage has now been reached when dispersal must take place if lives are to be saved during the next two or three months and any progress is to be made with the tasks of resettlement and rehabilitation.

#### Allocation of Lands

There are several States which are prepared to absorb agricultural refugees in their economy. While East Punjab is expected primarily to undertake the rehabilitation of refugees from West Punjab, men from the N. W. F. P., Sind, Baluchistan and Bahawalpur State have no special place to go to. It has, therefore, been decided that accommodation in some of the States and Provinces outside East Punjab should, as far as possible, be reserved for refugees from the N. W. F. P., Sind, Baluchistan and Bahawalpur. It is estimated that over one lakh persons will be absorbed by Provinces and States outside East Punjab, in addition to those that have already found refuge in those areas—and their number runs into several lakhs.

It is estimated that out of the 42 lakh refugees arriving in India, about 30 to 32 lakhs will be from rural areas. They must be settled in villages so as to enable them to pursue the occupation they are

accustomed as agriculturists. as agricultural labourers or as artisans. It has been decided that lands vacated by Muslims in East Punjab should be allotted to non-Muslim refugees for the period up to rabi 1948. The allotment is to be made on a group basis. The Deputy Commissioners are, however, authorised to make a departure from this general rule in the case of gardens and well-irrigated lands. It has also been decided by the East Punjab Government that refugees arriving from certain districts in East Punjab are to be allotted lands situated in particular districts in East Punjab, though it has not been possible to adhere to this scheme in all cases.

So far 20 lakh acres have been allotted to over two lakhs of families in East Punjab. It is obvious that agricultrists and village artisans, who have been deprived of all that they possessed, will need assistance from Government in the Matter of purchase of cattle, implements and seed. They will also require help for the repair of houses which have been left by the previous Muslim occupants in a dilapidated condition.

For these purposes, Government would desire Provinces and States to advance loans to such people and if the Provinces and States are unable to bear the financial burden, the Central Government will give them financial help. It is obvious that refugees who will settle down on land will stand in need of food for themselves and fodder for their bullocks till the next crop is harvested. It is our intention in such cases to give free grants to refugees, and the Centre and the Provinces and States will share the financial burden. The East Punjab Government has already sanctioned the distribution

# RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

N pursuance of the decision of the Inter-Dominion Conference to send mixed parties of troops and police for the recovery of abducted women and children, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has decided to organise a squad of over 100 women social workers to assist in this work.

Although the work of recovering abducted persons from Pakistan was being done by the Military Evacuation Organization (India) the desired results could not be achieved because interested parties carried on propaganda that the abducted women, after rescue, would not be accepted in their families again, in India. It was therefore considered advisable that women social workers should accompany troops and police to instill confidence in these women who are to be rescued.

Among other difficulties placed in the way of rescue was the fact that captors demanded ransom money for the return of non-Muslim women. Now, in accordance with the decision of the Inter-Dominion Conference recently held in Lahore, joint parties of military and police drawn from the Dominion of India and Pakistan will visit all the affected areas and rescue the abducted persons under the authority of the

Dominion concerned. The search will be carried on reciprocal basis in both the Dominions.

The Advance Headquarters of women social workers working on behalf of India will be in Lahore from where they will operate under instructions of Miss Mridula Sarabhai. The workers will be on the staff of the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and arrangements will be made for their board and lodging.

### Information about Whereabouts

In order to successfully rescue to all abducted persons, it is necessary that all persons having information regarding their relations who might have been abducted or forcibly converted in West Punjab and N.W. F. P. should supply this information immediately to the Information Bureau of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, 'P' Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi, if they have not already done so. Similarly, if there are people who have information regarding the present whereabouts of Muslim girls who might have been abducted and kept in East Punjab, they should convey the information to the Information Bureau of the Ministry in New Delhi.



of taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 1,57,50,000. Of these, Rs. 32 lakhs are for the purchase of bullocks, Rs. 25 lakhs for the repair of houses and Rs. 50 lakhs for the purchase of fodder.

Government are faced with the problem of rehabilitation of about 12 to 15 lakhs of people from urban areas belonging to all sections of the community. It is obvious that existing towns in East Punjab are incapable of absorbing this large number of urban population from West Punjab. With a view to accommodating refugees, steps have been taken to carry out repairs to houses and bungalows which were damaged. It has also been decided that allotment of residental accommodation in East Punjab will be made only to those who have come from urban areas in West Punjab.

It is estimated that there will be about 5½ lakhs of non-Muslim urban refugees for whom no accommodation is immediately available. These refugees will have to remain under canvas and in refugee camps for a longer period than others, until arrangements were made to absorb them in urban areas. In this context, schemes such as urban development of large cities, building of a new capital for East Punjab are being examined.

We have addressed all Provincial Governments and Indian States to consider immediately and report on \*1.A possibilities of suburban development in the vicinity of large towns and cities all over India. We have also requested certain States to give priorities to refugees in the matter of exploitation of business opportunities created by the evacuation of Muslims from those States.

# Registration of Refugees

According to an Ordinance promulgated in Delhi, a refugee must register himself within a specified period from the date of his arrival in Delhi. The registration work in East Punjab will commence shortly. While registration and tabulation results will take time to complete, plans for rehabilitation have not been held up on that account.

The registration of refugees at Delhi has revealed that there are a large number of highly educated, qualified and experienced refugees, suitable for being placed in employment all over the country. The task of bringing the talented refugees together and providing Central and Provincial Boards to find them employment throughout the country is now engaging the attention of the Ministry, and we propose to accept the offer of help that has come from the Tata organisation in this connection.

Employment Exchanges have been opened in Pelhi and Simla. Exchanges have also been opened in East Punjab and West U. P. at places where a large concentration of refugees has occurred. A large number of refugees have already been registrered by the Exchanges and many of them have secured employment. A Transfer Bureau has been opened by the Ministry of Home Afiairs and instructions issued to all Ministries that racancies should not be filled until it

has been ascertained that suitable candidates cannot be supplied by the Transfer Bureau. Up to the middle of November, over 8,000 refugees secured employment under the Government of India and in certain Provinces.

Training of semi-skilled and skilled persons is of the utmost importance in any programme of rehabilitaticn. The programme of industrial development requires that supply of trained manpower should be substantial. With this object in view it has been arranged that over 4,000 men will be immediately trained in Labour Ministry's centre for exservicemen in a number of technical and vocational trades. Large stocks of goods available in the Disposal Directorate have been frozen with the idea of utilising them for rehabilitation of refugees. The stocks cover equipment required for 27 different trades.

#### Loans to Students

Government has sanctioned an advance of a sum up to Rs. 300 to an individual in order to facilitate resettlement. These loans are meant for traders, business men, artisans, persons wishing to set up their own workshops or cottage industry. This scheme will be brought into operation almost immediately in the Centrally Administered Areas. The Central Government will be prepared to render financial assistance to any Province or administration which decides to adopt a similar scheme with such modifications as it may consider necessary.

A scheme for granting loans to students and trainees abroad whose guardians are no longer in a position to finance them has been sanctioned. An extension of the scheme to students in India is also under consideration. For holping big industry and business, proposals to have a Rehabilitation and Financial Corporation are under consideration in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

In order to provide facilities for refugees coming from Pakistan who have been unable to transfer their savings bank accounts to post offices in India, it has been decided to allow withdrawals from postal savings banks in respect of investments made prior to Aug. 14, under certain conditions.

The payment of advances to Central Government civil pensioners, who have come as refugees from Pakistan, has been authorised. Indian military pensioners have also been permitted to draw pensions subject to certain conditions.

All the various schemes of rehabilitation may help in mitigating the hardships to which refugees have been subjected, but there is no denying the fact that these are merely palliatives. Many of these refugees who were in affluent circumstances have been reduced to a state of penury. It is inconceivable that they will contentedly settle down to a standard of life which is far below that to which they have been accustomed in the past. The Government will undoubtedly try to do their best to salvage as much as possible of the assets left behind by such people in Pakisten. But there limiting factor to Government's efforts

in this direction and that is that—full and hearty co-operation on the part of Pakistan Government cannot be taken for granted.

Now, let me turn to some of the ancillary activities of the Ministry. We have an Information Bureau which, despite difficulties, defects and shortcomings, is now organised to render good service. We have a Fact Finding Organisation which is collecting authentic details of difficulties and hardships which non-Muslims in Pakistan had to endure. A large number of cases have been investigated and a number of witnesses have been examined. We have an organisation for registration of property claims. An Enquiries and Search Service working under the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance Unit is beginning to produce useful results.

Sir, no account of the activities of the Ministry will be complete without special mention of the Women's Section. All activities pertaining to women and children amongst refugees are now the special concern of the Women's Section, which is in charge of Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru as Honorary Director, who is not likely to spare either time or effort to start Homes for unattended women and children, place orphan children in Foster Homes, and take every measure for securing rehabilitation of these classes of persons. The organisation is already busy working on these problems.

# Voluntary Bodies

I cannot pass on without a reference to the work of the United Council of Relief and Welfare and the bodies affiliated to it. The bringing together of all these various voluntary bodies has been mainly the work of Her Excellency Lady Mountbatten. Apart from this, she has personally rendered great service in the cause of refugees, and assisted the Ministry in many ways for which she deserves the gratitude of the country. Some of the prominent bodies affiliated to this Council deserve mention. They are the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Unit, Friend's Service Unit Marwari Relief Society and National Christian Council. In addition to these bodies, the Ramakrishna Mission has been doing useful work at the Kurukshetra Camp.

The Congress workers have brought into being another organisation styled the Central Relief Committee, which under the inspiring leadership of its President, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, has rendered very useful service by organising certain camps in Delhi, besides looking after the reception arrangements of refugees arriving in Delhi.

Assistance has come from all quarters and in many shapes. I am very thankful for the useful suggestions I have received from individual members of this Heuse and from individual refugees themselves. I cannot adequately express my gratit de to the Advisory Committees attached to my Ministry for the valuable help I am continuously receiving from them.

Sir, I have tried in a small compass to give the House a glimpse of the nature of the problems and an account of what

(Continued on Page 67, Col. 3.)

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1948

# Mr. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR ON REHABILITATION

PARTICIPATING in the debate on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Nov. 29, the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalwami Ayyangar, Minister without Portfolio, said that the "very comprehensive" account given by Mr. Neogy was "a very modest description of the great work, that he and his staff—not excluding the I.C.S. members of it—have been doing during the last three months."

#### He continued:

If I wish to place anything before this House it will not be in connection with matters with which my Hon'ble colleague is more intimately connected; it would rather be matters which I have had to do something with after I came into the Government.

## **Urgent Needs**

Very soon after I assumed office and after I had had a little time to study the problems connected with East Punjab, I felt that one of the most urgent needs to be attended to was the speeling up of the evacuation of people from one Dominion to the other. That was forced upon me by more than one consideration. The first consideration was the large numbers that were involved; the second consideration was that the winter was near us. Therefore I thought that the best way in which i could be of assistance to my hon'ble colleague on the one side and the East Punjab Government on the other would be to take off their shoulders some of the burden that this particular aspect or the refugee problem forced upon the attention of Government. And therefore with the assistance mainly of our armed officers, very largely of my Hon'ble colleague the Minister for Transport and the Railway Board, with the assistance also of the Ministers of the East Puniab Government, we evolved an organisation which was calculated to organise this movement on a regular basis to bring about a complete transfer of population between the two Dominions in the quickest possible time.

This movement, after it had been organised, started on Oct. 21. On Oct. 20 the position was that about 28 lakh Muslims were in India awaiting evacuation and about 15 lakh non-Muslims had to be brought over to India from West Punjab and the Frontier Province. After that date we divided up the period that was before us into ten-day sections, and in each section arrangements were made both for evacuation by rail and for evacuation by foot and motor transport.

The House will be interested to hear how this scheme has worked. In the first ten-day period Oct. 21 to Oct. 31—six lakh Muslims entered Pakistan and about 5.5 lakhs of non-Muslins entered India. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 10, 6.5 lakh Muslims and 1.3 lakh non-Muslims; Nov. 11 to Nov. 21, 3.8 lakh Muslims and 1.8 lakh non-Muslins. Between Nov. 21 and Nov. 25 there were 7.7 lakh Muslims on the move and in transit to

# **OF REFUGEES**

Pakistan and there were 1.4 lakhs of non-Muslims on the move and in transit to India from the other side. So that about Nov. 25 the balance that remained to be moved was somewhere about four lakhs of Muslims from this side and about three lakhs of non-Muslims from the other side. After these dates the movement has been even more rapid.

# Agreeable Surprise

I must warn the House not to be too meticulous about examining the accuracy of these figures. I can only say that they are approximately reliable and we have obtained these figures from persons who might be considered to know most about the numbers involved. But this particular figure which I am giving you new as to what the state of things was yesterday, will prove a very agreeable surprise to you, assuming that the figures supplied are entirey accurate This is from our special Officer in Lahore.

The latest information indicates that in West Punjab there are only 40,000 refugees in concentrations awaiting evacuation. There is some difference of opinion about the number of refugees in pockets. The Military Evacuation Organisation estimates it to be 50,000 and our Chief Liaison Officer thinks it is about a lakh. Whatever the accurate figures may be, that shows that we have practically reached the evacuation of all refugees in West Punjab who were concentrated in camps either of a large size or of a small size.

As regards the figures of Muslims awaiting evacuation, I have not got those figures as late as yesterdny. But this is the figure which we got for the period ending Nov. 22. The Muslims that remain to be evacuated—the estimate of their number—was about 13 lakhs and the estimate of the time within which they would all reach Pakistan was as follows:

Between Nov. 21 to Nov. 30....5 lakhs Between Dec. 1 to Dec. 10....5 lakhs. Between Dec. 11 to Dec. 20....3 lakhs.

As a matter of fact a good many of them have moved in already by today. In order to speed up the movement of Muslims into Pakistan, as also to help the sick, infirm and old people to travel not by road, but by rail, it has been decided to keep the trains running till all of them have been cleared from this side.

"That gives you an idea of the amount of work that has been done in this direction and the bulk of the credit for it should go to the Military Evacuation Organisation of India. Their efficiency in this respect has been beyond praise and I wish to take this opportunity of publicly thanking them for the enthusiasm and energy they put into this matter. But what is more to their credit than

their mere efficiency is the manner in which they have obtained the co-operation of the Military Evacuation Organisation of Pakistan, and that has considerably helped in making a success of these movement operations.

Now, Sir, one matter that was mentioned by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, and that related to the Bahawalpur State. He stressed the need, and very rightly too of evacuating from Bahawalpur all those Hindus and Sikhs who wanted to get away from there to what they considered to be places of greater safety. We have hat this very actively under consideration. We recently had a contenue at which a deputation of Bahawalpur refugees now in the limited in the Bahawalpur State, and we discussed the whole matter with them.

But at the time in view of the offers of assurance which had been made by their Nawab, the representatives who met me were not in a position definitely to say whether those who had come out of Bahawalpur wanted to go back there, or whether those who were in Bahawalpur wanted to be evacuated from there. Time was given to them for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of their own people and within the last day or two we have been informed that they would rather come out than go back. The matter is under consideration and we are evolving arrangements for the purpose of speeding up evacuation from there. In this connection you will be interested to hear what our Vilitary Evacuation Organisation has said on this point:

'We have at last succeeded in sending trains with Indian escort from Bahawalpur State. The first train carrying non-Muslims reached Fazilka on Nov. 20. We have been told that the State will in future collect non-Muslims at the various railway stations where the Pakistan Mititary Evacuation Organisation will be asked to send empty rakes to carry them to Fazilka.'

# Mr Munshi's Suggestion

I hope this is a definite admission on the part both of His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur and the Government of Pakistan.

l'aking that to be so, I think we should be able to run the necessary number of trains for the purpose of taking out those now in Bahawalpur desirous of getting out in the quickest possible time.

There was one important suggestion which was made by my hon'ble friend, Mr. Munshi, and that was that it would be desirable to make refugees and all the problems connected with them a Central subject and practically the administration of all the measures thas we undertake in connection with thit problem should be in the hands of the Centre.

Now, Sir, in a matter like this, it is necessary for us to proceed with caution. It is not always wise to do what for the moment and on momentary considerations we consider would bring about a better state of things than exists now. We have got to remember that whatever policy we may decide on at the Centre with regard to these problems, a great portion, the bulk of it, will have to be implemented by machinery for which we shall have to depend on the Provincial Governments in order to make the scheme work.

Now in a problem like settling people on land, it involves an amount of investigation and enq ury and exploiting of the information which is in the hands of the Provincial Government, and the Centre is not equipped for the task of doing that work with as much efficiency as a Provincial Government can if only it went about its business in the proper way.

Now, you may ask it has been suggested in the course of this debate that there are legitimate complaints against the manner in which the East Punjab Government has gone about this business. I would only ask the House to judge the East Punjab Government and the com-plaints that have been made against it with a certain amount of care and caution. The East Punjab Government got into office in a period of, what we call turmoil and it had to begin almost from the scratch. In spite of it and having been intimately connected with the manner in which it has been discharging its obligations, I have no hesitation in saying that it has given an account of itself which no Government which started its career under similar disabling conditions could have done better.

I ought to insist on this, because I am afraid it is too easily taken for granted that all that the refugees are now suffering can be traced to the inefficiency of the East Punjab Government, if not something worse. I am not here to say that the administration of the East Punjob Government has been perfect, nor is our administration altogether perfect. It is necessary to remember that the numbers it had to deal with, the crowds that poured into East Punjab during the weeks that have passed since Aug. 15. and the kind of problems that it had to face would have shaken any Government, even if it had been a well-established one which had been functioning for

Therefore, I thought it was my duty to stand up for that Government in this House, and, in doing so I am not unmindful of the fact that the working of that Government is capable of considerable improvement.

### Distribution of Business

I think my hon'ble friend. Diwan Chaman Lal, referred to the manner in which business had been distributed amongst the Ministers of the East Punjab Ministry. I think he said that more than one Minister was doing the work of two and a half Ministers. I rather think that one or two of them have been doing the work of four Ministers. At a time like this when they are faced

with problems of this colossal magnitude there is room for a reshuffling of the subjets amongst the different Ministers of the East Punjab Government so as to make the burden of each man something which he can tackle with efficiency. There is also room, in my opinion for an expansion of this Ministry and for placing the most important subjects of law and order and of rehabilitation in the hands of Ministers who are not hampered by burdens of a heavy character in other directions and whose honesty and computency will be above envil.

Having said that, I still would reiterate my position that within the resources at their disposal and in the conditions in which they had to work they have done will on the whole. The condition of East Punjab today is much better than it was two or two and a half months ago and a great deal of the credit for that should go to the Ministry and, if I may say so, to the Governor, who gives them an amount of guidance which is drawn from his wide and large experience as an administrator in this country.

# Safe Deposit Vaults

That was one point. There were a few other points which were referred to in the course of this debate and on which I would like to say a few words. The first is the controversy regarding safe deposit vaults, banks and prejerty. With regard to safe deposit vaults the House is in possession of what did actually occur. The question of banks is now under active consideration both in the Relief and Pehabilitation Ministry and the Finance Ministry. As regards property that also is under active consideration of all of them.

All these three subjects, which are of the most important character, have been set down for discussion with the representatives of the Pakistan Government at an inter-Dominion conference. This was to have been held more than a month ago but, owing to the illness of more than one Ministers of the Pakistan Government, it has had to be postponed.

The House will be interested to hear that I took advantage of the opportunities afforded by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's visit to Delhi to have a preliminary talk with him two days ago on all these problems and I might say that on the whole his reaction was favourable to a proper and just settlement of all these three issues. The present idea is first to have an inter-Dominion Conference at the Secr tar at level, that is to say, our officers will meet their officers and explore possibilities of settlement, and their report wil come up before an inter-Doning Conference of Minsters, at which w will take decisions. At the end of that it is hoped that the two Do r in one will be able to issue a statement of policy, which will be the same as between the two Dominions and which wo ld be mplemented by them without any reservation thereafter.

# Railway Movement

There was one matter connected with railway movement—a small matter—which was referred to by two representatives from the United Provinces and that was the ineffective kind of screening that was done at Kalanaur.

At this stage the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker recated the Chair, whi h was taken by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyanaer, one of the members of the Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. Chairman, let me refer to the criticisms that were levelled, I take it, partly against the railways, partly against the East Punjab Government and partly against the checking department. Kalanaur was fixed as the screening point after all the Governments and interests concerned had been consulted, because it was felt that that was a convenient point for getting down people from trains, which had been invaded by unauthorised persons, and keeping them at Kalanaur and allowing to proceed further on only those people who had to proceed to Delhi.

But as generally happens, and I

# Welfare of Refugee Women and Children

A Women's Section was established recently in New Delhi under the auspices of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for the welfare of refugee women and children with Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru as Honorary Director and Shrimati Hannah Sen as Honorary Secretary.

Replying to a question by Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the Dominion Parliament recently, the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister without Portfolio, revealed that schemes for training women in different crafts and professions were under consideration. Some of the crafts for which arrangements were being made were spinning and weaving, calico-printing, dress making, basketry and willowwork, fretwork and wooden toys, including rag-dolls, hand knitting and embroidery, soap making, preservation of fruits and vegetables, making of tin and linen buttons, bleaching and dyeing, weaving of newar, tape and borders,

typing, stenography and clerical and commercial work.

Similar schemes for training children were also being considered. Arrangements were also being made for starting a Women's Home in Subzi Mandi at Delhi.

Discussions took place between the Prime Ministers of India and Ceylon on the question of rights of citizenship of Indians in Ceylon. The various points of view were examined in a friendly atmosphere in order to arrive at a settlement acceptable to both countries. The broad principles governing the qualifications for citizenship were agreed upon, subject to further examination by the two Governments, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on Dcc. 30.

House, these are not altogether under our control. People do storm these trains and somehow find their way to places to which they want to go. Crowds gathered at Kalanaur and, after a discussion with the Premier of the United Provinces, who said that at Kalanaur there was no arrangement even for feeding the people who were detained there, we shifted the screening point to Jagadhari, because it was thought that if people were detained there, they could get something to eat and some place to sleep in.

I do not say that the system has worked very well. There have been complaints that quite a large number of permits had been issued by district authorities in East Punjab--so many, indeed, that the trains went crowded and nobody could do anything for stopping people at places and poventing them from proceeding forward. We have asked the East Punjab Government to do their best to prevent such un-authorised travelling. They protest that they are doing their best; their officers protest that they are doing their best and it is hoped that something will come out perhaps in the way of easing the situation, Now that evacuation will be completed soon and we shall have made arrangements for temporary sheltering during winter of all the refugees that have come over, it might be possible to put on more trains and disperse people to the localities they want to go to.

# Shelter for Refugees

There was mention of the fact that tens of thousands of refugees were now without a roof over their heads, that they were staying on railway platforms or on open ground. That certainly has been the state of things in many places. But recently we have tackled this problem in consultation with the representatives of the East Punjab Government. I do not know if I can vouch for its entire accuracy, but I have been told that the officer who is responsible for refugees in East Punjab now claims that there is not a single place where you will find a refugee without some kind of roof over his head even if it were merely the corrugated iron sheet on a railway platform. That is the claim he has made.

This much I can inform the House and that is that the East Punjab Government took kindly to a suggestion which I made at our last discussion with them, and that was this that when they are allotting groups of refugees to villages and allotting land and houses to them, they might simultaneously ask them to make provision for housing during winter urban population amounting to 10 per cent of themselves, so that even if 20 houses had been allotted to them they might huddle up in 18 houses and make two available for people who were urban refugees from West Punjab and who, therefore, could not be allotted land in those villages. That is the kind of billeting which I suggested in the course of the debate which I think ought to work and I was interested to hear that the officer responsible for accommodating the refugees in East Punjab thought that it could be easily implemented.

# believe as the Hon'ble the Railway MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES BY MOTOR TRANSPORT

# One Million Gallons of Petrol used In One Month

NE million gallons of petrol were used in one month alone for the movement of refugees by motor transport, mostly by the Military Evacuation Organisation. In addition aircraft used for evacuation and allied purposes consumed 600,000 gallons of aviation spirit a month.

Over four million non-Muslim refugees were brought out to India up to Nov 21. Of these, 3,786,400 came from West Punjab and the N. W. F. P., 275,000 from Sind and about 70,000 from Bahawalpur State.

Refugee trains carried 1,193,000 non-Muslims, including 140,000 from Sind. Nearly 400,000 non-Muslims were evacuated by motor transport and over 32,000 by air in both dire tions, including 21,000 non-Muslims.

In addition to the regular Persian Gulf Line Steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company which pick up non-Muslim evacuees from Karachi on their way to Bombay, nine steamers have had to be chartered by the Government of India. By Nov. 21, nearly 133,000 non-Muslim evacuees had been cleared from Sind by steemer and country craft, destinations being Bombay, Okha, Bedi. Navlakhi, Kundla and Cutch Mundvi.

#### Movement of Goods

Special prority assistance has been given for movement by the railways of large quantities of goods such as tente, corrugated sheets, raw wood, plankets, conts, shirts, desuti cleth, flour, milk powdar, etc.

A Transport Officer was deputed by the Ministry of Transport early in September to East Punjab to help in the organisation of civil transport for the movement of refugees. The services of some staff belonging to this Ministry have also been temporarily loaned to the Provincial Government free of charge for working the scheme. Special arrangements have been made for the supply of spare parts, batteries and tyres for vehicles employed in the evacuation of refugees.

A special allocation of 50,000 gallons of petrol to the East Punjab Government and of 26,000 gallons of petrol to certain Punjab States has been sanctioned for evacuation and relief work. Another allocation of 30,000 gallons of petrol was made to the Government of Bombay to enable the movement of 508 trucks by road from Bombay to Sulemanki.

The main concentrations of refugees are in East Punjab, Delhi, the United Provinces, Bombay, East Punjab States, Bikaner Jodbur and other Rejputana States. It is estimated that the total number of refugees in camps all over

India may be about 1,250,000. Of these five lakhs may be in East Punjab, 300,000 in Kurukshetra and 150,000 in Delhi, and the rest in camps in other parts of the country. The responsibility for provision of relief rests on the province and State in which the refugees take shelter. Daily expenditure on camps runs into several lakhs of rupees. During 1947-48 a budget provision o. Rs. 10 crores has been made for relief purposes.

### Accommodation Problem

In the towns of East Punjab, Delhi, western and northern districts of the U: P. and some of the States along the border of Western Pakistan, all available houses scrais, dharmasalas, etc., have been put to full use. Housing accommodation has been supplemented by tents -20,600 large size tents provided by the Army enough to accommodate over 400,000 refugees and 150,000 bivouse tents enough to accommodate nearly 300,000 refugees.

Even then the East Punjab Government have been forced to utilise school and college buildings to provide she ter longed. In other parts of the country the Army has provided surplus military barracks which can accommodate about 200,000 refugees.

The Ministry of Food has already provided 310 tons of milk powder to East Punjab and is supplying 86 tons of flour and lentils daily to he Kurukshetra

For medical care and prevention of epidemics, the Ministry of Health and the Medical Directorate of the Army Headquarters have provided 7,050,000 deser of vaccines and over 260 tons of medical stores and equipment to East, Punjab and Indian States, including 3,140,000 doses of vaccine to Pakistan.

About 155,000 blankets and 158,000 quilts have been despatched to East Punjab, Delhi and Kurukshetra. Relief is not confined to the Indian Union. Arrangements have been made for the desputch of 10,000 blankets to the Chief Liaison Officer, Lahore, for the relief of non-Muslim refugees in Sargodha and other districts. Of these about 2,500 blankets have been flown to Lahoro.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has prescribed the following scales of rations and clothing for refugees :--

A. Rations:

10 ozs. Atta or Rice.

1 oz. Dal.

l oz. Vegetables.

1 oz. Vegetable Ghee or Oil,

i oz. Gur or Sugar.

1 b. Milk per day forchildren belew

fruits, milk and vitamin tablets and other special items will be provided on medical a luice.

B. Clothing.

1 Blanket, or Razai or Greatcoat.

1 Pair of pyjamas, or shorts, or in the case of woman, salwar. In lieu of ready-made garments, cloth may be given at the following scale for an adult, making an appropriate reduction for a child.

2½ yds. for a pyjama. 4 yds. for a salwar.

1 Shirt or kurt: of not more than 3 vds. of loth.

1 Dopatta (for women only) of 21 yds.

1 Turban ifor Sikhs only)-5 yds., muslin.

1 Bundi (cotton waistcost stuffed with cotton) or one jersey.

Already two million acres have been allotted to over 200,000 families in East Punjab. Of the total area of 4,500,000 acres abandoned by Muslims in East Punjab, as against 5,700,000 acres abandoned by non-Muslims in West Punjab alone, only 3,300,000 acres are cultivable. Owing to incomplete exodus from East Punjab, it is estimated that 3,000,000 acres only may be available for resettlement. The East Punjab Government has already sanctioned the distribution of taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 1,57,50,000, of which Rs. 32,50,000 will be distributed for the purchase of bullocks, Rs. 2,500,000 for the repair of houses and Rs. 50,00,000 for the purchase of fodder.

# Dispersal Programme

Implementation of the programme of dispersal of refugees to various places such as Gwalior, Bhuratpur, Kotah, Ratlam, Alwar, Indore, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Madras has begun. Two trains carrying refugees have already left Kurukshetra, one for Gwalior and one for Visapur camp, Bombay. It is proposed to disperse 50,000 refugees from Kurukshetra in the first instance.

For the resettlement of urban refugces, the Government of India are exploring the possibility of reserving for refugees certain sites both in residential and industrial areas. Over 4,000 refugees will be immediately trained in the Labour Ministry's Centre for ex-Servicemen in a number of technical and vocational trades. Possibilities of absorbing a large number of skilled workers in railway workshops after a short period of training are being examined. Centres are being opened in the various refugee camps where refugees will be engaged on remunerative occupations like spinning and weaving, hosiery and knitting, button-making, dyeing and calico printing, tailoring, thread balling, soap-making wood work, durry and newar making, etc. Schemes for voluntary training of iuveniles are being prepared.

### Spinning and Weaving Centres

Large stocks of goods available in the Disposals Directorate have been frozen with the idea of utilising them for rehabilitation of refugees, the stocks covering equipment for 27 different trades. The U. P. Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for

remunerative trades in refugee camps in the province.

The Government have sanctioned an advance of a sum up to Rs. 300 to an individual in order to facilitate resettlement. These loans are meant for traders, business men, artisans and persons who wish to set up their own workshops or cottage industries. The scheme will be introduced almost immediately in the Centrally Administered Areas.

The East Punjab Government has decided to organise 50 cotton spinning and weaving centres and five wool spinning centres for a period of six months to enable refugees to supplement their income from land, incidentally helping in the production of cloth and blankets. For assistance to big industry and business, proposals for a rehabilitation and financial corporation are under consideration in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

The question of providing employment to refugee teachers and professors who were employed in the various educational institutions in Pakistan and who have suddenly lost their means of livelihood is receiving full attention. A register of displaced teachers who desire to be resettled is being maintained by the Ministry of Education and full particulars regarding their academic qualifications, experience, scale of pay, etc., are being kept. Thanks to the co-operation of local bodies and private namegements of schools in Delhi, it has been possible to give employment to 270 refugee teachers.

## EMPLOYMENT OF REFUGEES

Of 9,643 refugees registered during the fortnight ending Nov. 15, 1947, at the Employment Exchange and District Offices in the Indiac Union, 1,659 were placed in employment, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General, Resettlement and Employment, on Ice. 13.

The total number of refugees registered since the inception of the scheme for the employment of refugees up to Nov. 15 is 29,164, of whom 4,666 were found employment.

A classification of the refugees on the registers of the Exchanges on Nov. 15 shows the following categories:—Clerical 12,153, Office workers (unskilled)—2,765, Professional and learned trades—2,094, Domestic workers—543, Factory workers (unskilled)—358, Out-door labourers—225 and Miscellancous—11,016.

Whereas persons on the clerical and miscellaneous groups are in large supply, opportunities of employment for them are extremely limited. On the other hand, there is considerable demand from employers for skilled and professional workers who are in very short supply.

# MAHATMA'S MESSAGE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

In a special message addressed to displaced persons and their families, released through the Ministry of Relisf and Rehabilitation, Mahalma Gandhi says:

I am certain that no sin or guilt can be imputed to these Hindu and Sikh sisters, who have been abducted, molested or converted by Muslims. They should be received with open arms and given the same place which they occupied before in society.

"Saintly poet Tulsi Das had once said: "Compassion is the root of religion." If we do not show regard to these sisters of ours, we cease to have any religion at all."

# Providing Occupation For Refugees

More than three lakh refugees have been forced to take shelter in camps in Delhi and Kurukshetra, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabiliation, on Dec. 8. Many of them will be glad to have facilities for engaging themselves on remunerative occupations instead of sitting idle. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation is providing some equipment for occupations such as spinning, weaving, tailoring, calico printing, carpentry and blacksmithy. But what has been provided is a fraction of what is needed for the large camp population.

In order that equipment for remunerative occupations may be made available to refugers with the least delay, the Ministry appeals for gifts in the shape of charkhas, handlocms, hand and treadle machines, etc. All those wishing to make such gifts are invited to see or write to Mr. S.K. Dey, Honorary Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Room No. 202, Imperial Secretariat, North Bleck, New Delhi.

# NON-MUSLIMS FROM W. PUNJAB

Mass evacuation of non-Muslims from West Punjab has been completed within the time allotted.

The districts of Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh are clear. There remain just over 5,000 people, scattered in small pockets, whose evacuation is expected to be completed in about a week. Clearing of pockets, however, is not easy. People have to be combed out in two's and three's from out-of-the-way places with the co-operation of the Pakistan civil and military authorities. Known pockets are often found empty and new pockets keep springing up.

Even more difficult is the job of rescuing the abducted and converted. The Military Evacuation Organisation (India) has been carrying out this job all along and has recovered hundreds of such people.

# NEED FOR NURSES AT KURUKSHETRA

TODAY I am making a special appeal to my sisters of the nursing profession on behalf of over 300,000 refugees at Kurukshetra camp. The need is great and very urgent for organising adequate medical aid to these people, who have undergone much suffering and are living in tents and in other temporary structures under the trying conditions that prevail during the winter.

A broadcast by the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister. Governmeet of India, from A. I. R., Delhi, on Dec. 4.

The Government of India are doing their best to provide adequate medical facilities, including preventive care, to these people and are deeply grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have generously volunteered their services and have been working at Kurukshetra for the past few weeks to supplement the provision which Government have made.

Our main difficulty has been to secure an adequate number of nurses. We have now a sufficient number of men and women doctors. Their efforts need to be added by as large number of nurses, midwives and Health Visitors as possible. I am glad to have the opportunity today of paying a public tribute to those hospitals in Bombay, Delhi and elsewhere and to those Christian missionary institutions in the country which have lent the services of some of their nursing staff for work in Kurukshetra. More are however needed.

The existing medical organisation has done praiseworthy work under very trying conditions. In the month of November 400 cases of confinement took place and the number of maternal deaths was only three or three-quarter per cent., a figure which compares very favourably with the rate of two per cent of maternal mortality for the country as a whole. This is all the more remarkable because of the hardships and sufferings which these women must have undergone and which must have helped to reduce materially their vitality. In other respects too, our medical organisation at Kurukshetra has rendered a good account of itself. Owing to the chilly nights the occurrence of a number of cases of pneumonia has been inevitable but the mortality rate has been kept as low as 5 per cent, an achievement

of which I believe any hospital in the country may well be proud.

I am referring to these details mainly to show what can be accomplished even under difficult conditions when the desire to serve the people and to give of one's best to them becomes the motivo force which impels the worker in his or her own sphere of duty. I do feel that, if more of my sisters in the nursing profession can volunteer for service at Kurukshetra, we may achieve even far more substantial success in the alleviation of suffering and the prevention of sickness through appropriate measures.

# Trying Conditions

I may warn them that the conditions of life at Kurukshetra are more trying than those to which they are accustemed in the institutions in which they work. But the refugees, to whom they are proposing to render help, are in a much worse plight. They are footsore and weary, having had to trudge hundreds of miles, they have lost their homes and valuable possessions and many of them have had to go through experiences of such a distressing nature that these might leave marks of a lasting character on both body and mind. To help such people should be deemed equally a privilege and a duty and it is in this spirit of joyful acceptance of a very difficult task that I ask the nursing profession of India to respond to the call of Kurukshetra for their services. I would invite them to communicate their willingness to serve to the Director-General of Health Services New Delbi. Voluntary and paid workers -both male and female nurses-are equally welcome.

# **KURUKSHETRA-A CITY OF TENTS**

TH the influx of a large number of refagees, a city of tents has sprung up in Kurukshetra within an area of about 9 square miles. The population at present is approximately 3 lab. The Camp is designed for the reception of 2,00,000 refugees and the surplus population is being dispersed. Over 7,000 persons have left since Nov. 27.

Medical arrangements for the relief of refugees, which were started on a modest scale, have been greatly expanded and will be completed within the next few weeks and made adequate for the population of the Camp.

Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, visited the Camp on Nov. 30 He was glad to find a definite improvement in the general samitation since his previous visit two weeks earlier. The fly nuisance has been controlled and they are present only in negligible numbers.

The entire Camp has been divided into four towns, each with a population of 50,000. In each town for every 25,000 persons there are to be two dispensaries with 25 beds each and a child welfare centre. Fourteen dispensaries are at present functioning. The number will soon be raised to 16 and later, to 20.

Besides these dispensaries in each town, there are the main Kurkushetra Hospital, with 142 beds and a Women's hospital in Patiala House, with 80 beds. There have been 400 confinement cases aince the beginning of November. Only three maternal deaths have occurred. Over 500 beds are at present available

in the Camp. More beds, with necessary equipment, are shortly to arrive.

There is also an Infectious Diseases Hospital where cases of typhoid, tuber-culosis and other infectious diseases are segregated.

The Director-General was gratified to learn that, though there were quite a number of cases of pneumonia, the rate of mortality was small. There have been some cases of small-pox. Every case discovered has been hospitalised and nearly 2,00,000 of the total population of about 3,00,000 have been vaccinated. Cholera is practically absent. Delousing of about 1,00,000 people has also been done.

Forty-two dectors and a number of lady doctors and nurses are working in the various dispensaries.

Besides the usual ration dict, the patients are given multi-vitamin tablets and tinned milk. Arrangements are also being made to provide them with fruits and fruit juices. Cod-liver oil will be supplied to ailing children.

Rats are being destroyed to prevent an outbreak of plague. Deep-trench latrines have been dug. More than 100 wells have been chlorinated and bleaching powder put in.

Ramkrishna Mission and Marwari Relief Society are among the voluntary organisations doing relief work. The Mission distributes daily, free of charge, about 12 maunds of fresh milk and 100 tins of milk powder. The Marwari Relief Society is running a dispensary.

# "SWARAJ" STAMPS

The Government of India have decided to held a competition in design for India's new Swaraj Stamps which will be issued in 1948. Nearly Rs. 7,500 will be given as prizes to the winners.

Artists are being invited to submit designs that have a definite relation to India's new status. The effigy of the King will no longer be a feature of India's stamps.

It is learnt that new designs will be used for the following denominations:—3 pies, half-anna, 9 pies, 1 anna, 1½ anna, 2 annas, 2½ annas, 3½ annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, 10 annas, 12 annas, Re. 1, 2, 5, 10, 15 and 25.

The competition, which is open to all resident in the Indian Union, will be held in New Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Art in Industry. Entries must be submitted before February 15, 1948, through the Institute's Offices at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay or Madras. The selection of designs will be made by a panel of five judges. An exhibition of all selected designs will be held after the competition in Delhi, Bembay, Calcutta and Madras.

There will be three prizes. I Prize of of Rs. 3,000 for the full series accepted from any one competitor, II Prize of Rs. 1000, to the best individual design and III Prize of Rs. 500 for the second best individual design. In addition there will be not more than 12 awards of Rs. 250, each to approved designs.

# COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE

# Sardar Patel on Purity in Administration

HILSTI appreciate the criticism and whilst I appreciate the bona-fides of Hon'ble Members to keep their Government awake, I appeal to them to accept what my friend, Dr. Syuma Prasad has said, namely, that we have a collective responsibility. It means not collective responsibility among the members on the Treasury Benches alone, but collective responsibility of the whole House as well as of the whole population. To drive out corruption is not an easy thing. It is an abnormal situation which has to be reduced to normality and we must raise the general moral tone as also the tone of the services," said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Deputy Prime Minister, replying to a debate on a cut mot on to discuss corruption in Government Departments in the Dominion Legislature on Dec. 5.

Sardar Patel said:

This annual opportunity which comes for a discussion to draw the attention of the Government on this vital question which affects the good name of the administration is welcome. Every year we see and hear a discussion on the question of the general tone of the administration, and its object is to keep the administration in trim and to keep those in charge of administration up to their sense of responsibility and auty. It is a good opportunity and we shall make the best use of it.

## Accommodation Problem

I have been listening to the debate since this morning. Most of it, in fact all the cut motions moved today, concentrated on the question of corruption in administration. Undoubtedly there is a lot of corruption of which we hear almost every day wherever you go. I get about 500 people to interview me in the mornings from 5 to 6—early morning. Most of them are from Punjab. All of them have come to Punjab. An of them have come to Delhi as refugees. They want accommodation, housing accommodation in the City of Delhi. There isn't enough accommodation. We cannot provide for those people in this city where they have there are over 2½ lakhs of people.

Many of them are residing in the houses of their relations but many others are living in the open and almost all of them had a very good status in life and were living in good housing accommodation. They are very bitter and angry and they complain that they must be provided somewhere. I hear them patiently. I tell them sometimes: "Please, see our difficulties. We cannot accommodate you all. Why don't you go to some other city? Why do you come here, all of you? But yet if you do not find any place to go to, will you go to the

officer in charge of this Department or the Minister in charge:" They say: "It is no use, Sir." And they complain of many things from which people infer that they have not been fairly treated.

Now it is not an easy thing. How far the stories I hear of their complaints are true and how much false it is difficult to ascertain because it is an established fact that we have very little accommodation and there is a considerable demand. We cannot meet with the demands. I do not say all of them tell tales. But 50 per cent of them do because if they do not get anything and somebody else does, they conclude they must have paid money and that they must be corrupt. In some cases it may be true, but in other cases, it cannot be true.

We must go to the cause which has led to this state of affairs—general corruption in all departments. It is a general demoralization that has set in as the result of war. The war conditions brought about a general deteriorations all over the world. It is not in this country alone and the aftermath of the war has not ended. You have got controls, you have the licenses and you got the general deficiency in the requisite things that are necessary for life and therefore these tight controls and these licenses make considerable scope for corruption.

As my hon'ble friend from Bombay said, the thing is so rotten that there is nothing to mend and if the corruption is so bad and is so rampant in all departments, the only thing remains is to shut up the shop because there is no room to mend. But that fortunately is not the case. During my experience of a short period, however short it may be, I have had the pleasure of working with many officials and I may say that to work with many of them would be a matter of pride and I am proud of them. Most of them today are our own people and I feel very proud of their ability, of their integrity and of their sense of duty. You may take it that if I find the slightest suspicion in any of my officers who are in charge of the administration I would not stand it even for a moment.

# Special Police Establishment

When I came here as a member of the Government the first thing that I did was to see what could be done to remedy this evil. Those who were in this House will remember that the first two measures that I brought before this House were the Special Police Establishment and the Bribery and Corruption Prevention Act, in which the normal law of evidence was relaxed and the responsibility was placed on the accused to prove his bonafides. Also, in some

cases the minimum sentence was also prescribed. The House was good enough to give me almost unanimous support. I had not to make any speeches from which quotations may be flung in my face. Therefore you will remember that the first measures that we passed in this House were those two measures with a view to checking this evil.

Subsequently we met with a serious crisis in this country. You all know that the year through which we have passed is a type of year which we have not seen in the history of this country. We have passed through a period during which in a short period we have had complete transfer of power. We have had a partition of the country to which all of us were opposed; We have had the partition of the provinces to which many were opposed, we have partitioned the defence forces of the country, we have partitioned the civil administration of the country and we have done all these in a very short space of time. Along with this we have accomplished the transfer of a population of ten million people. That transfer was not voluntary: it was an involuntary or forcible transfer. Do you think any country could stand this strain?

# Responsible Administration

I like this criticism that you have been making here and perhaps it is the privilege of the Opposition. It is a good thing but we are not in a House in which the Opposition is functioning in the old fashion. Here is a responsible administration and here instead of quoting the speeches of the Members in charge of the Administration you have to replace them and take charge yourself. If you think that a particular member who made a speech the other day of a particular type and is behaving in a contrary fashion, the quoter has to take his place and show that he can do better. Therefore although we hate corruption and we must all of us put our heads together to strangulate that evil as soon as possible, we must not create an atmosphere in which the remedy may prove to be the disease.

If you make a general atmosphere of criticism, that all our services are corrupt, the administration is corrupt, there is nothing good left in it, remember you dispirit the people and drive them to desperation: people who have a sense of honour, who have a sense of integrity and a sense of duty feel that there is no appreciation here and it was no use serving. Let us not create that position. I appreciate, therefore, your criticism fully but we must be discriminating in our criticism. We must see what is good in our services.

You must also remember that our services are broken to bits. Fifty per cent of the services have left. We had 1,250 officers, who were called the steel frame of this country, of which 50 per cent have left, because we did not want them or they did not want to stay. Even if they wanted to stay they found conditions unsuitable. Out of the 50 per cent several of them went to the other side of the country; they opted to serve in a country where thought it would be better for them. Beginning from the highest

alministrative port down to that of a chaprassi people were given the option to choose where they would serve.

If you have a shrewd sense of sight you will find in the departments where you might go that there has been a considerable change. When I came here and was entering my office I found crowds of chaprassies sitting round fire places, and I was told that there were 18,000 chaprassies. Before the were 18,000 chaprassies. war there were only three or four thousand. I am only giving you an instance. The departments were inflated during the period of the war and it was difficult to retrench any of then. when we came here, conditions were such that we could do nothing. If we proposed retrenchment we were threataned that there would be a general strike. It was at that time that partition came and I issued a general order that those people who opted out should be allowed to go and their places should not be filled then. We found there an opportunity. We find now that there is a considerable improvement. We have now to man the services again and have to find the men.

# Special Department

When you think that nothing is being done I will just give you, for your information, as an example how action is being taken. After this special department was created the action taken up to September 1947 was, 1,224 cases were investigated, 750 cases were sent up for trial and out of them 407 ended in conviction; 120 cases are still under trial and 180 cases were recommended for departmental action, out of which 145 people have been dismissed. But mere actions of dismissal or prosecution will not be enough.

We will have to change the atmosphere in the country. We must raise the general tone of the people. Today the giver is as ready and willing to give as the taker is willing and anxious to take. Bribe-giving and bribe-taking has become a normal thing and when it becomes a normality it is not a crime, it is not regarded as a crime. I remember a case 25 years ago when a railway officer, a station master, was being prosecuted for taking bribes, that for every wagon he was giving for goods he was taking a huge amount. When investigations were made, and he was caught and prosecuted he defended himself openly that he had not committed any offence, that was not bribery, that was dasturi or recognised practice, that it was being done not only by him but by every man from the Agent down to the lowest clerk in the railway department. Why it was called a crime he did not know. After all that there was a technical conviction and he was given only Rs. 200 fine, because the practice was recognised by the trying judge.

SHRI M.S. ANEY: It was recognised by the courts.

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Yes. Therefore if conditions become such then the moral sense deteriorates. Let us not create that condition. Of course so long as the practice of licenses, permits, and controls continue

bribery and corruption are their handmaids. Therefore we have to check it and we are taking measures as quickly as possible to do away with licenses and controls. But it is not an easy thing.

My friend, the Minister in charge of the Commerce Department, who has left for America has talked to me several times on this subject. He asked me, What can I do about these licenses and these permits for import? The goods dumped in this country as a result of the permits given have been so much that there is no market for them, and the licences given are so many that they are being sold in the market. What can I do about these things?" I told him, "You can do nothing. It is past history. Let us close it and begin afresh." It has to be forgotten and there is no use criticising it. The conditions were different. The stage on which we functioned was quite a different one. We have worked for a year and only we know how and under what conditions we worked. it was not a Coalition. It was a different Government for which there is no parallel in history. Therefore, all this criticism is not with reference to a normal situation but a very abnormal situation. Those who had worked it, they alone know what it was. Hon'blo Members here cannot have an idea of it.

# An Appeal

Therefore whilst I appreciate the criticism and whilst I appreciate the bona fides of Hon'ble Members to keep their Government awake I appeal to them to accept what my friend Dr. Syama Prasad has said, namely, that we have a collective responsibility. It means, not collective responsibility among the members on the Treasury Benches alone, but collective responsibility of the whole House as well as of the whole population. To drive out corruption is not an easy thing. It is an abnormal situation which has to be reduced to normality and we must raise the general moral tone as also the tone of the services. That is all I have to say.

# Bill to Provide for Extension of Enactments To Ajmer-Merwara

MOVING the Bill to provide for the extension of enactments to the Province of Ajmer-Meiwara to be taken into consideration in the Dominion Parliament on Pec. 11, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister for Home Affairs, said:

"The House is aware that the province of Ajmer-Merwara is peculiarly situated, surrounded on almost all sides by Indian The size of this States territorics. province is almost the size of an old British district. Now, in this province, there is no arrangement for proper modern administration or any arrangement for passing any legislation. similar province is the province of Delhi, with some d fferences as to the size and its surroundings. The Delhi Province also has no Legislative Assembly but it has the advantage of being situated near the capital of New Delhi and its administration is, not, therefore, so detached or unaffected by modern trands of thought.

"In Aimer Merwara, however, the administration is largely governed by rules and regulations which are-some of them of -very old and antiquated. So when we took charge, we thought that something should be done to bring its administration, so far as possible, to the level of the other provinces But we found that it was very difficult to make any revolutionary changes which would be required to bring the admin stration to modern conditions. It would require a Legislative Assembly or Council ard for that legislation will have to be passed here also and it would take much time and involve much labour. By that time the new constitution would be passed and at that time this question has to be considered.

"Therefore. I thought it better to bring into being some sort of Advisory Council. We have set up Advisory Councils in both Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. But in Delhi we have got the advantage of an enactment which authorises us to apply the provisions of any law passed in any Provincial Assembly. Therefore, it is easy for us to bring this administration of Delhi almost to the level of the adjoining Provinces of the Punjab or the United Provinces and we have, in some manner, applied the provinces recently.

'I may quote an instance. When I got representations from the Schedulest Castes people about the disabilities which they had to suffer in the Province of Delhi, we made use of this Act and extended the Disabilities Removal Act of Bonday to the Province of Delhi, and in that way we could easily set right or remove their difficulties.

#### Object of Bill

"In Ajmer, unfortunately, there is no such act in existence and, therefore, for the short period till the passing of the new Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, it would be advantageous to have this power of extending the operation of the legislation to the adjoining Provinces or any province of this nature and, therefore, I have come with this proposal.

"That would give rener to the people of Ajmer-Merwara during the interval and with this object I have come to this House and I do not think it is necessary for me to take any more time of the House. I hop that the House will help u in passing this legiclation. I move the consideration of the Bil".

# PARAMOUNTCY NOT TO BE REVIVED Sardar Patel on Scope of Extra-Provincial Jurisdiction Bill

WANT again to make it clear that there is no intention on our part to assume in any form or shape or to take the place of paramountcy. Paramountcy is dead and gone and nobody lamints or mourns it," said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Daputy Prime Minister, in the Dominion Parliament, on Dao. 9. He was spaking on the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain extra-Provincial jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Risterating Government of India's determination to function as a Government and not to leave a vacuum, Sardar Patel said, "it must also be understood that this Bill is not intended for the purpose of entering into places where there is a conflict between the people and the State. It is not the purpose of the Bill. The puspose is to step in where there is a vacuum, and I do not think anybody will take exception to it".

Here is the text of Sardar Patel's speech:

"I believe that there is a lot of misunderstanding about the exact purpose and the intention as to the operation of this Bill in spite of my having made the position clear; and therefore, I want again to make it clear that there is no intention on our part to assume in any form or shape or to take the place of Paramountcy. Paramountcy is dead and gone and nobody laments or mourns it.

"There is no reason to think that hecause paramountcy has disappeared there is going to be no power in India: the Government of India proposes to function as a Government and will not leave a vacuum or anarchy in any part of India whatever happens. That must be understood clearly, because it is neither in the interests of the States, nor of the States people.nor of India.

#### Purpose of Bill

"But it must also be understood that this Bill is not intended for the purpose of entering into places where there is a conflict between the people and the State. It is not the purpose of the Bill. The purpose is to step in where there is a vacuum, and I do not think anybody will take excep tion to it.

"This bill originated in this sense hecause several States were attached to bigger States. A large number of States were attached to Baroda: several States were attached to Jamnagar, some, to Janagadh and some, to others. Some objection was raised to some of these attachments. Some States were forcibly attached against their will by the Political Department.

"This issue was fought out in a civil court. A special commission was appointed by the Political Department

before which, I remember, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad appeared and argued the case on behalf of the States and that court, which was appointed by the Political Department, gave a decision that the attachment scheme was not legal and eventually it was legalised by Parliament, passing a small Bill.

"Now when paramountcy lapsed, these attached States were detached automatically. So the Parliament Act also did not justify or legalise the continuance of the attachment after the lapse of paramountcy. The States, to which they were attached, also announced that they did not want them because they found it a burden. Some of these small States were semi-jurisdictional and some, nonjurisdictional and they were in such a state that they could not discharge their functions with any degree of responsibility.

### Instruments of Accession

"What is to happen to the people of these States? If we did not intervene, there was a possibility of complete lawlessness there and we were approached by the States as well as the people that we should take over these directly under the Central Government. Therefore, we drafted an Instrument of Accession of two separate kinds: the first one was of the full jurisdictional States—the first class States. They had to accede.

"But these smaller States were of two varieties—one, semi-jurisdictional States and some non-jurisdictional. Now we drafted two different Instruments of Accession for them, the relevant portions of which my hon'ble friend, the Law Member, has read out to you and under which we assumed jurisdiction and provided for a machinery for the exercise of that jurisdiction, for the establishment of courts and other necessary paraphernalia, and took over that jurisdiction by pissing on ordinance because there was no Legislature sitting.

"Now is the opportunity for legalising the matter. In drafting the legislation, we took the phraseology from the Foreign Jurisdictions Act. The words there are:

"Whereas by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage or sufferance, and other lawful means".

"We only drop the word 'capitulation' and we agree to put in the word 'Agreement'. The rest is kept intact. We use this wider phraseology in order to meet any contingency where any area may be such perchance that there may be no authority. So far as the full jurisdictional States are concerned, there is no reason to fear. In my speech in the morning I referred to the Nilgiri State. It was suggested that it was an improper interference by usage.

On the contrary, it was an interference by agreement because the State itself approached us and so did the people. They have not taken exception to it and they are very glad that we interfered.

i will suggest, for the consideration of the House, a possible instance in which, supposing there is a minority regime and during the period of the regency the minor disappears or dies, and the regency abdicates as has happened in some instances. Then there is no authority because there is no heir, and there is nobody to assume authority. Then we have to take a wider phraseology and accommodate all such instances where there are small areas in which such instances are likely to happen. So when we legislate, we do not want to come again for such emergencies with a separate Bill. Therefore, we have adopted a wider phraseology.

# Temporary Mcasure

"At the same time I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is also a temporary measure, because you will see that when the permanent constitution is passed, then all these things will disappear. Then again, as this is a temporary measure to meet an emergency which arises out of a sudden disappearance of paramountcy, you will have to see that there is no cause given to any State or any people for any apprehension.

"Therefore, we have taken care, and as I have told you, that in the administration of the Ordinance we have taken so much care that up till now no complaint has been received and I have no doubt that no complaint will be received. There can be no desire on our part to assume jurisdiction by means of legislation. But I may be permitted to say that the States have no fear of encroachment on the part of the Government of India by means of legislation. They have every reason to fear if they do not progress with the times and do not meet the legitimate demands of the people".

### DR. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH

Speaking earlier on an amendment that the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be circulated to elicit public opinion the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Minister for Law, said:

"The one point which was made by the Hon'ble Mover of the amendment was that this Bill was reviving the jurisdiction of paramountey which was abolished by the Indian Independence Act. It is quite true that the Indian Independence Act releases the Indian States from all the obligations that were imposed upon them by virtue of paramountey. But, I think, what that means is this, that the Dominion Government cannot, as a succession State inherit the jurisdiction which arose out of paramountey. It means nothing more than that; it does not mean that any Indian State could not confer by an agreement upon the Dominion Government the rights and jurisdictions which were exercised by the

British Government as against an Indian State.

I think that point has been clearly lost sight of, and I should like to repeat that what the Independence Act means is this that the Dominion Government cannot be regarded as a succession State to the British Government in so far as paramountey is concerned. It certainly does not mean that if an Indian State chooses for reasons which it thinks are imperative, to confer jurisdiction of the analogous type that arese out of paramountcy upon the Dominion Government, there sanything either in the Government of India Act or in the Indian Independence Act to prevent the Indian State from doing so. I think that point has to be clearly borne in mind.

"When the question is raised as to which are the Indian States to which this particular Bill and its provisions would apply, the answer to the question must be related to the Instruments of Accession which have been passed by the various Indian States in favour of the Dominion Government of India. Therefore, in order to understand what are the States to which this Bill applies, what we have to do is to go to the Instruments of Accession and find out what is contained therein.

# Three Categories

"As the House knows, so far as the accession of Indian States is concerned, they are divided into three categories: (1) fully jurisdictional States, (2)semi-jurisdictional States, and (3) non-jurisdictional States. All the three classes of States have pussed, barring a few exceptions here and there, Instruments of Accession in favour of the Indian Dominion.

"Now if Hon'ble Members were to refer to the Instrument of Accession passed in favour of the Dominion of India by States which fall in class (2) they will realise that their Instrument of Accession contains this very important clause which, in order to remove all doubts and suspicions, I propose to read with your permission, Sir. This is in paragraph 1:—

"And I further declare that the Dominion of India may through such agency or agencies and in such manner as it thinks fit exercise in relation to the administration of the civil and criminal justice in this State all such powers, authority, and jurisdiction as were at any time exercisable by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the function of the Crown in its relation with the Indian States".

"That, I submit is a very important clause in the Instrument of Accession passed by the semi-jurisdictional States.

"Now if my Hon'ble friends will turn to the third category of States and read the Instrument of Accession passed by them, it reads as follows:

"Whereas I.. of the said state or taluka, am desirous that the Dominion of India should exercise in relation to the said taluka or state all the powers and jurisdictions which were exerciseable before such attachment by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in its relation with the Indian States", etc.

"This is a clause which finds a place in the Instrument of Accession of the State falling in the second category or the third category; it has not found a place in the Instrument of Accession passed by the States which fall in the first category, namely fully jurisdictional States.

"Obviously two things follow from The first is that this Bill does not this. apply to those States whose Instrument of Accession does not contain this clause; secondly, that this applies only to those States whose Instrument of Accession contains such a clause and which have voluntarily granted to the Dominica Government the rights, whether they or suffe-were exσf treaty out arose usage which rance or ercised by the British Government; they have transferred them voluntarily to the Indian Dominion, and they may do so in future.

# Object of Bill

"Now the point is that all that the Bill does is this that wherever any State has granted to the Dominion jurisdiction by virtue of its Instrument of Accession the Central Government will have the legal authority to exercise that jurisdiction. There is no case of usurpation at all; it is merely giving legal authority to rights and jurisdictions which have been voluntarily transferred by the Indian States to the Dominion of India.

"Therefore, the first thing that I should like to emphasise is that there is no clandestine effort in the Bill to usurp any authority as against any Indian State which has not voluntarily surrendered its authority in this respect to the Dominion Government. I think that ought to put at rest all the doubts and suspicions which have been expressed in this House with regard to this Bill. And I do not think that if Honourable Members bear in mind what I have stated there will be any necessity for very many of the amendments which I find on the order paper.

# No Inconsistency

"I do not want to say enything more because that is all that I wanted to say but my Hon'ble friend Mr. Senthanam, while making his observation on the Bill said that there was an inconsistency in the position which I took yesterday and the position as it arises from this Bill. I think my Hon'ble friend Mr. Santhanam, must have completely misunderstood what I said yesterday.

"What I said then was that having regard to the fact that the Nursing Council Bill had reference to entry No. 16 in the Concurrent Legislative List there was never any possibility of the Dominion Government acquiring any jurisdiction because the Instrument of Accession and the Indian States have made it absolutely clear that if they at all join the Indian Union they will join it only with respect to list No. I which is a federal list and that, too, with respect to some subjects only. Therefore, my contention was 'hat there was not even the remotest possibility having regard to these circumstances, that the Indian Dominion should acquire

(Continued on Page 67)

# HOW NILGIRI WAS SAVED FROM ANARCHY

# Sardar Patel's Statement

REPLYIG to a short notice question in the Dominion Parlicment, on Dec. 10, on Government action in Nilgiri State, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister said:

"On Oct. 28, 1947, we received information from the Origsa Government that the situation in the neighbouring States in general was tense and that in the Nilgiri, in particular, there was a general state of lawlessness, resulting in systematic looting of property, riots and clashes between various sections of the people. The troubles soon spread in the neighbouring district of Balasore.

The position assumed such dimensions that the only property which was secure in the State was the palace of the Ruler and its immediate precincts, which were heavily guarded by armed guards whom the Ruler had recruited from the Easterr States Joint Police Force. The State Police was completely ineffective incapable and even unwilling to suppress these disturbances. Telegraphic and postal services had also ceased to function.

"On Oct. 31, the District Magistrate of Balasore contacted the Ruler who pleaded that the situation had gone beyond his control. Some negotiations were in progress between the Ruler and the Praja Mandal and, in order not to disturb them, the Government of Orisea held their hands in the hope that the affairs would be settled satisfactorily, but the situation suddenly took a turn for the worse on Nov. 12, when a serious clash occurred in which fire-arms were used and a number of persons died.

"On the same day elsewhere villages were looted and a number of houses burnt down.

"It was clearly impossible to wait any longer and, in order to save the State and the neighbouring areas in Orissa Province from anarchy and chaos, it was decided that law and order should be restored in the State. The Government of India, therefore, requested the Orissa Government to ask the District Magistrate of Belasore to preceed to Nilgiri and restore law and order and take over the administration. On Nov. 14, therefore, the District Magistrate, Balasore, with the consent of the Ruler, took over the administration of the State peacefully".

The question of concluding bilateral air agreements with the U. K., China, Pakistan, Egypt, Italy and Switzerland is now engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Early this year Government Delegations may leave India to conduct negotistions with the respective countries.

# ENLARGEMENT OF FEDERAL COURT'S JURISDICTION

# Law Minister on Aim of New Legislation

the direct passage of appeal from the High Court to the Privy Council. In other words, the aim of the Bill is to make it compulsory that all civil appeals which arise from the judgment or decree of the High Court, shall, in the first instance; go to the Faderal Court", said the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Minister for Law, while moving for consideration the Bill to provide for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases, in the Dominion Parliament, on Dec. 11.

#### Dr. Ambedkar said:

"The Federal Court, as constituted under the Government of India Act as adopted, exercises three kinds of jurisdiction:

- (a) Original jurisdiction under Sec. 204:
- (b) Appellate jurisdiction over High Courts under Sec. 205; and (c) Advisory jurisdiction under Sec.
- "The present Bill is concerned only with the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court. As I said, the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court under Sec. 205 is a very limited jurisdiction. It is confined, in the first place, only to those cases in which the issue involved is the interpretation of the Constitution, that is to say, the interpretation of the Government of India Act, 1935.
- "Secondly, this limited jurisdiction accrues to the Federal Court only if the High ('ourt, after deciding a case before it gives a certificate to the effect that a question regarding the interpretation of the Constitution is involved.
- "It is only when these two conditions are satisfied, namely, that there exists an issue relating to the interpretation of of the Constitution; and, secondly, when the High Court has given a certificate, that an appeal can go to the Federal Court under Sec. 205.
- "The result of this limitation is this: All other appeals from the High Court in which question relating to the interpretation of laws, other than the Constitution of those in which the interpretation of the Constitution is involved but where the High Court has not given a certificate, go directly to the Privy Council without the intervention of the Federal Court.
- "The object of this Bill is to prevent the direct passage of appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council. In other words, the aim of the Bill is to make it compulsory that all civil appeals which arise from the judgment or decree of the High Court shall, in the first instance, go to the Federal Court.
- "The method adopted by the Bill to achieve this object is as follows:

What the Bill first does is to fix a day, which is the first of February and which, in the Bill, is called 'the appointed day. The next thing that the Bill does is after the appointed day no appeals shall go to the Privy Council directly from the High Court unless and until the appeal falls in a category of what is called 'a pending appeal'. If an appeal, on the first day of February, can be described within the terms of this Bill as 'a pending appeal' then the appeal shall be continued to be heard and decided by the Privy Council. But, if on that day, the appeal is not 'a pending appeal' within the definition of this Bill, then the jurisdiction of the Federal Court extends to such an appeal as the Federal Court gets a right to hear and decide such an

# Pending Appeal

"Sec. 7 of the Bill describes what is 'a pending appeal'. Now for this purpose a rough and ready-made rule has been adopted in the Bill. The rule is this; that if the records of an appeal are transmitted by the High Court to the Privy Council on the appointed day or before the appointed day, then the appeal is a pending appeal and the Privy Council continues to exercise its jurisdiction to hear such an appeel, although it is a direct appeal.

"If, on the other hand, the appeal is in such a state that the records have not

been transmitted, then the appeal becomes automatically transferred so to say to the Federal Court and the Federal Court gets the right to hear the appeal.

- "Appeals to the Privy Council go in two different ways. They go under what are called the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, Sec. 109 and 110, which are called appeals by grants or they are appeals where the party have a right to appeal. In addition to that the Privy Council also has got the right to give special leave to appeal and when a party obtains a special leave to appeal, such appeals also go to the Privy Council. Appeals which go to the Privy Council directly from the High Court on special leave being granted by the Privy Council, are also dealt with in Sec. £ of the Bill. The provision there is this:
- "Every application to His Majestyin-Council for special leave to appeal from a judgment to which this Act applies remaining undisposed of immediately before the appointed day shall on that day stand transferred to the Federal Court by virtue of this Act".
- If it is disposed of, that is to say, if it is rejected no further question arises. If it is admitted then the Privy Council will be competent to deal with it. But if the Privy Council has not passed any order, then such an appeal shall be deemed to be transferred to the Federal Court and the Federal Court will have the right to dispose of the matter.
- "I should like to tell the House in very concrete terms what this Bill does

# MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

THE Federal Court (Enlargement of Jurisdiction) Bill, 1947, introduced by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Minister of Law, in the Dominion Legislature on Dec. 9, provides for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases to the fullest extent permissible under section 206 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as now in force and for the abolition protanto of all direct appeals in such cases from High Courts to the Privy Council either with or without special leave.

The main provisions of the Act which is designed to come into force on Feb. 1, 1948, are as follows:—

# Pending Appeals

"Judgment to which the Act applies" is defined as any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court, in a civil case from which a direct appeal could have been brought to the Privy Council with or without special leave of the Act had been passed. From the appointed day, that is Feb. 1, next appeals will lie to the Federal Court from these judgments, and no direct appeal will lie to the Privy Council either with or without special leave.

Proceedings taken in a High Court,

and orders and certificates given by a High Court, in connection with pending appeals to the Privy Council will be deemed to be in connection with appeals to the Federal Court, unless the records pertaining to the appeal have been transmitted to England before the appointed day. Applications pending before the Privy Council for special leave to appeal in civil cases will stand transferred to the Federal Court on the appointed day and will be disposed of by that Court.

Appeals pending before the Privy Council immediately before the appointed day in which the records have already been transmitted by the High Court concerned to England and appeals to the bringing of which special leave has been granted by the Privy Council before the appointed day will not be affected by the Act.

The provisions of the Civil Procedure Code and other laws relating to direct appeals in civil cases to the Privy Council will have effect in relation to appeals to the Federal Court with the substitution of "Federal Court" for "His Majesty in Council".

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and what it does not do. I have told the House what this Bill does. I will tell the House now that this Bill boes not do.

"In the first place, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council in criminal matters. Criminal matters can still be entertained by the Privy Council from the judgments of the High Courts. Secondly, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council from courts which are not high courts, that is to say the courts of the Judicial Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara or of Coorg. Thirdly, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council from the judgment of the Federal Court.

"The House would probably like to know why these deficiencies have been retained in the Bill and why we have not been in a position to provide in this Bill for the complete transfer in all 2333s, criminal or civil, from the High Court to the Federal Court and from the Vederal Court to the Privy Council.

"The reasons are to be found in certain limitations from which the Dominion Legislature, i.e., the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) suffers. As members of the Assembly would realise we are exercising the powers for enlarging the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, which are given to us by Sec. 206 of the Government of India Act. If Hon'ble Members would refer to Sec. 206 they will see that it is a sort of section which enables this Assembly to alter the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 206 says:

- (1) The Dominion Legislature may by Act provide that in such civil cases as may be specified in the Act an appeal shall lie to the Federal Court from a judgment, decree or final order of a High Court without any such certificate as aforesaid.
- (2) If the Dominion legislature makes such provision as is mentioned in the last preceding sub-section consequential provision may also be made by Act of the Dominion Legislature for the abolition in whole or in part of direct appeals in civil cases from High Courts to His Majesty-in-Council, either with or without special leave.

Sub-section (3) requires the sanction of the Governor-General.

# Section 206

"Anybody who reads Sec. 206 will find that although the power to amend and enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court is given to this Assembly it is limited in certain particulars. It is limited to civil cases. Therefore, no provision can be made for the abolition of direct appeals in criminal matters. Secondly, it refers to direct appeals, that is to say, appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council. The reason why we are not able to abolish appeals from the Federal Court to the Privy Council is because of the existence of Sec. 208 in the Government of India Act.

"Section 208 says: (a) that an appeal will lie to His Majesty-in-Council from a decision of the Federal Court, from any

judgment of the Federal Court given in the exercise of its original jurisdiction in any dispute which concerns the interpretation of this Act and

(b) in any other case, by leave of the Federal Court or of His Majesty-in-Council.

"What I wanted to tell the House was that if it was desirable to abolish all appeals to the Privy Council and to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court in as complete a manner as we want to do, for that purpose we would have been required to hold a session of the Constituent Assembly and ask the Constituent Assembly to pass a Bill which it can do, notwithstanding any limitations in the Government of India Act 1935, for the simple reason that the Constituent Assembly is a sovereign body and is not bound by the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

"The position of this Legislaure which is spoken of as the Dominion Legislature, is very different. It is governed by the Government of India Act of 1935 and, therefore, it must conform in anything that it wants to do, to such provisions of the Act which permit it to do what it wants to do. As I said, the only permissive section which we have in the Government of India Act is Sec. 20% and we have taken the fullest liberty of this section to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Federal Court to the fullest extent possible".

Replying to the debate on the Bill, the Law Minister said:

"I am grateful to the House, for having expressed its general satisfaction with this Bill, I will, therefore, deal only with certain points of criticism which have been raised by certain Hon'ble Members who have taken part in this debate.

## Limitations Imposed by 1935 Act

"The first point of criticism relates to what I might call a timidity for my not going the whole hog and abolishing appeals to the Privy Council and conferring the fullest jurisdiction on the Federal Court. I am told that I am making a sort of artificial distinction between this legislature and the constituent Assembly and that I am for no reason limiting the powers of this House.

"I am sure that that is a criticism which, to put it mildly, is certainly far from valid. I cannot accept the proposition that this Legislature, as distinguished from the Constituent Assembly, is a completely sovereign body, as complete as the Constituent Assembly itself. It is true that the same Members who sit in this House sit in the Constituent Assembly, so that in regard to the personnel there is no distinction. But I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that so far as functions are concerned the two Assemblies are quite different.

"The function of the Constituent Assembly is to make the constitution and in making that constitution it is bound by nothing except by its own vote. So far as this Assembly is concerned, it is

bound by the Government of India Act, 1935; that is the constitution which is binding upon this legislature.

Except the British Parliament which has both sorts of powers, namely, ordinary legislative powers as well as constituent powers, I do not know of any Assembly anywhere which has got a written constitution which possesses powers to override a constitution which has created that particular legislature.

"I, therefore, submit that I am on perfectly strong and stable footing when I say that in carrying out the provisions of this Bill we must be bound by and we must recognise the limitations that have been imposed upon this legislature by the Government of India, Act, 1975, as adapted.

"Then the question was raised with regard to the Courts of the Judicial Commissioners of Ajmerc-Merwara and Coorg. It is quite true that it would be very anomalous that we should stop direct appeals from the High Court to the Privy Council and allow appeals from Judicial Commissioners to go to the Privy Council without the intervention of the Federal Court. The anomaly is patent and nobody can deny it.

"But the question is this: that unless and until we declare the Courts of the Judicial Commissioners as High Courts we could not make this Bill binding upon them. Now I am told that the question of the declaration of the Judicial Commissioners' Courts as High Courts would involve certain administrative problems. For instance, all the provisions in the Government of India Act relating to High Courts would have to be applied to the Judicial Commissioners before, in fact, they become High Courts. It seemed to me that that might create complications and that is the principal reason why we did not think it advisable at this stage, to extend the provisions of this Act to the Judicial Commissioners."

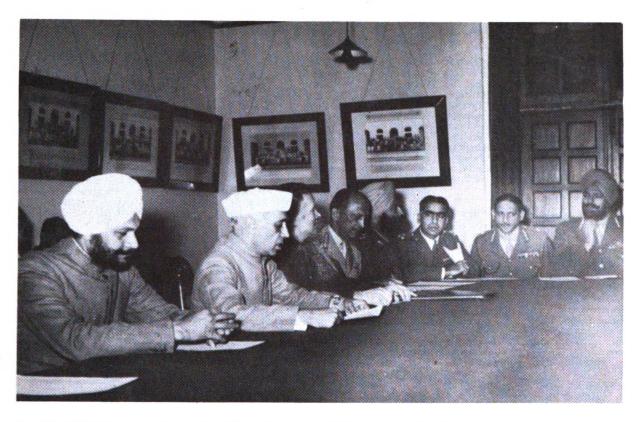
The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Kamal Chunder Chunder, I.C.S. to act as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court in the vacancy caused by the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Phanibhusan Chakravarty as Chairman of the Committee to inquire into the affairs of the Calcutta Corporation, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Dec. 27

# AMENDMENT TO INCOME-TAX ACT

(Continued from Page 39)

application to Business Profits Tax without certain formal modifications. Hence the need for the amendment.

I am sorry, Sir, that the explanation of these clauses is rather cumbrous, but it is unfortunate and it cannot be avoided. It is rather technical, but I might assure the House that it is not the intention to introduce any new ideas, but only to clarify the old ideas and to rectify certain drafting omissions and errors.



The Prime Minister met senior officers of the Armed Forces receptly. (L. to R.) Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, Paudit Nehru, Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart, then C.-in-C., Lt.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, G. O. C.-in-C., Eastern Command, Maj.-Gen. Chimni, Maj.-Gen. P. N. Thapar, Maj.-Gen. A. A. Rudra, and Maj.-Gen. G. S. Dhillon

# YOUR DUTY IS TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AND COUNTRYMEN

# Pandit Nehru's Broadcast to Armed Forces

OU have a great opportunity to serve, because you have the armed power of the State in your hands. You must take care not to abuse it", said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, broadcasting to men of the Armed services in the new Forces programme inaugurated from the Delhi station of All India Radio on Dec. 1.

The Prime Minister said: Soldiers of Free India, Jai Hind:

Some months ago I told the Commander-in-Chief that it was my desire to meet as frequently as possible the officers and men of the Indian armed orces, to visit units and to see them at work and at play and particularly totalk to them. I wanted to know you and speak to you, because it is very necessary that we should understand each other.

It is very necessary in an independent country for those in authority who represent the people, to know what is in the minds of the men of the armed forces. There should be no distance between the people generally and the armed services; they are all one, because recruitment to the armed forces is made from the masses. The old idea that the army was a separate entity does not now hold good. It, therefore, becomes essential that we should understand each other. However, owing to extreme pressure of work and the many vital problems requiring immediate attention, I could not meet most of you, although I have had occasions to meet and talk to some. Therefore I decided to speak a few words to you this evening over the radio.

# Meaning of Freedom

Our country has become free. What is the meaning of freedom? It means that we are free to do things without outside interference. It does not mean that anyone is free to do what he likes, because such licence would lead to chaos. If everyone takes the law into his own hands, it becomes jungle law. That sort of freedom does not become civilized people.

Ours is an ancient land with an ancient civilisation dating back to thousands of years. Our new-born freedom has brought us great responsibilities. If anything goes wrong, it will be our fault, we cannot blame others. If we do good, we reap the benefits; if we do evil, we suffer. Therefore it behoves you, men of the armed forces specially to realise these responsibilities. Your duty is to serve your country and your countrymen.

They call me the Prime Minister of India, but it would be more appropriate if I were called the first Servant of India. In this age it is not titles and positions that matter but service. You, in particular, have a great opportunity to serve, because you have the armed power of the State in your hands. You must take care not to abuse it.

You know that our forces are operating in Kashmir to drive out those who invaded that State. Why did our forces go to Kashmir? We do not want to invade other countries and enslave people. As we have wanted freedom for our country, so do we desire freedom for other countries, especially those in Asia. Kashmir, of course, is a part of this land. Our forces went there not to oppress or conquer. They went there because the people of Kashmir were in

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1948

peril, and their country was being overrun by forces of aggression. When Kashmir was being ravaged by the raiders, the people asked us for help. It was thus our duty to go and help. We sent our forces who performed their task speedily and courageously. Much has been accomplished but more difficult work lies ahead and I am confident that they will succeed.

I went there and spoke to our men. I told them that they were there as guests and friends and as servants of the people of Kashmir, and that on their actions depended the fair name c. India. Any ill-considered action by our men in Kashmir would bring discredit to India. I am glad that while performing their duty they have established cordial relations with the Kashmir people. We must constantly remind ourselves that whatever our religion or creed we are all one people.

I regret that the recent disturbances have given us a bad name. Many had acquiesced in the prevailing spirit. This is not citizenship. Citizenship consists of service of the country. We must prevail on the evil-doers to stop their activities. If you, men of the Navy, the Army and the Airforce, serve your countrynen without distinction of class or religion, you will bring honour to yourselves and to your country.

JAI HIND.

# DEFENCE MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO ARMED FORCES

DISCLOSE no sccret when I say that the magnificent work you have done and are doing fully, justifies the confidence which the Government has placed in you," said the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, in a broadcast, in the new Defence Forces programme inaugurated from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on Dec. 1.

Sardar Baldev Singh said:

Much has happened since I addressed you last. Much, that has changed the face of many things. We gained our independence. We lost the unity of our motherland. We are free today; but in the wake of the division of the country, we have been overtaken by a sequence of disasters, some of which are unparalleled in the history of the world.

The worst is over. We are fortunate that we have at the helm of our affairs such stout-hearted men and leaders who have refused to bend before the calamitous storm that all but overwhelmed us. It is not my purpose to dwell on what we all hope and pray is past history. It take this opportunity of paying my tribute to you all, our men and officers

of the Armed Forces for your loyal and patriotic co-operation in the stupendous task you have had to perform and for the commendable manner in which it has been carried out.

Not that I or anyone else had any doubt in your capacity and valour. I and my colleagues knew well the stuff you were made of, the renown you had won, and the patriotism the world was witness to. There were some who feared that you had not had the experience and training necessary for undertaking big tasks. I will not waste time to examine such fears. What you have done is sufficient answer. As a matter of fact, I on my part have no hesitation whatever in affirming that in all that has happened you have surpassed your own unequalled record.

The dawn of freedom found us grapping with the demon of heinous trouble. The seed of hate sown sedulously in our body politic had borne fruit. You soldiers who under alien rule had done duty before to suppress disturbances were now a lled upon to stand by your own Government to restore order out of chaos. It was a different role. All honour to you that you grasped this difference, so



Paudit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh greet Army Commanders

quickly and with such vision. Indeed that was the reason of your success.

In the areas in East Punjab where civil administration has pretty well collapsed due to an almost mass departure of Muslim officials to Pakistan, it was the Armed Forces who had to step into the void. And as if this was not all, you were called upon to undertake the entire responsibility of protecting and transporting lakha of refugees, Hindu Sikh and Muslim, uprooted and maddened and knowing not what had come over them.

The Military Evacuation Organisation was created early in September and it has all along done very good work, and the credit goes to every officer and man employed in it as I know that everyone has given his best in the performance of this human and sordid task. The sum total of non-Muslims brought in about ten weeks is over 30,00,000. Much that we mourn and condemn has taken place. The only bright spot in it all is the disciplined and loyal work of you soldiers. You kept your hands clean. Your task is not yet ended. But the magnificent work already done is a guarantee that we shall pull through the rest with confidence.

## **Arduous Operation**

Nor is it only the evacuation rafugee care in which you have made notable history, you answered the call of your Covernment and your country in the deliverance of the beautiful valley of Kashmir from hordes of band its and marauders who had all but destroyed it. I doubt if ever before an Armed Force had carried through so arducus and so difficult an operation at such short notice and with so much courage. As our Prime Minister stated a few days ngo, our Armed Forces got just a few hours between the call of help from Kashmir and the dead-line when Srinagar might have fallen. We knew little about the strongth, resources and indeed even the disposition of raiders. All our men knew was that they could still land on the Srinagar aerodrome. The will the Government had only to be made known to our brave officers at Head-quarters. They undertook the operation promptly. In spite of the short notice, the paucity of available units and air craft, our troops landed in Sriuagar within 24 hours and what they did and are still doing is the marvel of friend and foe alke. In this work, we had the willing co-operation of nearly all the civil aviation companies as well.

#### Undaunted Determination

I need hardly say how everyone is grateful to our magnificent Air Force boys, the civilian pilots and crew, the soldiers who went all out in an undaunted determination to do the bidding of their Government in bringing which and deliverance to the unhappy victims of these cruel marauders whose villany and crime is unparalleled.

We have read and heard of many and daring incidents of valour in military history. The story of the deliverance of Srinagar will be an epic for all times. You remember I said that the sword you

carry will be unsheathed only for the protection of your Motherland and vindication of justice. Your operations in Kashmir justify this stand. You have gone there to give aid to people who are our own; your action is nothing other than one of punishing those wicked invaders who looted, murdered innocent men and women and children in a territory where they have no right to enter. As matters stand today, the Valley has been cleared up. Your units are now operating in mountanious terrain in the interior. Their task is none too easy. But I have no doubt you will carry it to fulfilment and come out of it with flying colours.

# Reorganisation of Armed Forces

Now a word about yourselves and the general reorganisation of the Armed Forces. When I spoke first you remember power to support the cause of nationalisation. We had planned for it before the decision to divide the country was taken. After this decision which inevitably meant the division of the Armed Forces, much of the earlier planning had to go over-board. In free India, it was obviously incongrucus to retain foreign elements. Internal unrest tended to tie our hands. The Government however determined. The Armed remained Forces as a whole are now completely in our own control. We are retaining the barest minimum of British Officers in technical jobs for a little longer. In the army, a considerable number of Generals and Brigadiers is new Indien and accelerated promotions are being given to younger men to fill key jobs, particularly operational joks and along the line.

In the Air Force, you have one Indian Air Vice Marshal assisted by other simi-

larly promoted to fill higher ranks. Our Navel Wing is small, but we have two Captairs and a few other able officers who will occupy key jobs, including commands. Our aim is to speed up this work of progressive nationalisation inspite of cur preoccupations. I disclose no secret when I say that the magnificent work you have done and are doing fully justifies the confidence which the Government has placed in you.

I am conscious that there is a good deal that still needs doing. I shall continue to strive for your well being within the limits of our country's resources. I have only one request to make. Keep up the great traditions of discipline. Now in fact you must doubly maintain solidarity in your ranks and loyalty to your officers and your Government. You are now truly engaged in the service of your Motherland and have proved to the world that you are the true soldiers of the nation. To serve the country loyally and keep it free from any danger is your role, which you have already proved that you will perform well.

The Overseas Radio Telephone Service will be extended to Mexico and Cuba with effect from Jan. 1, 1948. Service will be available from 10.30 hours 18T to 00.15 hours 18T daily, says a Press Note, issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 31.

The charges will be Rs. 50- for the first three minutes and Rs. 16-11-0 for each subsequent minute and Rs. 2-11-0 for the report charge.

# PRINCESS ELIZABETH THANKS INDIA

Her Royal Highness the Pincess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh and His Royal Highness Prince Philip of Edinburgh have sent the following replies in acknowledgment of the presents and in response to the messages sent by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government and the people of India on the occasion of their wedding.

Letter dated Nov. 16, 1947, from H.R.U. the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, to Pandit Nehru:

#### Dear Pandit Nehru,

It is very kind of you to send me your book "The Discovery of India", and a length of such beautiful gold and coloured brocade. This is, indeed, an acceptable wedding present, and I want to thank you most warmly for the good wishes which I know you feel towards us both at this time of great personal happiness.

You have in addition sent me, on behalf of the Government of India, an unusually charming necklace and a silver figure of the god Shiva with both of which I am delighted. Would you please tell all concerned what great pleasure they have given me, and how genuinely grateful I am for this most welcome present.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH

Letter dated Nov. 24, 1947, from H. R. H. Prince Philip of Edinburgh to the Hon'ble Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister:

Dear Pandit Nehru,

Thank you and the Government of India for the delightful present which my uncle brought back to me on your behalf, and also for your most interesting book, which you so kindly sent me.

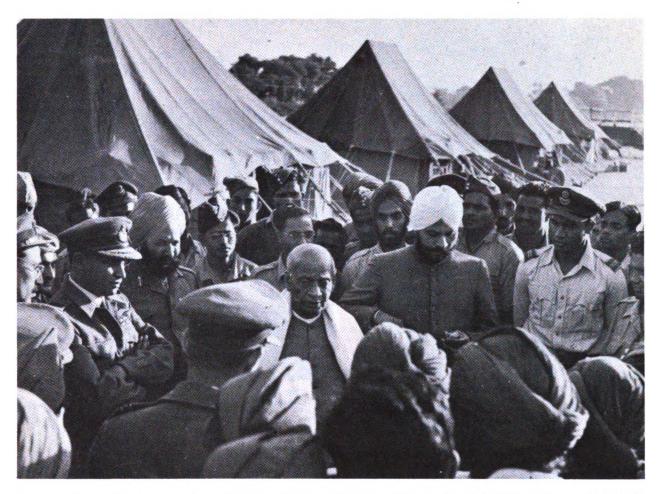
Would you kindly convey to the Government and peoples of India the deep gratitude of Hor Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and myself for their kind message of good wishes for our future happiness.

I trust that when you come to England we may have the pleasure of seeing you.

Yours sincerely, PHILIP

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Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, and Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, talking to R. l. A. F. Officers and men during their recent visit to Jammu

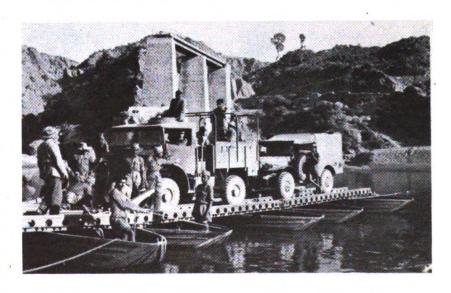
SARDAR Vallabbbhai Patel, Deputy
Prime Minister and Sardar
Baldev Singh, Defence Minister,
visited Jammu on Dcc. 2, and held consultations with His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, Mr. Mehr Chand Mahajan
the Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammad
Abdullah, the Head of the Administration
and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, the
Defence Minister, Kashmir State. Maj.Gen. Kulwant Singh and Air ViceMarshal S. Mukerjee were also present.

The overall operational position in Jammu and Kashmir provinces was surveyed when both the Ministers received first-hand appreciation of the military position. The refugee problem was also discussed.

Both the Ministers and their party returned to Delhi in the evening accompanied by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad for further consultations in the Capital.

While at Jammu, the two Ministers visited the Air Force Officers and men encamped at the aerodrome. They were all in good heart and gave a cheering assurance of their fine mettle and vigilant alertness.

# INDIAN MINISTERS VISIT JAMMU

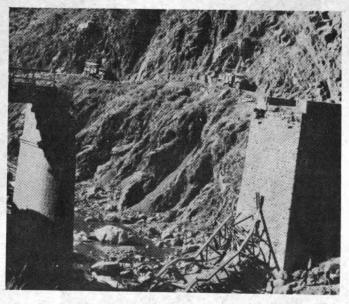


Trucks and jeeps being ferried across a river on rafts made by a Field Company of Medras Sappers and Miners in Jammu Province

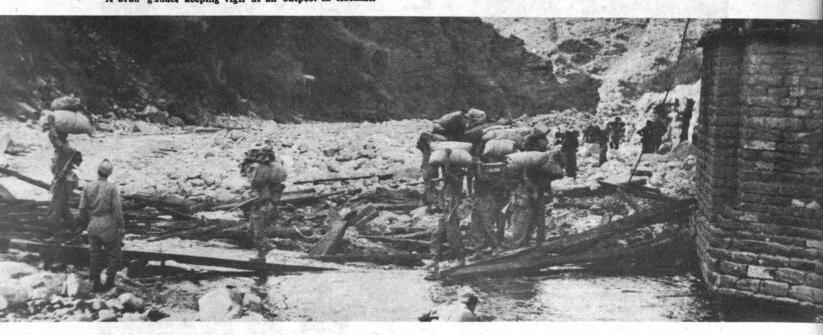


A bran gunner keeping vigil at an outpost in Kashmir

# Indian Troops Defend Kashmir



A bridge near Uri, one span of which was blown up with powerful explosives by the raiders



Indian troops cross a stream as the bridge was destroyed by the retreating raiders. (Below) Indian machine-gunners in action in the plains of Srinagar





mula as Indian troops found it after driving out the invaders. Once a flourishing town niles west of Srinagar, it was completely destroyed by the raiders, who killed hundreds of inhabitants and kidnapped many women



.M. C. personnel dressing the wounds of a Kashmiri childvictim of the raiders' attack

# DEFENCE MINISTER'S TRIBUTE

call of your Government and your country in the deliverance of the beautiful ralley of Kashmir from hordes of bandits and marauders who had all that destroyed it. I doubt if ever before an armed force had carried through so arduous and so difficult an operation at such short notice and with so much courage. As our Prime Minister stated a few days ago our armed forces got just a few hours before the call of help from Kashmir and the deadline when Srinagar might have fallen. Our troops landed in Srinagar within 24 hours and what they did and are still doing is the marvel of friend und foe alike".

-Sardar Balder Singh



The R. I. A. F. has performed heroic feats in giving close support to Indian troops. The pilot and crew of an R. I. A. F. aircraft, which, after dropping supplies at Mirpur, was hit by anti-craft fire and made a forced landing in Poonch. Here, the crew are describing their adventures to a semior Indian army officer



A village near Uri set ablaze by the raiders. (Below) Refugees arriving in Srinagar from Gilgit which had also been invaded by armed raiders



# Prime Minister on Future Employment of Gurkha Troops

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, made the following statement in the Dominion Parliament. on Dec. 10, on the future employment of Gurkha troops:

I should like to inform the House that the discussions recently held at Kathmandu between representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Nepal and His Majesty's Government the United Kingdom, on the subject of the future employment of Gurkha troops under the Government of India and H. M. G., have been satisfactorily concluded and a tripartite memorandum of agreement was signed on Nov. 9.

The documents signed by the heads of the three delegations include a number of detailed points on which further negotiations will be required to effect a final settlement, but the main principles have been agreed upon. The texts of the documents will not be published until these details have been settled. The main points on which the three Governments have agreed are as follows:—

(a) Arrangements have been made for the continued employment of Gurkha officers and men in the Indian Army. The Government of Nepal have also agreed that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may employ Gurkha officers and soldiers up to the number required to maintain eight battalions or their equivalent at peace time strength, on mutually satisfactory terms and conditions of service.

- (b) It has been agreed to transfer to service with the British Army all volunteers from the regular battalions of the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles, together with personnel, from their regimental centres who opt for such service in the referendum about to be held. The Gurkha personnel of the units transferred but who do not opt for service with H. M. G., will remain in the Indian Army.
- (c) Representatives of the Government of Nepal and of the Government of India will be present with the eight units earmarked for H. M. G., while the referendum referred to above is being taken.
- (d) The Government of Nepal have agreed that Indian officers will, in future, serve in Gurkha units. Nepalese subjects, with suitable qualifications, will be eligible for Commissions in the Indian Army.

The Government of India have agreed that Gurkha soldiers from regiments in the Indian Army, who have completed their engagements and do not wish to continue in the Indian Army, may join the units earmarked for H. M. G. in order to make good any deficiency that may occur in those units by Gurkha soldiers declining to serve under H. M. G.

It has been agreed that the Government of Nepal and H. M. G. will consult together on the question of recruiting Gurkha troops in excess of eight battalions, but that such additional recruitment will not, in any way, interfere with

recruitment to the Gurkha units in the Indian Army.

In connection with the employment of Gurkhas by H. M. G. the Government of India have agreed to grant to H. M. G. certain necessary facilities such as the use, as a temporary measure, of the existing recru.ting depots at Gorakhapur and Ghum and the provision on mutually satisfactory terms of transit facilities, postal and tolegraphic facilities, special foodstuffs Indian currency and remittance facilities.

The Government of the United Kingdom have agreed to use the corresponding Indian pay codes and rates of pay as the basis of the scale to be applied to Gurkha Officers and soldiers and to give an appropriate additional allowance during service abreed.

The arrangements, which I have described, fully meet the requirements of the Government of India. The willingness of the Government of Nepal to allow us to retain in service in the Indian Army the full strength of Gurkha units which we desired is another indication of the close relationship that exists between Nepal and India. The negotiations proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and good-will and I should like to express our appreciation of the co-operative spirit of the Government of Nepal and of H. M. G. in the course of these discussions, and our special gratitude to H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal.

# **NEW FOOD POLICY**

(Continued from Page 2)

Only experience will show whether these expectations will be fulfilled or not. If they are, the country would gain immensely; the phase of return to normalcy would be quickened; administrative personnel at present engaged on controls would be released for more urgent and productive tasks and there will be general public satisfaction. On the other hand should there be an outburst of hoarding and profiteering on the part of traders and large producers or panic among consumers, then the consequences would be extremely sericus.

While the Government of India consider that the risk involved in a policy of progressive decontrol of food should be taken in the larger national interests, they are fully conscious of the need for watching developments carefully and maintaining preparedness against possible emergencies. The Government of India have, therefore, advised the Governments of Provinces and States that the present food control organization maintained substantially intact until the success of the revised policy has been assured. They have also been advised that existing arrangements of requiring holders of stocks of foodgrains to take out licences and submit returns should be continued. In order to watch the situation closely the Government of India would obtain weekly information from provinces and States regarding stocks, procurement, prices and the general food situation. Besides the progress of implementation of the revised policy will be reviewed at all India Conterence at Ministerial level to be held at quarterly intervals. Should the situation so demand the Government of India will not hesitate to re-establish rigid control.

# Field Marshal Auchinleck Leaves India

Eyre Auchinleck, G. C. B., G. C. I. E., C. S. I., D. S. O. O. B. E., left India after nearly 45 years' service, on relinquishing his appointment of Supreme Commander on Dec. 1.

Sir Claude, born in 1884, was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst and entered the Indian Army in 1903. He was posted to the 62nd Punjabis, a regiment that had lately been transferred from the Madras Army, and which is now the 1st Battalion of the 1st Punjab Regiment.

During the War of 1914-18, he served with distinction in Egypt and Mesopotamia, gaining the Distinguished Service Order and the Order of the British Empire.

Between the wars, he occupied a number of command and staff appointments, and was one of the first Indian Army officers to attend the Imperial Defence College in London. Whilst commanding the Peshawar Brigade in the early thirties, he carried out

highly successful operations against troublesome tribesmen on the Northern frontiers, for which duty he was made a Companion of the Bath.

The beginning of the 1939-45 War saw him commanding the Meerut District. having previously held the appointment of Deputy Chief of the General Staff Headquarters. at Army Duringe the war he held many great commands, in Norway, in England after Dunkirk, in the Middle East and in India, where he was twice the Commander-in-Chief. As C.-in-C. in India, he laboured unceasingly to produce a National Army worthy of the then undivided country; and also to foster the smaller and less well established R. I. N. and R. I. A. F. Then, with his plans approaching fruition he was faced with the position of the control of the contro with the partition of the Armed Forces. As Chairman of the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee and as a member of the Joint Defence Council, he has been largely instrumental in the carrying out of this delicate and difficult taska task that has never before been attempt. ed in the history of the world.

# UPLIFT OF SCHEDULED CASTES also feel with the last speaker that economic uplift and educational oppor-

# Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Assurance

the uplift of the scheduled castes is in the forefront and will remain in the forefront of this Government until such time as there is no such class as scheduled castes in our society," said the Hon'ble Rajkujmari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health, Government of India, speaking on the resolution moved by Shri V. I. Munaswami Pillai in the Dominion Parliament on Nov. 27, regarding the amelioration of the condition of the scheduled castes.

The Hon'ble Minister said: Inasmuch as the resolution before the House refers to certain aspects of the general question of amelioration for the scheduled castes, I would like to say that Government is wholly in sympathy with its spirit and its aims. It is the clear and definite policy of the Government that living conditions for all those who today live in hovels—and it is not only scheduled castes—should be ameliorated. Naturally, the scheduled castes will benefit as well as anyone else. Development grants, as is known to the House, are made to the Provinces. They can use them for any purpose and doubtless there is no Province but keeps the needs of the backward and the poor classes in the forefront of all their programmes.

As far as the Centrally Administered Areas are concerned and for which the Centre is responsible, the Improvement Trust in Delhi had decided to clear all slum areas, and I would like to assure the mover of the resolution that those slum areas in which the scheduled castes live will be the first to go. All the poor that will thus be displaced will be given new sites.

# **Poor Class Housing Scheme**

There is also a poor class housing scheme, which will also benefit the scheduled castes. In this scheme the criterion is not going to be community. It is the earnest desire of the Government not only to banish untouchability root and branch, but also to give to the backward and poor classes all the help that they need for improvement of their living conditions and for their general

As far as the water supply is concerned, all public sources of water are legally open to the scheduled castes, but we are all aware that custom and usuage deal harshly with them. Recently, therefore, the provisions of the Bombay Removal of Social Disabilities Act of 1946 have been extended to the Delhi Province and they are going to be extended to the other Centrally-Adminis-Aered areas also.

Any schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the scheduled castes will certainly have the full sympathy of the Central Government. Supplementary grants to Provinces for any schemes of such amelioration or uplift will obvicuely depend on what the Provinces have ready in the way of schemes and what they are able to work out, and I may assure the House that it will be the policy of the Central Government to help the Provinces do all they can to ameliorate the condition of these unfortunate people.

It is, however, difficult to accept any specific figure for such grants at this stage. The House may rest assured that the uplift of the scheduled castes is in the forefront and will remain in the forefront of this Government until such time as there is no such class as scheduled castes in our society.

### "UNTOUCHABILITY MUST GO"

speaking on the resolution on Dec. 2 the Health Minister said that Government policy on the subject was absolutely clear and definite. Untouchability must go and Government is pledged to resort to every means in its power so that this curse shall be eliminated from this land.

"There are Acts for the removal of social disabilities in practically every province", she added: "It is only right that they should be there, and as I said the other day, the Bombay Act is now going to be applied to all the Centrally Administered Areas also. But I am painfully aware of the fact that while these Acts do obtain and are on the Statute Book, they are observed in the breach rather than in their observance, and for that I do feel that the Provincial Governments as well as the Centre should have some machinery to see that the law is not disobeyed. I shall not hesitate from the Centre to give this directive to all Provinces, and I hope that not only Provinces, but all the States will also bring these laws on to their Statute Books.

"I had occasion to tour Kathiswar during a drought period, and it hurt me beyond measure to see that while cattle and dogs could come and drink water from the chaubachas or tanks near the wells, Harijans could not come to quench thur thirst even there. Government is aware, I repeat, of all these disabilities. I know also that money is necessary for the provision of wells not only for Harijans but for everybody where there is no pure water available.

"I know also that the housing needs of Harijans and of all the poor are a crying urgency and need 'immediate action. I know also that money is needed for educational and economic uplift. Government will do everything within its means to supply these needs because I

also feel with the last speaker conomic uplift and educational opportunities for the scheduled castes, and indeed for all backward clarges, are created of the chief means of raising their present standards. But I do want to say this to the mover of the original resolution that in the development schemes that the Government has in view I am quite sure that the scheduled castes will get all the financial need that is necessary, and I hope it will be more than what he asked for in his resolution (hear, hear).

## **Educational Facilities**

"For the Centrally Administered Areas I would like to say that we shall try to do everything that we possibly can from the point of view of housing for Harijans, for drinking water, as well as for educetional facilities for them. But I do also want to ask Members in this House who are going to pass this resolution today to speak with the same cloquence and work with equal energy so that all those people whom they represent will bansih unter chability in their respective areas, because however much money may be given from Government, however many laws are passed for the removal of untouchability, there has got to come that heart-change among those who have so far practised this evil custom, and that is the best way of removing this inhumanity from our society.

In accepting Seth Govind Das's amendment to the original resolution, I wish to assure the House on behalf of Government that we shall not rest content until the word "Scheduled Castes" is banished from our vocabulary (hear, hear), and I also wish to assure Shri Thakurdas Bhargava that this resolution will not be interpreted in a narrow sense. It is not only house sites or drinking water facilities or scholarships that are required, but the removal of all disabilities so that the scheduled castes may have the fullcat opportunity of self-development and that they may attain an equal status with every other citizen of this country. submit also that no separatism is needed for them in the matter of drinking water or for anything else. They are eligible for houses for living wherever they want to, for drinking water from wherever they want to, for going to any educational institution they want to etc. For after all, they are part and parcel of the great Hindu community and nothing elic.

In connection with the proceedings of the United Nations Assembly when the vote on the partition of Palestine westaken, it was reported that the Indian Delegation had withdrawn after the proposal for partition had been carried by the requisite majority, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on Dec. 11.

#### It added:

Members of the Indian Delegation.

Now back in Delhi, have stated that this cocount is entirely incorrect. India did not withdraw after the vote: only the representatives of the Arab States did so.



# BILL TO CONSTITUTE INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL

# Health Minister's Speech

Noving "That the Bill to constitute an Indian Nursing Council be taken into consideration" in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 9, the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health, said that statutory provision for a Nursing Council had been a long-felt need, and the measure was very much overdue. "The present position", she added, "is absolutely untenable. There is no central body to co-ordinate or to ensure a uniform minimum standard of training. There is no inter-provincial recognition of nursing qualifications. It is not possible. Provinces have their separate Councils and they have separate standards. It is a most unsatisfactory position.

"It causes the utmost inconvenience to hospitals or other authorities who wish to employ nurses. Moreover, it is a very great hardship on the profession itself. Further, there is no body either to negotiate with foreign authorities for the reciprocal recognition of qualifications. That also is a very great lack. This Bill is intended to remedy these defects.

# The Central Council

"The Central Council, that is sought to be brought into being, will provide means for raising the standards of training and improving the status of the profession itself and for giving it international standing also. For, it will provide minimum standards of training it will grant recognition to nursing qualifications and it will also negotiate with foreign countries for recognition of those qualifications. The Council has been sought to be made an extremely representative body. It will represent all the Provinces. It will be representative of the profession itself. It will have, on its Board, administrative medical officers, in charge of the health services and it will be representative also of the medical profession as a whole in India and of all others that are qualified to contribute to the work of this Council.

"There is one important thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the House and that is that the Council will also have powers to withdraw recognition of qualifications, and under the Bill only those with recognised qualifications will be enrolled as nurses, midwives and health visitors. This, in itself, will ensure that inter-provincial reciprocity in the matter of registration which is today absolutely lacking".

The Health Minister, after referring to the history of the Bill, said:

"I do not konw, Sir, if the House is aware that today in the whole of India including Pakistan, there are only 7,000 nurses and only 5,000 midwives. This constitutes a ratio in our country of one nurse for every 43,000 of the population, as against one nurse to 300 in the United Kingdom and one to 367 in the United

States of America. Because of the need for nurses in the Kurukshetra Camp I was impelled, the other day, to make a country-wide appeal for nurses. But as I was making that appeal I was wondering how it could be responded to.

"The hospitals that have spared me nurses from Bombay and elsewhere, and my own hospitals of Delhi, have been depleted of their nursing staff in order to provide the need for Kurukshetra. All of them are now working almost at breaking point and they say that they will have to close down the wards on account of the shortage of nurses. This position is deplorable. Apart from the fixing of minimum standards for training and qualification, I feel that this measure will give some encouragement to our girls and our women to come forward to enter this noble profession.

"We lose many lives today simply because we have not got midwives who are properly trained and because nursing qualifications are not as high as they should be. If this Bill is passed-as I hope -with one voice, I know that it will be a big step forward towards the attainment of our object. But I also hope that Members of this House will not rest bringing content with merely bringing this measure on to the Statute Book but that they will go back to their various Provinces and insist on the Provinces having at least one Nursing College, so that opportunity may be afforded to our girls to come and join this noble pro-

"We cannot render proper medical aid to our people without adequate nursing aid because nursing is one of the most important limbs of the medical profession. However skilled the surgeon and however efficient the physician, the life of the patient really is in the hands of skilled and efficient nurses".

# LEGAL POSITION

The legal position regarding the amendment moved by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar to part (C) of Clause 2 of the Indian Nursing Council Bill was explained in the Dominion Parliament, on Dec. 8, by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Minister of Law.

Dr. Ambedkar said:

Part (C) of Clause 2, of the Bill, which was moved by the Health Minister, is as follows: "Provincial Council means a Council (by whatever name called) constituted under the law of a Province to regulate the registration of nurses, midwives or health visitors in the Province". The amendment, moved by Mr. M. Ananthasaynam Ayyangar, was:

"That in part (C) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the word 'Province' wherever it occurs, the words 'or a State' be inserted.

The States he explained, were linked with the Union of India in two different ways: the one way by which they were linked was what is called the standstill agreement, which had been made between the Union of India and the various Indian States. The second link by which the States were bound to the Indian Union, are the Instruments of Accession.

"There is a fundamental difference between the two links", he added. "The standstill agreements are purely contractual. They preserve such agreements as existed between the old Government of India and the Indian States under paramountcy before Aug. 15, 1947. They do not confer any jurisdiction upon the Government of India to legislate either by way of altering those arrangements or making them the foundation of any law which would bind the Indian States. Therefore, so far as we are concerned, in the matter of making any law by this Legislature which is intended to be applicable to the Indian States, it is quite clear to my mind that we cannot take our stand on the standstill agreement. We must, therefore, rely upon the Instrument of Accession, which is the only foundation which gives us legal jurisdiction to pass any law ".

Dr. Ambedkar said that this Legislation related to entry No. 16 in the Concurrent List and that Instrument of Accession, whatever power they gave to the Central Legislature to legislate, definitely excluded all items included in the Concurrent List. "I should have thought that by that very proposition that the Concurrent Lists are not covered by the Instruments of Accession, the jurisdiction of this House is completely ousted.

# Three Subjects Only

"When we apply legislation which is originally in the Bill confined to a particular area, to another area not made subject to that at the time when the Bill was passed, the position is this, that the area over which the legislation is subsequently extended is not subject to the jurisdiction of the legislature. If the legislature wanted, in the very first instance, to apply that law to that area, nothing in the constitution of this Government, or in the powers of the legislature could prevent the legislature from doing so.

"So far as the States are concerned, we have jurisdiction over their territory with regard to three subjects only; we have not got full jurisdiction. We are not limiting our jurisdiction when we are legislating with respect to a State in respect of the three subjects; we are, in fact, spending our legislative authority to the fullest extent that we have.

"So far as the Provinces are concerned, we have at the moment, when we are enacting the law, jurisdiction which we could exercise if we wanted to do so. That is not the case with regard to the Indian States.

"True enough, if a supplementary Instrument of Accession was passed we could get the jurisdiction necessary for the purpose of enacting the law; but

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what I would like to submit to my friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, is that the law can never be hypothetical and law can never be passed in anticipation of some jurisdiction being acquired. That is contrary to the principle of legislation. Law must be definite, law-must be absolutely clear to what it applies, to what it cannot apply. And therefore, unless and until we have with us a supplementary Instrument of Accession giving the Central Legislature the power to enact it to extend this, I am sure, we could not anticipate that there might be an Instrument of Accession which the Governor-General might accept and then we might get a chance to extend this legislation. I am sure that is contrary to the principles of legislation.

"All that, therefore, we must hope for is, for the moment, to confine the Bill to the Provinces' of British India, to hope that we will get similar Instruments of Accession—supplementary ones—from the Indian States, when we can by law, either extend our legislation to the States, or the States can parr passu along with this legislation, have similar legislation in their own States and make the provisions of this law applicable to their territory.

"Sir, I therefore think that this amendment would make the Bill ultra wirs and, therefore, could not be accepted"

# BANKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE

The Banking Companies (East Punjab and Delhi) Ordinance 1947, which requires banks under moratorium to pay 10 per cent. of the deposits, does not contain any provision regarding payment of drafts issued by the banks before the date of the moratorium, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Finance on Dec. 13.

A number of representations have been received from the holders of such drafts, and after careful consideration. Government of India have decided that payments against such drafts should be allowed to the same extent as in the case of deposits.

An amending Ordinance has accordingly been issued on Dec. 13, 1947, to provide for payments up to 30 per cent. of the amount of the draft or Rs. 750, whichever is less, during the three months' period of the moratorium.

# DR. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 55)

any jurisdiction. And so any sort of legislation which he wanted to be introduced by his amendment to clause 1, would be purely speculative.

"Here, so far as this Bill is concerned there is nothing inherently impossible in the Indian Dominion acquiring further jurisdiction of an extra-provincial character, and therefore, a legislation, which looks at the application of this by anticipation, would not be speculative because the possibility is always there. I, therefore submit that there is no inconsistence in the two positions I have taken.

# "KEEP THE VILLAGE CLEAN"

# Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Broadcast

very great deal of our ill-health is due to our own fault, and ignorance is its cause" said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, broadcasting in Punjabi to the people of East Punjab from the Delhi Station of All India Radio, on Dec. 11.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said:

I am at the radio tonight to speak to my village friends about village reform and because I am, at the moment, trying to serve you in the sphere of health my talk to you today will be about health.

You must be aware how very backward our country is in the matter of health. All kind of diseases and fevers are rampant in the country. The incidents of death in childhood are great as also for women during child-birth. Our expectation of life is the lowest in the world. It is true that our poverty is very largely responsible for most of these ills. We do not get enough to eat, milk and ghee are rare commodities today, the pressure on land has increased tremendously, there is unemployment and very little money. But I do want to say this to you that in spite of all this a very great deal of our ill health is due to our own fault, and ignorace is its cause".

- "If you remain the victims of disease you will never be able to make any progress. I therefore ask you to pay due attention to the following:—
- (1) Eat bread made from handground flour. If handground flour is not procurable, let it be flour ground by kheras (bullock mill). You should realise that machineground flour has no vitamins in it.
- (2) Cultivate the habit of eating vegetables and the more raw vegetables you can eat the better. Whenever you can find fruit, eat fruit also.
- (2) Give the utmost attention to the care of your cattle. They are your greatest wealth. It is because they do not get proper care that our cows yield little milk and our cattle are of poor quality. Then how can we expect to get either milk or ghee and how can our agriculture thrive?
- (4) Keep the village clean. It is because we do not conform to the laws of hygiene and sanitation that disease spreads in our midst. Dirt produces flies, mosquitoes and other germs which are the root cause of the spread of disease. To keep your houses and lanes clean and free of all refuse is your duty.
- (5) Due attention must be paid to personal cleanliness also. Clean clothes, clean cooking and eating utensils, clean children, clean houses, clean lanes, healthy cattle, all these are the signs of a prosperous village.

- (6) Unclean water is another cause of disease. Always drink water from a good well, never from a stagnant tank or a pond. Keep the place near your drinking-water well clean.
- (7) Inculcate early in your children the habits of cleanliness. If there is a school send all your children to that school.

## Village Handicrafts

- (8) Every house must hum with the spinning wheel. Isn't it a shame that we cannot produce our own cloth? That our women have, to a large extent, given up spinning has been a crime on their part. I beseech all my village sisters to take to the spinning wheel once again and make their village prosperous and I do not plead only for the spinning wheel I plead with you for the revival of all village handicrafts. If you can cater for all your requirements in your own village then what need have you of anything else? You will then, indeed, be kings, in your own bomes. This is what Mahatmaji has been telling you for years. This is what he is saying to you today. You should listen to him.
- (9) My message, therefore, to you today is to awaken from your shand. Drive the wolf of poverty from your door. Do not spend foolishly, get rid of all the evil customs which have crept into our society, do not gamble, do not drink alcohol, do not get into debt, keep your character above reproach, live with each other as brothers. Today internecine strife has brought the utmost misery on our country. We must drive this evil out of our society. Quarreling and killing lead nowhere. Love conquers all things. Our health can only be good if we live cleanly and well".

## Mr. NEOGY'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 46)

has been done. Much has to be done still. As I have said before, the response of the country has been magnificent so far, but the final and satisfactory solution of the problems created by this huge transfer of population can only be arrived at by the nation's representatives exercising a diligent and continued interest in the matter. I am aware that there have been criticisms of the Ministry. I welcome all criticisms. I do hope that this debate will reveal to the Ministry the wishes of the House in the shape of concrete suggestions, so that the Ministry can go forward to the bigger and more serious task ahead with the assurance that it has the Hou-e behind it and, through it, the confidence of the nation'

## ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STRESSED

## Mr. Bhabha's Address at Havana Conference

T is our belief that one of the main tasks before this Conference is to seek to reach agreement on the outstanding issues regarding economic development and commercial policy in a manner that will meet the legitimate aspirations of comparatively underdeveloped countries", declared the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, leader of the Indian Delegation, at the Plenary Session of the Trade and Employment Conference at Havana on November 29.

Mr. Bhabha at the outset, expressed satisfaction that India had been closely connected with the various stages leading to the framing of the draft Charter since the first session of the Preparatory Committee and said: The draft Charter still contains a wide area of disagreement, but it is our hope that as a result of the joint efforts of the representatives of the countries gathered here these differences will have largely disappeared and the Charter in its final form will have reconciled the needs and aspirations of individual countries with the requirements of international economic cooperation.

#### **Mutual Understanding**

"The draft Charter now before us differs materially from earlier drafts. It is a tribute to the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation displayed by the countries represented on the Preparatory Committee that the principles originally enunciated have been modified in an attempt to meet the needs and circumstances of countries with different economic systems and in varying stages of economic development.

"That does not, however, imply that the present version of the draft Charter is perfect or that it fully resolves all major issues of policy on which unfortunately some divergence of views still persists. The Indian Delegation will in the course ask for a further consideration of the issues on which, members of the Preparatory Committee will recall, the Indian Delegation reserved its position at the second session of the Preparatory Committeee at Geneva. Nor does it follow that the draft Charter as framed vill immediately on its enforcement release the wheels of intermational trade which are now clogged by all manner of restrictive practices and lead to an automatic expansion of world trade on a abbstantial scale. If, nevertheless, the Government of India are in general agreement with the broad outlines of the draft it is because they feel that, subject to the observations which I shall presently make, the revised version of the draft Charter represents the widest measure of agreement that it has been possible to reach on a subject which is free neither from technical complications nor from embarrassing controversy.

"At the same time it is our belief that one of the main tasks before this Conference is to seek to reach agreement on the outstanding issues regarding economic development and commercial policy in a manner that will meet the legitimate aspirations of comparatively underdeveloped countries.

"Mr. President, as I said a little while ago, our general support to the framework of the draft Charter does not imply that we believe that an automatic expansion of world trade on any substantial scale would follow upon the enforcement of the Charter by the signatory nations. That of course follows from the fact that the fundamental economic problem of the world today is the problem of production, and unless the productive resources of the world, damaged or destroyed by war, are repaired and re-employed and unless resources now lying undeveloped are exploited as efficiently and rapidly as possible, mere liberalisation of trading conditions will not bring about a substantial and lasting increase in world trade and employment. It was therefore eminently right and proper that the problems of full employment and economic development should have been placed in the forefront of the draft Charter.

#### National Policy

"There is, however, one aspect of this matter, which requires special emphasis. While there can be no difference of opinion as to the necessity for the quick development of the productive resources of a country, the agency by which, and the terms and conditions on which such development should take place are issues which, I believe, must in the last analysis be decided by national policy. There are considerable misgivings on the provisions of the Charter by countries on the threshold of industrialisation, or are still in the early stages of industrial development. These misgivings are genuine and cannot be disregarded.

"Before I conclude, I would like to say a word about the nature of the organisation which is to administer the International Trude Charter. Now, in this Assembly or outside it, no one can object to the high aims set forth in Article I of the draft Charter, namely attainment of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development. If these objectives are to be attained. the administration of the Charter must be in the hands of a body which is fully representative of the different types of economy and which will approach its task in a spirit of mutual understanding, goodwill and co-operation. That way alone her the success of any international organisation."

## UNDER- Assurance of Loyalty to Indian Dominion

Assurances of loyalty to Indian Dominion were given by different sections of Indian population in Sumatra when India's first Consul-General in Batavia, Mr. N. Raghavan, recently visited the island.

Accompanied by Mrs. Raghavan, the Consul-General visited Medan, Palembang, Singapore and Penang during his eightday tour of Sumatra and Malaya.

In Medan, the Muslim Association of India and Pakistan, on behalf of the Indian Muslim community, gave an address of welcome to the Consul-General. They said: "We, Indian Muslims, pledge our loyalty and faith to the Government of Indian Dominion and to the Tricolour flag.".

#### **Indian Consultative Committee**

Indians in Sumatra, it is learnt, have formed a joint body, called the Indian Consultative Committee representing all Indians, both from India and Pakistan.

Mr. Raghavan addressed a gathering of Indian labourers and visited six Indian schools in Medan. A deputation of Indians from outlying districts met the Consul-General.

At Palembang, Mr. Raghavan discussed with the local authorities problems relating to the Indian population there.

As a result of the Consul-General's tour problems relating to nearly 20,000 Indians in Sumatra have been taken up for consideration.

## EMIGRATION CONTROLLER FOR MADRAS

The emigration establishments in India were taken over by the Central Government in 1944. Since then the flow of Indian nationals overseas which had been held up during the war, due to the lack of shipping facilities, has created a variety of complex problems arising out of the post-war conditions obtaining in those countries, and other allied factors.

The need for effective and co-ordinated control of emigration through all the Indian ports has therefore become even more important than before.

The Government have accordingly decided to appoint a Controller of Emigration at Madras to assist the Controller-General of Emigration of the Government of India at Delhi. The Controller will be primarily responsible for the working of the Indian Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency and will exercise supervisory and co-ordinating control ever all Protectors of Emigrants in that Presidency.

# NEED FOR INTELLECTUAL CLEANLINESS AND COURAGE

## Mrs. Asaf Ali's Address at UNESCO Conference

THE basic causes that take human beings to the brink of disaster are greed and the power lust of the few. Unless we can eradicate this primary defect in our socio-economic structure, I, for one, cannot foresee a world settling down to life where evil, untruth and unloveliness will cease to influence man", said Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali, a member of the Indian Delegation, in her address to the recent plenary session of the UNESCO General Conference at Mexico City.

Mrs. Asaf Ali said: "What is UNESCO doing to restore national equilibrium? I am not ignoring the UNESCO's limitaticus; I am not overlooking the limitations of even greater and more powerful body, U. N. O. At the same time, we must honestly face our responsibilities and the implications of the fact that the world's sick condition is a cause for grave anxiety today even more than it was two years ago, when the UNESCO was ushered in to heal that sickness. It may be said that the remedy that is being trued is a sure one though it takes some time to yield desirable results. I am afraid that does not satisfy me. The world is sick today and gravely, critically sick; it needs to be healed here and now and immediately if it is to be saved.

"As one reads the Director-General's report, one cannot help admiring the outlines of a design for peace which is to

unfold itself gradually through international collaboration in the fields of education, science and cultura. The design is, however, too complicated and elaborate and its completion will take ionger than humanity can afford to wait. A crisis will overtake us unless we make haste and war will win the race, not the UNESCO.

#### Serious Limitations

"I reasliso the difference positive peace and negative peace; I also realise that we must build peace on a positive basis if it is to be lasting. The question, however, before us today, I suggest in all humility, is not what is ultimately or ideally desirable, but what is immediately essential. Unless, therefore, we devote our energies to the urgent task of banishing and outlawing war and rescuing peace from its present precarious condition, there is danger of the UNESCO itself and all that it stands and strives for being washed away by a rapidly advancing deluge.

"I am tempted to say that in the present conditions, a body like the UNESCO has serious limitations, and that even the bigger and more powerful United Nations Organisation is a house divided against itself. I may also say that so long as the present political and economic pattern of the world is not radically altered, there can be no real peace for mankind, and that only a political

organisation, not we here, can do anything immediately effective to save the peace of the world. But that would be no better than a counsel of despair, and its logical conclusion would be to wind up this Organisation and to admit that the forces of education, science and culture are no more than instruments in the hands of political and economic bosses, to be used for their own ends, as and when they please. I, however, will not be a Cassandra.

"While the UNESCO should not neglect such important subjects as Fundamental education, the Natural Sciences, Arts and Letters, Philosophy and Humanities, Museums and so on, I feel that for some time to come we must concentrate our limited energies and material resources on those activities which help in the immediate task of combating international distrust and conflict and mobilising the mind of the common man all over the world against the forces which are today leading the nations to a war of unimaginable frightfulness and destruction. I am certain that even in the present state of things, if the intellectual leaders in the different countries are determined to establish peace, they can achieve a great deal. The only conditions of success are intellectual cleanliness and courage.

#### International Understanding

"The UNESCO's activities, in the immediate future should be centred around one main project designed to bring about international understanding and implementing this project; and the UNESCO must align itself with all progressive forces and with progressive forces and with progressive forces only. International co-operation has failed during the past because the ruling cliques which control wealth and political power within national groups were opposed to each other and could not rise above their conflict of interests. Let us not make the same mistake again."

According to information received from Mexico City, where the Second Session of the United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was held, Mr. H. J. Bhabha was elected Chairman of the Working Party on Natural Sciences; Mr. Ashfaque Hussain was elected Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on education for International Understanding, a Member of a Committee of seven to revise the rules of procedure and also the convener of a Committee of three to investigate and report on the financial administration of UNESCO. Sir S. Radhakrishnan, lender of the Indian Delegation, was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

Indian and Gurkha officers have already been posted to the battalions of the six Gurkha Rifle Regiments which will continue to be in the Indian Army. These regiments are the lst, 3rd, 4th, 5th Royal, 3th and 9th Gurkha Rifles.

Over 70 Gurkha officers are now holding Commissions in the Indian Army. They were Viceroy's Commissioned officers and were promoted to 2nd Lieutenants after appearing before 8 Services Selection Board.

## India's First High Commissioner in Ceylon

ORDIAL greetings were exchanged between the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr. D. S. Senanayake and Mr. V. V. Giri, on the latter's appointment as India's High Commissioner in Ceylon.

The Prime Minister of Ceylon said;

"It is a great privilege for me today, on behalf of my Government and the people of Ceylon, to offer you our felicitations and good wishes on your appointment as the first High Commissioner of the Dominion of India in Ceylon. To me personally this appointment gives genuine pleasure as it will give me an opportunity of dealing with a friend for whom I have had the highest regard, and who, I know, is held in high esteem by the people of this country.

"I shall be grateful if you will convey to the Government of India greetings from Ceylon and assure them of our assistance and co-operation in maintaining and strengthening the cordial relations between the Dominion of India and Ceylon".

Mr. Giri replied:

"Your kind message of felicitations and good wishes on my appointment as the first lligh Commissioner of the Dominion of India in Ceylon has given me the greatest pleasure. I have had the privilege and pleasure of your friendship now for more than half a dozen years and I consider it a great compliment when you say that I have to some extent succeeded in my endeavour to secure the esteem of the people of this country.

"I am conveying to the Government of India your greetings on behalf of Ceylon. With you as the Prime Minister of Ceylon I feel confident that the cordial relations that exist between the Dominion of India and Ceylon will grow from strength to strength and that any outstanding differences will soon be settled to the satisfaction of both countries."

## TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA 8, 1946;

### Prime Minister's Statement

AKING a statement on South Afr.ca in the Constituent Assemble (Legislative) in New Delhi on Dec. 12. the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, sa d:

The House is aware of the text of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 8, 1946, on the treatment of Indians in South Africa. To refresh the memory of Hon'ble Members, I would quote the substantive part of the resolution:

"The General Assembly is of the opinion that the treatment of Indians in the Union should be in conformity with the international obligations under the agreements concluded between the two Governments and the relevant provisions of the Charter; and,

Therefore requests the two Governments to report at the next session of the General Assembly the measures a lopte ! to this effect".

The House is also aware of the correspondence which took place between me and Field Marshal Smuts with a view to giving effect to this resolution. The Prime Minister of South Africa was insistent that, before any negotiations could take place between the two Governments, the so-called sanctions which India had applied against South Afr.ca, namely the severance of trade relations between the two countries, should be withdrawn and the High Commissioner for India should return to the Union. We, on our part, while expressing a sincere desire to settle the problem of the treatment of Indians in South Africa by friendly means, expressed our inability either to resume trade relations, or to enter into negotiations, except on the basis of the Assembly resolution of 1943.

#### **Broad Directive**

Since no agreed basis for discussion between the two Governments could be reached as a result of this correspondence, we instructed our Delegation to the Second Session of the United Nations Assembly, which commenced in New York last September, to work for a resolution which, after expressing the regret of the Assembly at the failure of South Africa to accept last year's resolution as a basis of settlement by negotiation with the Government of India, would require South Africa to enter into negotiations with this country on the aforesaid basis and would request both India and South Africa to report the result to the Security Council not later than three months from the end of the Assembly session. Subject to this broad directive, the Delegation was given discretion to adjust the exact terms of the resolution to the exigenies of the atmosphere and the mood of the Assembly.

After sounding opinion amongst other Delegations, the Delegation presented a resolution, of which the operative part ran as follows:

"The General Assembly, having considered the reports submitted by the Government of India and by the Government of the Union of South Africa, pursuant to the aforesaid resolution;

"Expresses its regret at the refusal by the Government of South Africa to accept implementation of the resolution of the General Adssembly dated December 8, 1946, as a basis of discussion with the Government of India and of its failure to take any other steps for such implementation:

resolution dated "-Reaffirms its December 8, 1946;

"Requests the two Governments to enter into discussions at a Round Table Conference on the basis of that resolution without any further delay and to invite the Government of Pakistan to take part in such discussions;

"Requests that the result of such discussions be reported by the Governments of South Africa and India to the Secretary-General of U. N. O. who shall, from time to time, make inquiries from them and

"Submit a report on the action taken this resolution by the two Governments to this Assembly at its next session".

In the course of the discussion of this resolution by the Political Committee, the Delegations of many countries who had supported India's cause during the 1946 debate urged that the part of our resolution which invited the Assembly to express its regret at the refusal by the Government of South Africa to accept the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly December 8, 1946, as a basis of discussion with the Government of India and of its failure to take any other steps for such implementation" was tantemaunt to a condemnation of South Afr.ca and likely to be regarded as evidence of a desire on the part of India to humiliate the South African Union. Since our Government or show any spirit of vindictiveness but only to work for a settlement which would safeguard Indian interests, the Delegation, with our approval, agreed to accept an amendment, moved by the Maxican Delegation, which had the effect of deleting the words which I have just quoted.

With this amendment, the resolution was adopted by the Committee by 29 votes against 10. On November 20, the same resolution was placed before the Assembly Thirty-one countries voted for the resolution and 19 against it. The resolution runs as follows:-

"The General Assembly considered the reports submitted by the Government of India and the Government of the Union of South Africa pursuant to the aforesaid resolu-

Requests the two Governments to enter into discussions at a Round Table Conference on the basis of that resolution without any further delay and to invite the Government of Pakistan to take part in such discussions;

Requests that the result of such discussions be reported by the Governments of the Union of South Africa and India to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall, from time to time, make enquiries from them and submit a report on the action taken on this resolution by the two Governments to the Assembly at its next session."

The majority in favour of this resolution, though substantial, fell short of the requisite two-thirds figure by 3. According to the rules of the Assembly which require a two-thirds majority for all resolutions on important subjects, this year's resolution is not binding. Its moral importance, however, is in no way diminished by the shortfall of three votes in the requisite two-thirds majority. In any case, we are advised that last year's resolution remains operative.

#### Tribute to India's Delegation

I should like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those countries which supported us on this occasion and to pay a tribute to our own Delegation for the ability with which they pressed India's case. The outcome of debate on issues such as that of the treatment of Indians in South Africa is to be measured not in terms of arithmetic but the intrinsic merit of the cause and the support of enlightened world opinion for that cause. Judged by these tests, the stand taken by the Government of India at the last session of the Assembly has been fully vindicated.

In supporting the cause of Indians in South Africa, we have worked not only for the rights of people of our cwn race but for the rights of oppressed people throughout the world. That attitude we are determined to maintain, in the firm faith that our cause is right and that ultimately right will prevail.

The House will not expect me, so soon after the conclusion of the Assembly session, to make any definite announcement as to our future course of action in this matter. Government must have time to study developments and to chart their future course in the light of such developments, particularly in the light of the views of those Indians in South Africa who, in order to uphold the honour of their race, have undergone and still are undergoing heavy sacrifices. All that I can do now is to give the House the assurance that we shall not falter either in our resolve to secure justice for Indians in South Africa or in our desire to achieve this object by methods which are consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

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## EXPANSION OF BROADCASTING--REVIVAL OF INFORMATION FILMS -MINERAL RESEARCH

## Standing Finance Committee Approves Schemes

ANUFACTURE of telephone equipment in India, development of broadcasting, revival of Information Films of India and the setting up of a Bureau of Standards for Medical Institutions formed the subjects of important schemes a proved by the Standing Finance Committee which met in New Delhi on December 13 and 14, under the chairman ship of the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Finance' Minister, Government of India.

The scheme for the manufacture of automatic telephone equipment and stores in Ind.a revealed that negotiations are in progress with some leading industrialists in the country for the setting up of a factory to produce each telephone equipment as at present is being imported. The necessary machinery, patent rights and technical assistance will have to be procured from abroad. If the scheme materialises, India should be in a position to make automatic telephone equipment within three years.

To improve the telephone service in Delhi, it is proposed to provide a new 4,000-line automatic unt in the Lothian Exchange in place of the existing one of 1,670 lines which was installed in 1923.

#### Making Radio Popular

From humble beginnings 20 years ago with two small transmitters at Calcutta and Bombay, broadcasting in India new aims at providing a programme for every person in the country in his own language and one which could be picked up with an inexpensive receiver. This is the essence of the Government of India's Basic Plan of Broadcasting.

To implement this plan, the Government have, in the first place, formulated an Eight-Year Programme, the highlights of which are: provision of new medium wave transmitters at Nagpur, Bezwada, Ahmedabad, Cuttack, Dharwar, Gauhati (or Shillong) and Calicut; construction of studio buildings at Madres and Calcutta, installation of medium-wave transmitters at various centres for urban and rural programmes; strengthening of the Research Department and the establishment of a Staff Training Echecl in New Lelli.

Filming life in each Province in its many fields of endcavour is one of the main purposes of the scheme to revive Information Films of India and Indian News Parade. Each Governer's Province will be 'covered' by a cameraman of the Government's news reel organization which is expected to begin distribution of films early next year. In addition, cameraman will be stationed at Delhi and one extra photographer will work at the headquarters office at Bombay. For the 'shooting' of short films six units are to be set up—four to produce

documentaries for cinemas, one for special films for external distribution and one for rural area 'specials'. The five distribution centres will be Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Lucknow and Nagpur.

The Government of India feel that the interests of the country will be best served by the setting up of a Government organization for the production and distribution of news reels, and that the exhibition of these news reels should be made compulsory.

To serve as a reservoir of knowledge and research which would help to present a true picture of the various aspects of life in India is one of the main functions of the Rosearch and Reference Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which is shortly to be revived. Its other main purpose will be to collect material and prepare studies on foreign subjects.

It is planned to divide the Research work into seven sections—India, Pakistan, Russia, America and Europe, Britain and Commonwealth Countries, Far East, Middle East. The importance of a good Library for such work is obvious.

\*The Standing Finance Committee sanctioned expenditure for the appointment of staff.

It was pointed out to the Standing Finance Committee that the preperal for the establishment of a Burcau of Standards for Medical institutions to not as a centre for hospital standards formed part of the five-year development plan drawn up by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

#### Mineral Resources

The Bureau's functions would be to prepare standard schedules of hospital equipment and standard plans of rooms, departments and hospital units, to carry out research in building and running costs of hospitals and to maintain a reference library of hospital plans, photographs, books, periodicals, etc.

Investigation of the mineral resources of India will be the a m of an organisation that is being set up under the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalere. This Research Institute, which will begin to function in March 1948 under Dr. Sir C. V. Raman, will direct scientific investigation of India's mineral resources from three points—physical, chemical and geological.

The Government of Mysore having given the Institute 11 acres of land for its site and the Institute having obtained from private contributions a sum of Rs. 4,08,000, the Standing Finance Committee sanctioned a non-occurring grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the scheme.

Preparations are under way for the establishment of a Coston Textile Research Institute as Annidabed, expenditure on which was approved by the Committee.

Improving materials used in the textile industry and its products will be primary object of the Ahmedabad Insutute. A special task will be to conduct research of a medical nature with particular autention to the wilfare of workers employed in the Industry.

The Committee also approved a grant for the establishment of a Regional Societatural Research Station at Kodegal, in Madras Presidency.

#### Grant to Allahabad University

A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs by Government to Allamabad University on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilis as a token of appreciation of the work done by the University was sanctioned. The donation will be earmarked for the development of the study of scientific and technical subjects and on research.

The Committee also sanctioned a grant to the Ramakrishna Mission to find a suitable permanent building for its Institute of Culture.

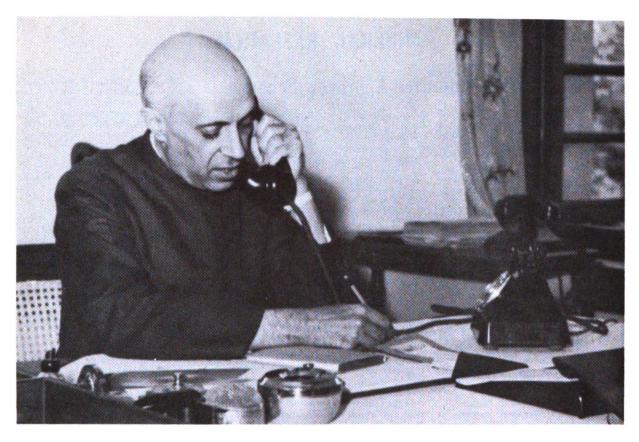
Fresh plant and equipment is to be installed in the Government of India's new mint at Alipur, construction of which, suspended during the war, has now been resumed. Sanction for this expenditure was obtained from the Committee.

The proposal to build a Rs. 140.54 lakh Mint at Alipore was approved by the Committee last year. Intended to replace the Mint at Calcutta, it would also have absorbed the Mint at Lahore which had been set up on a temporary basis during the war due to the decision to suspend the Alipore project. Consequent on the partition of the country, however, the Lahore Mint has been allotted to Pakistan, resulting in the loss to India of much machinery which had been earmarked for Alipore. Purchase of freeh plant and equipment has, therefole, become essential.

On Dec. 13 the Committee approved a grant of Rs. 19,43,000 non-recurring (involving about Rs. 2,50,000 recurring) to the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, towards its reorganisation up to the year 1950-1951 for the present. A Reorganisation Committee appointed by the Government of India recently submitted proposals for the extension of the rectivities of the School and for raising it, generally,

(Continued on Page 72,





Pandit Nehru inaugurated the India-Kashmir telephone link-up by greeting Sheikh Abdullah from his New Delhi residence on December 2

## Pandit Nehru Inaugurates India-Kashmir Telephone Service

THE first call in the new trunk telephone service between India and Kashmir was put through on Dec. 2, by India's Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Paudit Jawaharlal Nehru.

From his residence in New Delhi, Pandit Nehru greeted the Head of the Kashmir State Emergency Administration, Sheikh Abdullah, who had arrived in Jammu and was staying at the Maharaja's palace. Pandit Nehru spoke in Hindustani first to Sheikh Abdullah and then to Begum Abdullah and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Chief Emergency Officer. The conversation lasted about four minutes.

The inauguration of this service completes the new communication links forged recently between the State of Kashmir and India in place of the old one which passed through territories now lying in Pakistan and were snapped when raiders from the West inwaded and pillaged the State.

With the accession of the State to the Indian Dominion, the task of forging new communication links became the responsibility of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Within about a week of the State's accession telegraphic lines were laid. Mail communication was speeded up so that all first class mails were flown from Delhi to Kashmir and Jammu. Arrangements were also completed for wireless transmission between the State and Indian territory. In addition, vigorous steps were taken to accomplish the present telephone link-up overcoming difficult hilly terrain and shortages of transport, stores and labour. This job which would have taken about 5 to 6 months even in normal times was finished in less than one month.

The carrier equipment which is now being set up in Jammu will enable four conversations to be carried on simultaneously between Srinagar and any other place in the Ind.an Dominion.

The Post and Telegraph offices in the State of Kashmir, now kept open all the 24 hours, are all manned by Indian Posts and Telegraphs staff. Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs recently made a three-day tour of the State, during which he inspected the arrangements for postal and telegraphic communications.

#### STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Continued from Page 71)

to a standard as near as possible to that of the Royal School of Mines. As a result of the recommendations of the Committee, it is proposed progressively to raise the annual intake of students from 24 to 60, including 48 mining engineering students, and 12 geology students. For the present, however, it has been decided to limit the expenditure on expansion of the School on the basis of 48 annual admissions up to the year 1950-51.

Other schemes approved included a grant to the Government of Orissa for its new Capital project, investment by Government in Air Transport Companies, creation of the Indian Foreign Service and the Indian Administrative Service, creation of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and Ministry without Portfolio, appointment of Indian High Commissioners in Canada and Pakistan, creation of temporary poets for the Consulting Architect's Branch of the Central Public Works Department and transfer of the Government Nursery in New Delhi to a new site.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 1, 1948



Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Director-General of Civil Aviation, addressing the Conference of Civil Aviation Officials of the Government of India and representatives of Flying Clubs in New Delhi recently

## INDIAN AIR SERVICES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

WHILE the Indian air service to U. K. is expected to start from May, 1948, the question of establishing Indian air services to neighbouring foreign countries is under consideration by the Government of India.

Disclosing this in the Dominion Parliament in New Delhi on Dec. 11, the Honble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, stated that a daily service had been in operation between Calcutta and Rangoon for over four months. The Air Transport Licensing Board had granted a provisional licence to Indian National Airways Ltd., to operate the Calcutta-Rangoon route for a period of 90 days with effect from Nov. 1, 1947. A Pakistan airline with headquarters in Chittagong was also operating this route. Permission of the Burma Government, he affirmed, was necessary in respect of air service between India and Burma.

He added that the progress of schemes for the development of external air services was held up owing to constitutional uncertainties during the last 12 months.

Referring to training facilities in various branches of aviation, the Minister stated that the Civil Aviation Training Centre with two schools, namely, the Communications School and the Aerodrome School, commenced functioning in Saharanpur in November 1946. Necessary action to organise the Flying Training and Engineering and Mechanics Schools was in hand and it was expected to start them at an early date.

## NATIONALISATION OF AIRLINES

Government's policy is to facilitate the employment of Indians in the superior cadres of air transport companies. The question whether Government should secure any share in the capital and management of air companies is under consideration and the policy will be announced at an early date.

This declaration was made by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, in the Dominion Parliament in New Delhi, on Dec. 12, in reply to a short notice question.

Mr. Kidwai also disclosed that Government would subscribe 49 per cent. of the capital of the new company Air India International Limited which would operate an air service between India and the U. K. The share of Air India Limited who would be the Managing Agents for the new company, would be between 20 and 25 per cent. Fifty per cent of the Board of Directors of the new company as well as the Chairman would be Government nominees.

Government had not taken any share in the capital of any of the air transport companies in India, nor had they any control over the management. The provisions of the Indian Aircraft Act and the Rules made thereunder gave Government adequate power to control the operation of air services, both in the technical and the economic fields.

While the majority of the pilots in other Indian air transport companies were non-Indian, out of about 70 pilots employed by Air India Limited only two were so. The establishment of the Civil Aviation Training Centre would facilitate the training and recruitment of Indian air crews and ground engineers.

A press telegram service to Japan has been opened with immediate effect and press telegrams to Japan can now be booked at the rate of 5½ annas per word, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 12.

## DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR ASSAM

## Sir Akbar Hydari's Broadcast

ROADCASTIG from A. I. R. Calcutta on November 28, His Excellency Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam, indicated the main objectives of the development plan for Assam and revealed the role which the Government of India would be playing in the furtherance of the plan. Sir Akbar Hydari, after referring to the notable part played by Assam in halting the Japanese said:

"War and the imminent invesion from which the Province narrowly escaped, showed up the insecurity of its geographical position and the need to strengthen it. Close after the war came the partition of India. It had resulted in Assam being all but cut off from her parent India. "We ere now the North-East rampart of India", he added. "To the North, South and West, a good part of our boundaries—and the boundaries of two States whose integrity we have been charged by the Central Government to safeguard, Manipur and Tripura—march with those of Tibet, Burma and Pakistan. The province itself consists of freedom-loving communities which are to be fully integrated. All these factors present problems which give those who are in charge of her destinis many anxious and searching moments.

"In modern times the concept of a country's defence has undergone a fundamental change. It is not enough to have armed might. It is equally, if not more, essential to have contented, happy and healthy people to benefit from the mechanical means of self-defence which may be placed at their disposal. They must also have good communications for the transport of raw materials and their produce to the market. These problems are not peculiar to Assam; similar problems exist in other provinces of India; but what gives urgency to them in the case of Assam is the fact that so little was done in the past towards solving them; therefore Assam has more leeway to make up than the other more developed provinces of India; and now factors which I mentioned earlier have added their own urgency to the speedy attainment of these ends.

#### Integration of Communities

"There is however another problem which is peculiar to Assam and that problem is the integration of many communities which inhabit her hills, her valleys and her plains. We have reached understandings or agreements, whatever they may be called, with people inhabiting all main tribal areas. It is now our duty to implement them with sympathy and patience. These communities are freedem-loving, attached to their customs and their land. The problem is how to get them to live and work together as parts of one organism.

"It has been Assam's misfortune that in the past it was divided into three what may be termed zones of administration, each separate from the other; each not knowing very much of what is happening in the other. In fact it was a system of administrative compartmentalism. We have begun to change this and cradually rediscover relationships which existed before 1828. In Assamese Buranjis or chronicles of the 17th and 18th centuries one finds many notices of intercourse between hills and plains. It was as one of the steps in the process of this rediscovery of ancient contacts that the 'Hills and Plais s Peoples' Week' was organised in Shillong this month. I need not say more about this event as you may have come to know something of it through the courtesy of All India Radio. But this useful step can only be in the nature of a breaking of the ice, of getting people to know each other, to know at least what the other

looked like, how he sang and how he danced, what things he made and what clothes he wore. This is not all. The people must also be made to realise their material advantages in coming together, and these we are attempting to provide in the shape of roads, education and health. The development plan for tribal areas is grouped round these three main objectives.

"I am glad to say that in spite of great and unexpected demands on the Central purse, the Government of India have decided to maintain this grant in its entirety. Our development plan for areas other than tribal are also in the main aimed at achieving these simple but basic objectives. Assam is still emerging from a primitive economy which was looked after by a primitive administrative machine. They are now both out of date and what we are trying to do is, having regard to provincial peculiarities, so to remodel them as to equip Assam to take a useful place in the comity of Indian provinces.

(Continued on page 81)



H. E. Sir Akber Hydari, Governor of Assam, Lady Hyderi and Mr. Gepinath Bardoloi, Premier of Assam, photographed at the Willingdon Aerodrome before their departure from New Delhi



## LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S BELIEF IN INDIA'S UNITY

## Address at Jaipur Banquet

has been a leading state for many years, and the fine new buildings which can be seen everywhere, the new University, the magnificent hospital and the schools, reflect the greatest credit on His Highness and the policy he and his Government have followed," said H.E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of Ind.a, at the State banquet at Jaipur, while investing His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur, with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, on Dec. 14.

Here is the text of Lord Mountbatten's speech.

#### "Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"I need not say what a pleasure it is to us to be present at Jaipur on this very special occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Highness, and also to have the opportunity of renewing friendships with so many of the Ruling Princes of India. We not be made so many friends among Your Highnesses during our first visit to India in 1921, that we have always retained a very special affection and friendship for all the Princes.

"I have always been a strong believer in the unity of India, and I feel sure that the accession of the Indian States to the new Dominion of India cannot but be of advantage to both. The new Dominion of India and the States have many difficulties to face at the present time, and it is most important that each should give the other all possible support. It is, therefore, particularly gratifying to member the future with India, and I can assure you that their actions were deeply appreciated by the present Government of India.

Ar was only to be expected His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur, whose State in recent years has been well to the fore in all constitutional and administrative progress was one of those Eulers who took a reading part in bringing about accession. I need hardly emphasise the stablising effect which the accession of the Indian States to the Dominion of India has had; and this applies particularly to the Rajputana States in view of the strategic position which they occupy in India.

#### Constitutional Advance

"If I may speak for a moment on Jaipur State itself, I should like to say how much I personally, and my Government appreciate the constitutional and administrative advances which have been made in recent years, and which I feel sure will continue. I think the best evidence of the good political atmosphere in the State is shown by the happy relations that exist everywhere between all

sections of His Highness's subjects, the absence of disorders in the State during recent months is a striking tribute to the policy which His Highness's Government has pursued, and I have been particularly interested to see in the streets of Jaipur City, the friendly intermingling of Hindus and Muslims.

"On the administrative side, Jaipur has been a leading State for many years, and the fine new buildings which can be seen everywhere, the new University, the magnificent hospital, and the schools, reflect the greatest credit on His Highness and the policy he and his Government have followed.

#### Fitting Recognition

"I have known His Highness intimately for many years and as he has reminded you earlier, we often met on the polo field, but His Highness's activities have not 'been confiend to the field of sport. He holds the unique privilege of having served as an officer in His Majesty's Household Cavalry, and seen war served with the Life Guarde. In addition, the Jappyr Guarde' war cervice in Italy is well known to all of you have and I enail never forget the provilege of learne I had on most ng this fine unit during my visit to Hongkong early in 1945.

"Those of us who had the pleasure of seeing the Jaipur Guaris trooping the Colour will agree with me that it was worthy of the trooping of the Colour by any of the Regiments in His Majestr's Brigade of Guards on the Horse Guards Parade in London, and I should like to take this opportunity of saying how proud I was to have been invited to take the salute at this parade.

"It was a particular cleasure to me to be able to invest His Highness with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India after his Durbar today. I regard this as a fitting recognition of all that His Highness has accomplished during the 25 years he has been on the gaddi. This honour was to have been among those announced in the final Indian Honours list before the transfer of power, dated Aug. 14, 1947, but which, for administrative reasons, is going to be promulgated on Jan. 1, 1948, but in view of His Highness's Silver Jubilee celebrations His Majesty was pleased to approve that I should hold a special Investiture during these celebrations in the State. I am sure you will all be pleased as I am at this honour and join me in congratulating His Highness most sincerely.

"His Highness was kind enough to make some references to my wife's work, and I should like to thank him warmly on her behalf. My wife has a very keen interest and affection for India, and through all the troubles of the past few months, she has placed her knowledge and experience at the disposal of the United Council for Relief and Welfare. I am extremely proud of all that she has accomplished and while thanking His Highness for his kind words, I hope I shall be forgiven for paying this small tribute to her myself.

"In conclusion may I thank Your Highness on behalf of my wife, my daughter, and myself for the friendly welcome you have given us here, for your splendid hospitality, and all the arrangements which have been made for us during our visit. It has been a great joy to us to revisit Jaipur and we shall always have the happiest recollections of the impressive celebrations of Your Highness' Silver Jubilee.

"May I say I look forward with equal pleasure to the Golden Jubilec celebrations in the years to come. Your Highnesses, I adies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in drinking the health of His Highness Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Bahadur of Jaipur".

## ALLOTMENT OF JUTE QUOTAS

XPI.AINING that exports of raw jute and jute goods are allowed through established shippers as well as new-comers to the trade in the ratio of 90 to 10, the Hon'ble Mr. N.V. Godgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, stated in reply to a written question in the Dominion Parliament on Dec. 9, that, with regard to jute products, 347 applicants had been granted quotas from the new comers' reservation and 6,539 applications had been rejected.

New comers' applications in respect of raw jute were still under consideration, 588 such applications had been received. He added that the total quantity of jute manufactures allotted to new comers for export amounted to 68,657 tons.

Referring to the principle of distribution of quotas, the Minister indicated that firms or individuals were selected for allotment on their fulfilling the two following conditions:

- (1) They should not have received allotment as established shippers under the 90 per cent. reserved for such shippers.
- (2) They should have produced evidence of having received firm orders direct from the importing countries concerned, preference being given to those who produce evidence of letters of credit also.

Answering an oral question, Mr. Gadgil said that from the point of view of making the best possible use of India's foreign exchange resources, as well as in the ultimate interests of Indian shipping, it was Government's opinion that Indian shipping companies should be encouraged to purchase rather than charter ships.

He gave an assurance that the Government would render all 'practicable assistance" to Indian companies in the building or purchasing of additional ships.

## SHARE POWER WITH THE PEOPLE No one realises more than I do that the States can become honourable and

## Bikaner Maharaja's Appeal to Princes

HE time has come for us to take our people, fully into our confidence and share power with them", said His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in a broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radie on Dec. 12.

His Highness said: There was never a time in the history of India when the position of the States was more important or more significant than it is today. With the secession of the Pakistan provinces there has come into being a great nation of which no less than one half the area is comprised of Indian States. It was by their accession that the free Indian Dominion was converted from an area of 680,000 square miles to a Union of 1,200,000 square miles. How important they are in maintaining the stability and upholding the integrity of India has been amply proved in the four months of crisis through which we have passed.

The way the Princes of India rallied to the side of their mother country and gave every kind of assistance to enable her to surmount what seemed to be insuperable difficulties, will always be a memorable chapter in the history of new India.

In the matter of evacuating refugees, settling the uprooted population, in maintaining law and order, in giving military assistance where necessary, the States have shown their ready willingness to co-operate fully with the Indian Dominicn. Today the value of that co-operation, I am happy to say, is fully recognised and the States of India have established their undisputed claim to be considered equal partners in the building up of a new India.

#### Two Major Problems

The two major problems which the States have now to deal with are the regulation of their relation with the Dominion and the reconciliation of their ancient and traditional forms of Government with the claims of modern democratic ideas. So far as the first question, that is the relationship with the new Dominion is concerned, on the major subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications, they are now regulated by our accession to the Constitution. Over a wide range administrative matters our relations are governed by a Standstill Agreement. Apart from these matters covered by mutual agreements, the integration of the country as a whole has necessitated the co-ordination of policies in regard to economic, financial and other problems as the decisions taken by one party inevitably affect the other. To give only one familiar example, in the matter of food administration it is obviously necessary for India and the States to follow a unified policy. Again in the matter of irrigation projects, large-scale industrial development and the rehabilitation of refugees, effective action is possible only by the active co-operation of both the Don.injon and the States.

So far as the rehabilitation of refugees is concerned it is no doubt widely known that the Bikaner State has borne a large share of responsibility from the very beginning, placed in a peculiarly difficult position as it was, hemmed in between the two troubled areas of Eastern Punjab on the one side and Pakistan on the other.

Law and order has been completely maintained in the State throughout this period though unsettled conditions prevailed on both the borders of the State. From the time of the first Rawalpindi troubles the State has afforded asylum and refuge to thousands of Hindus and Sikhs from Western Punjab. thousands of When the partition troubles began, no less than 75,000 refugees mainly from Bahawalpur, poured into the State within the space of a fortnight. Many have been settled in the State.

#### Rehabilitation of Refugees

We have recently agreed with the Ministry of Rehabilitation to take 10,000 more to settle both in rural and urban areas. In the movement of refugee population between India and Pakistan both ways, the activities of the State have been specially notable. A total of over six lakhs of refugees have been evacuated under escort without a single person being killed or attacked within Bikaner territory. This perhaps is the largest single instance of active cooperation with the Indian Dominion.

In the same way in the matter of irrigation, the Bikaner State will soon have over 2,000 square miles of territory brought under the Bhakra Dam Project. In this respect too it is my intention to reserve a portion of the area to be so irrigated for the settlement of Hindus and Sikhs uprooted from Pakistan. It is only by co-operation in this manner, by sharing our common responsibilities, that a new India can be built up.

This changed relationship from paramountey to co-operation should with it a new attitude, a new approach to the problem of the States. The past has left a legacy of suspicion and distrust and the habit of mind towards the States has not kept pace with the changed circumstances. They are still looked upon in certain quarters with suspicion and even in States where the Rulers themselves are fully prepared to share power with their people and have taken measures accordingly, agitation is considered an essential pre-requisite of such sharing of power. I would strongly urge that this attitude of mutual suspicion and distrust should now give way to one of active co-operation and collaboration as between two units of the same body politic.

No one realises more than I do that the States can become honourable and effective members of the Indian Union only if they show their readiness to democratize their institutions and administrations. Monarchy, to play a useful part, must be ever-progressive, must be ready to adjust its theory and practice to the political conditions of the time.

It will be an act of wise statesmanship on the part of the Rulers to realise this and place on the people the responsibility for the governance of their own States. True, conditions in all the States are not such as to permit the establishment forthwith of responsible government, but it should be our aim as speedily as possible to do so within a period which should be clearly specified.

#### Interim Arrangements

For my part I had as long ago as June 1946 declared my intention to establish responsible government in Bikaner, and in August 1946 I had outlined the scheme whereby this objective would be attained after an opportunity had been afforded to the people to gain experience in carrying on the administration under an interim arrangement for a period not exceeding three years. Since then on a fuller consideration of all the factors I came to the conclusion that the pace should be accelerated and I have taken the decision that such interim arrangements should be continued for a period which should not exceed two years and at the end of which responsible government would automatically be established in my State. A new Constitution on that basis has already been promulgated on Dec. 4, which will vest in the people the substance of power and responsibility for the administration of the State.

I would in conclusion, say to my brother Princes that the time has come for us to take our people fully into our confidence and share power with them. The Ruler and his people should now work in unison to realise our common aim for the greater good of the State.

To the people of India outside the States, I would say that the Princes of India are no aliens, ruling over a hostile population. Like every one also in India they are of the soil, part of the proud history of India, an essential and stabilising factor in the unsettled conditions of today.

The Princes have a contribution of their own to make to the future greatness of our motherland. The conditions in the States are changing as fast as they are changing elsewhere, but it will be realised that the States have come into an integral relation with India for the first time in history, and given a little patience there is no reason to suppose that they will lag behind the rest of India in their political, economic and cultural progress.

Booking of all classes of articles including money orders and insure articles, for Western Pakistan has been resumed in all Post Offices in the East Punjab, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 29.

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## REDISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCES

## Prime Minister's Statement

NSWERING a short notice question by Prof. Ranga in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Nov. 27, regarding the formation of provinces on a cultural and linguistic basis, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister, said:

The attention of Government has been drawn to the resolution referred to in the question.

Government are fully aware of the demand in some parts of the country for new provinces to be formed primarily on a linguistic basis. Many years ago this demand was recognised by the Congress and Government to accept the principle underlying that demand. In giving effect to that principle, however, many other considerations have to be borne in mind. Apart from linguistic and cultural aspects sometimes also there is no clear demarcation and cultural and linguistic areas overlap. Hence a very careful enquiry is necessary before a decision can be arrived at.

Government are anxious not to delay the enquiry of the decision. But, as the House is fully aware, the country has had to face, ever since the new order started functioning, a very critical situation resulting from purtition. A living entity had a part severed from it and this unnatural operation resulted in all manner of distempers which have naturally affected the political, social and economic structure of the country. Reactionary forces took advantage of this asituation to consolidate themselves and to raise separatist cries. The old equilibrium having been shaken up, disruptionist tendencies came to the forc. To a large extent we have faced this crisis and overcome it. But many dangers still surround us.

#### Numerous Urgent Demands

There are numerous urgent demands in the economic and other spheres. When there are a multitude of such demands a certain priority has to be observed, otherwise there would be dispersion of effort and ineffectiveness. First things must come first and the first thing is the security and stability of India. Before we can undertake any major schemes we must have a strong state and a smoothly running governmental machinery. The first essential therefore is for India as a whole to be strong and firmly established, confident in her capacity to meet all possible dangers and face and solve all problems. If India lives, all parts of India also live and prosper. If India is enfeebled, all her component elements grow weak.

I suggest to the House that every problem must be viewed in this context today.

It is necessary to have a reconstitution of the provinces, or some of them. But

if we tackle this problem in a large way at present, there is grave danger of our energies being diverted from some of the more urgent tasks. In the case of some provinces the problem may be relatively easy, in the case of others it would be very difficult and very controversial.

The final determination in regard to the creation of new provinces appropriately rests with the Constituent Assembly. Government propose to take up this matter in the Constituent Assembly and ask for steps to be taken for preliminary enquiries to be made on this subject. One or more boundary commissions may also be appointed. It would be desirable not to complicate the issue by having too many simultaneous enquiries.

The demand for the province of Andhra, which, if I may say so, is a perfectly legitimate demand, raises relatively few difficulties and it can be included among the provinces in the constitution as was done in the case of Orissa and Sind under the Government of India Act of 1935. This decision can be implemented soon after the constitution is adopted.

The creation of the provinces of Mahrashtra and Karnatak involve greater difficulties as any marked change will powerfully affect the structure and economy of the provinces concerned. This question will require very careful consideration in all its bearings so that the final decision may be a just one and acceptable to the parties concerned.

It must be remembered that the creation of a new province inevitably affects all the neighbouring provinces and the interests of these will have to be considered. Every decision must of course be considered from the point of view of the country as a whole.

There is no reason why enquiries referred to above may not be completed within a year or so.

## RULES FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

THE rules to regulate the constitution and procedure of the Standing Committees of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) as adopted by the Assembly on Nov. 19, are:

I. The Chairman of each Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the Ministry to which the Committee is attached or any member elected by the Committee to act as Chairman for that meeting when the Minister is unable to be present, and an officer in that Ministry designated by the Minister shall be Secretary to the Committee.

II. A member of a Committee who ceases to be a member of the Constituent Assembly shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and if a vacancy occurs in a Committee for this or any other reason during the course of the period for which the Committee was constituted, a motion shall be made as soon as may be in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) for the election of a member to fill the vacancy.

III. The following subjects shall be laid before the Standing Committee

- (1) All non-official Bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly and legislative proposals which the Ministry concerned intends to undertake.
- (2) Reports of Committees and Commissions (not including unpublished reports of departmental committees) on which the Assembly is not adequately represented.
- (3) Major questions of general polic; and financial questions.
  - (4) Annual Reports.
- (5) With the approval of the Minister in charge, any topic of public importance within the field of the Committee which a member of the Committee may propose for discussion;

Provided that:

- (i) In cases of urgency a reference to the Committee may be dispensed with by the Ministry concerned.
- (ii) The following cases shall be  $\epsilon x$ -cluded from the purview of the Committee:
  - (a) Cases concerning appointments.
    (b) All cases which the Minister in
- (b) All cases which the Minister in charge considers cannot be placed before the Committee consistently with the public interest.

IV. The functions of Standing Committees will be purely advisory and that proceedings will be strictly confidential. No Press representatives will be allowed to attend any meeting of a Committee. Brief reports of the activities of each Committee, mentioning the subjects discussed and the conclusions reached by the Committee but not the tenor of the discussions, will be circulated to all members of the Assembly.

V. Meetings of the Standing Committees will be summoned by the Sccretary not less than twice a year at such times as may be decided by the Minister in charge. The agenda of the meeting will be drawn up and circulated by the Secretary together with a memorandum explaining the nature of each item of business and copies of such papers as the Minister in charge directs to be furnished to the Committee. Such papers will be returned by members to the Secretary at the close of each meeting. The proceedings of the Committee will be confined to items of business entered in the Agenda and any requests for further information will be dealt with under the orders of the Minister in charge.

VI. At a meeting of a Standing Committee, the Sccretary may be requested by the Minister to explain each item of business. The Chairman will then invite a discussion and the Sccretary will note on the departmental file the general opinion of the Committee.

## PERIODICAL REVISION OF LAW

## Dr. Ambedkar Outlines Government Attitude

laudable and he has my full sympathy with the motion that he has made", said the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Minister for Law, in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Dec. 2 on the non-official resolution moved by Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, namely, "This Assembly is of opinion that a Scatutory Law Revision Committee be appointed to clarify and settle the questions of law which require elucidation".

The Law Minister said there was no doubt that periodical revision of law in a modern society was an absolute necessity. When a popular legislature ongaged itself in the task of legislation, touching every aspect of the society which it governed, there were bound to be created certain problems, which it was necessary for some expert legal body to examine and to rectify.

#### Statutory Law Revision Committee

"It often happens", he said that in modern times when a legislature is so busy that it is unable to give the whole of its time to codifying the whole of the law on a particular subject it tries to discharge its responsibilities by undertaking what we call fragmentary and piecemeal legislation. This accumultion of piecemeal and fragmentary legislation again in course of time creates a problem. People cannot understand where the law is and consequently a problem of codification arises. Therefore it needs no special pleading to suggest that a Statutory Law Revision Committee is necessary.

"Therefore there is no difficulty in my accepting the underlying purpose which my Hon'ble friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, has in mind, namely that there should be a Statutory Law Revision Committee. The only point of d fference between him and me is whether we should forthwith proceed to establish a Statutory Law Revision Committee that he has in mind or whether we should leave the matter to Government to think about the most appropriate time and the most appropriate machinery which could carry out the purpose which both he and myself have in mind."

The Law Minister then dealt at length with the work of the Statutory Law Revision Committee which was set up in 1921 and dissolved in 1932. This Committee, during its 11 years of existence, codified the Merchant Shipping Act, the Criminal Tribes Act, the Indian Succession Act, the Forests Act and the Tolls Act. This, he said was certainly not "an enormous piece of work which could be expected from a Committee of this kind."

The reason why the Committee failed to fulfil the promise which it was expected

to fulfil was that there was a great defect in its composition and constitution. The members of the Committee, having been drawn from the Legislature, met only during the sessions of the Legislature and when they were asked that now that they were present in Delhi they might dwote some portion of their time to the discharge of their functions as a mmbers of the Statutory Law Revision Committee, all of them pleaded that their legislative work was more important than the work of the Committee. At the end of the sessions all of them naturally repaired to their homes in order to perform either their personal or their professional duties. The result was that the Committee was not able to devote all the time that it was expected to devote.

"Now, obviously, my Hon'ble friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, will agree that if his purpose is to be carried out we must have an altogether different sort of Committee. It is no use having a Committee of the sort that we had and which, for the reasons I have mentioned, did not fulfil the functions with which it was chargd.

#### Body of Experts

"There are two ways, in my judgment, of doing the things. First of all we might have a permanent Commission sitting for no other purpose except that of revising and cod fying the statute. Secondly, it is to be a permanent body it undoubtedly must be a body of experts who know their job. And I think every one will agree that if experts are to be called away from their professions we must make it worth their while to come and serve on the Committee. Obviously it is a matter of cost. That being so,

it is not possible for me to say off-hand that wit out examining the question of cost it will be possible for Government to say here and now that we shall agree to appoint a Statutory Law Revision Committee of any sort that might be suggested whether by Sir Hari Singh Gour or by any other member of the Logislature.

"There is also another way of carrying the purpose into practice. That might be by the appointment of a small standing committee consisting of the Law Minister of the Government of India, a Judge of the Federal Court, the Advocate-General of India, one or two Judges of the High Courts in India and two or three eminent lawyers. The Committee might be asked to sit at stated periods of the year and a person from the Law Department of the Government of India may he deputed to act as Secretary, to collect the information and to place it before the Committee for the Committee to take notice of what might be done.

#### No Difference of Opinion

"As I say these are various ways of carrying the purpose into effect. That, as I said, requires time and examination and it is not possible for the Government, besieged as it is with an infinity of problems of all kinds to find time for the work which it will have to do if I were to accept the resolution of Sir Hari Singh Gour with the immediacy with which I believe he has charged it.

"Therefore, what I would like to suggest is this: that Sir Hari Singh Gour would realise that so far as the ultimate purpose is concerned there is no difference of opinion between me and him. Both of us are agreed that this is a matter which the Government of India ought to take into consideration. The only difference is when and how, and that is a matter on which he need not press the Government of an immediate issue. Therefore my suggestion is this: that as I have given a reply which meets more than half the ground on which he stands, I think it will be gracious on his part to withdraw it"

## Jute Production in Indian Dominion

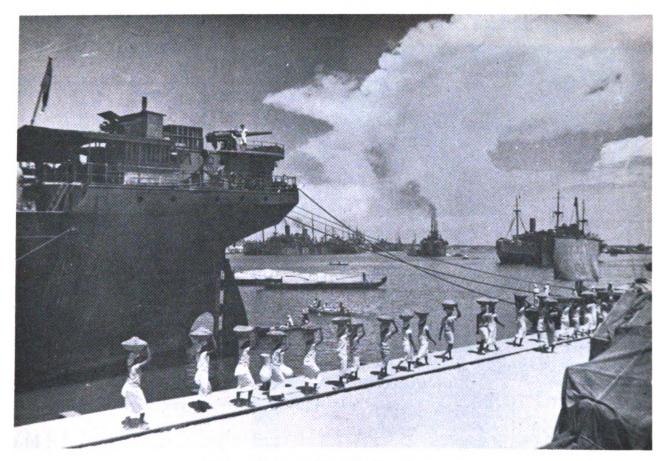
THAT the production of jute in the Indian Dominion could be increased by nearly 20 lakh bales by growing early varieties of jute as a second crop in some of the lands now entirely confined to Aman paddy in Bengel, Bihar and Orissa, was emphased by Sir Datar Singh while presiding over the meeting of the Governing Body of the Indian Central Jute Committee in Calcutta on Dec. 10. He pointed out that the area under Aman crop in these three Provinces was approximately 10 million acres, a considerable portion of which could be utilised for immediate cultivation of jute by adopting the system of double cropping.

One stumbling block in the way of more extensive jute cultivation, Sir Datar Singh said, was the scarcity of seed. He was, however, able to announce that as a result of his personal discussions the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and

Tisheries, West Bengal, had decided to start a scheme for Government precurement of surplus jute seed from cultivators for utilisation in extending cultivation during the coming season. He also agreed to give the Central Jute Committee 50 acres of land at the Chinsura Agricultural farm for housing the staff and laboratory equipment of the Agricultural Research Laboratory now at Dacca. A survey of land now lying fallow in the Provincial Government and the Minister agreed that with the co-operation of the export staff of the Central Jute Committee and their own Agricultural Department all such land which could be brought under the jute cultivation should be taken up immediately.

The Provincial Government would explore the possibilities of growing

(Continued on Page 79)



Women crolies at work in an Indian port

### REGULAR EMPLOYMENT FOR PORT LABOUR

REGULARITY of employment will be ensured to over 70,000 of India's port labourers when the Dock Workers' Bill becomes law.

The Bill, which was introduced on Nov. 17 in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, India's Labour Minister, seeks to do away with the evils of casual employment of labour at ports and reduce their hardships arising from unemploymet or under employment. It gives power to the Central Government in respect of major ports and to Provincial Governments in respect of other ports to frame a scheme for the registration of port labour and to regulate their employment.

#### Hours of Work

The scheme may provide, inter alia, for the terms and conditions of employment such as wages, hours of work and paid holidays. It may also ensure minimum pay for them during unemployed days and for their training and welfare.

Provision is made in the Bill for the constitution of a tripartite Advisory Committee, consisting of 15 members representing the Government, labour and

employers in equal proportion, whose advice will be taken by the appropriate Governments in framing and administering the scheme.

The demand for labour in Indian ports is usually intermittent, depending on the arrival or departure of ships. There is also generally a tendency on the part of employers to keep reserves of labour in order to provide for emergencies.

While there was great activity in the ports during the war, conditions are different today. Both the Royal Commission on Labour (1931) and the Labour Investigation Committee (1946) recommended regulated employment for dock workers and discouraged recruitment through contractors.

According to the Labour Investigation Committee's Report, the Port Authorities of Madras and Calcutta directly employ labour, whereas in Bombay and Cochin the system of contractors continues. The strike threatened on Nov. 15 in the Bombay docks is reported to be based on the demand for abolition of the system of recruitment through contractors.

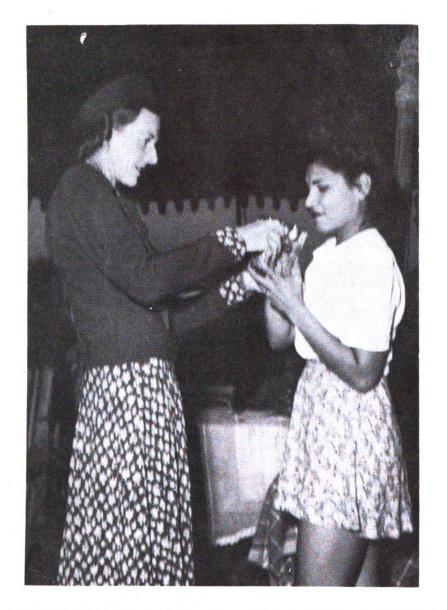
#### IUTE PRODUCTION

(Continued from 7 agr 78)

carly varieties of jute on Aman lards in West Bengal for which the Indian Central Jute Committee would give all technical advice and help so that as much land as was possible might be under jute cultivation during the ensuing season without affecting production of food crops.

Sir Datar Singh expressed the hope that steps would be taken by other Provincial Governments also. He has stressed that the Provincial Governments should try to grow more improved seed on their farms and also to encourage registered growers to do the same, so that ample supplies of improved seed might be available for increased jute cultivation. The decision to change the constitution

The decision to change the constitution of the Indian Central Jute Committee consequent on the partition of India into two Deminions was taken at the meeting. The Committee decided to exclude those members who were representing the interest of jute growers in areas which now fall in the Dominion of Pakistan. As the entire funds of the Committee were being provided by the Government of Indian Union, it was decided to terminate the activities of the Committee outside the Dominon of India. The representation of communal organization in the Committee was also done away with.



H. F. Lady Mountbatten giving away a prize to a winner in ex-Servicewomen's Sports

## LADY MOUNTBATTEN'S TRIBUTE TO EX-SERVICE WOMEN

A tribute to the fine work of ex-Service women in the cause of refugees was paid by H. E. Lady Mountbatten when she presided over Sports Day of the ex-Service women's Training Centre in New Delhi on Dec. 6.

The Centre run by the Labour Ministry of the Government of India, is training over 100 ex-Service women in commercial subjects and crafts such as stenography and tailoring.

Lady Mountbatten said: "You have done wonderful services amongst the large number of refugees in Delhi and at the refugee camps in various other places including the one at Kurukshetra.

Her Excellency expressed appreciation of the excellent facilities provided by the Labour Ministry at the Training Centre.

Requesting Lady Mountbatten to distribute prizes to the winners, Dr. N. Das, Director-General, Resettlement and Employment, referred to Her Excellency's abiding interest in the welfare of ex-Service women.

The function was attended among others by Mrs. Matthai, Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Secretary, Labour Ministry, officials of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation and the Principal and staff of the Training Centre.

## Development of Tea Industry

THAT India should continue to be a member of the International Tea Committee and abide by the International Tea Agreement, provided limitations on the extension of cultivation are maintained in some form, was the recommendation of the Tea Conference which met in Calcutta on December 10, under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. K. Chettur, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Representatives of Tea Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Provincial Governments and some States in the Indian Union attended.

The conference was of the view that during the two years for which the International Tea Agreement (due to expire on March 31, 1948) was likely to be extended, there should be a limit of two per cent per annum on new cultivation and five per cent per annum on replacement, provided the plants on old land are uprooted as soon as fresh plantation is undertaken.

A number of other points connected with the International Tea Agreement and their application to India were considered.

#### Indian Tea Cess Act

The Conference, resuming its deliberations on Dec. 11, agreed on continuance of the Indian Tea Cess Act for a further period of five years beyond March 31, 1948.

It discussed the enlargement of the scope of the Act so as to provide for Coss funds, which, at present, are carmarked for expenditure on propaganda purposes, being utilised on research and other such projects as may help in the development of the tea industry.

The importance of supplementing the international tea propaganda campaign by specific publicity on a national basis in foreign countries was recognised. The Conference felt that at exhibitions abroad, measures should be taken to popularise "India Tea", in addition to general propaganda for tea as a beverage.

The conference also discussed the question of adjustment of the excise duty on the export of tea and the feasibility of evolving a simpler method of taxation, which would ensure full revenue to the Government and, at the same time, obviate difficulties now experienced by the industry arising out of the existing Cess refund portion of the export duty.

Other items discussed included the development of Calcutta's tea warehouses registration of new tea estates, composition of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and transport problems.

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## BILL TO REGULATE PROFESSION OF PHARMACY

OVING that the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee in the Dominion Parliament, on Dec. 12, the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Raur, Minister of Health, said:

"In asking the House to accept this motion, I would just like to say a few words about the very unsatisfactory position that exists today. There is no authority whatsoever to regulate the profession and the practice of pharmacy. The practice is largely in the hands of persons known as compounders and they are both trained as compounders and they are both trained and untrained. The profession is unorganised. There is no provision for registration. There is no check to prevent untrained persons from under taking this very responsible work of compounding and dissensing medicines without ary restriction.

"Compounders are trained today in compounders are trained today in provinces but the training is not of a high enough standard. A Drugs Act actually exists to control the quality of drugs that are imported and those that are manufactured at home but how can this Act be effective if we have not got an organised and trained profession of phar a ists for dispensing those very drugs. The position in advanced countries

is that every pharmacist is required by law to be registered and he cannot be registered unless he has gone through a particular course of studies and pressed a pasticular examination.

"I submit that it is only right that we also should have such rules in our country. This Bill that has been brought forward is intended to remedy these glaring defects. It is sought to provide for Central and Provincial Councils that will not only prescribe minimum standards of training and qualification but will also inspect training institutions and will maintain registers of qualified persons. It is absolutely necessary that dispensing by unqualified persons should he stopped.

"The Bill was actually introduced in January 1946. It was circulated for opinion to all Provincial Governmen's and later, circulated again. Replies have been received. The Bill was grafted s.ter connectation of these replies. The measure is long overgue. I, therefore, hope that the House will have no hesitation in accepting the motion to refer is to a Select Committee".

## MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA

447 HE South African Medical Council from Bengal, the Punjab, Sind or N-W. has intiamted its decision not to continue further negotiations for reciprocity between the two Councils. We shall certainly reciprocate their decision", said Lt.-Col. Dr. A. S. Krulkar in his presidential address to the 27th session of the Medical Council of India beld in New Delhi on Nov. 28.

Referring to the constitutional position of the Council after Aug. 15, Dr. Erulkar said that the Government of India intimated on July 24, 1947, that it might be assumed that the Medical Council of India would continue as a statutory corporation with jurisdiction limited to the new Dominion of India.

The Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, in its application to the Indian Dominion will be modified by omitting the word "British" wherever it occurs. In its "British" wherever it occurs. In its application to the Dominion of Pakistan the Act will enable the Government of that Dominion, if it so wishes, to constitute a Medical Council for Pakistan.

As regards the existing members of the Council, after Aug. 15 those nominuted from Bengal, the Punjab, Sind and N.-W. F. P. will cease to be members and the Central Government will have to nominate members from West benkal and East Punjab; as also those elected from Universities located in Pakistan territory. Members elected by Medical Graduates

F. P. will also cease to be members.

The Government of West Bengal have directed that the Provincial Medical Register of the former Province of Bengal shall be deemed to be the Register for the present Province of West Bengal. In view of this fact the Government of India have decided that Dr. K. S. Ray, the member from Bengal elected by Medical Graduates, will continue to be a member of the Council.

#### TEA PARCELS TO U.K.

Complaints have been received from. the U. K. Postal administration that a large number of parcels from India, mainly those containing tea packed in plywood boxes, arrive in damaged conditions and sometimes even empty, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 11.

The cause is attributed to the use of inch and inch wire nails in fixing the lid of boxes. This results in cracks which widen during transit and allow the contents to escape.

The public, particularly those who send the tea by post to the U. K., are requested in their own interest to see that parcels are properly packed.

#### Mr. Asaf Ali Entertained

PLEA for closer political and economic co-operation between India and the United States was made by Mr. Asaf Ali at a recent luncheon reception at the City Club of Cleveland, where India's Ambassador was the guest of honour.

Over 300 members, including industrialists and professional men, were present.

Mr. Asaf Ali, who was received by the City Mayor of Cleveland, said that India was financially solvent with vast potential resources and was prepared to pay for technical and industrial capital equipment which she needed in quantities and which the United States alone could supply.

Stressing the need for rehabilitation of Asia, he said that world peace would be in jeepardy unless the world economy become more integrated.

Answering a question about India and Pakistan, Mr. Asaf Ali visualised close co-operation between the two Dominions at least in the economic sphere.

The Indian Ambassador eulogized The Indian Ambassador eulogized Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the regeneration of India and pointed out that his was the most civilized way of dealing with the forces of evil and aggression.

Replying to a question about untouchability, he reminded the group that Mahatma Gandhi had been the greatest champion of the "Untouchables" and that untouchability had been banned in India. He mentioned the inclusion of two Ministers in the Cabinet, originally from the Untouchable class, as evidence of new life in India.

The address was carried over a radio

#### SIR AKBAR HYDARI'S **BROADCAST**

(Continued from Page 74)

"A time may come when a great deal may depend on Assam's prosperity and on her having a contented and people. Should no crisis come, all the better, in any case the province could become the home of many useful industries, powered by the electricity produced by her water wealth. Her hills and valleys would be ideal recreation ground for the people of India or even from abroad. Nature has endowed her with resources. It is our task as well as our aim to utilise them. For all these purposes we must, in addition to unremitted effort on our part, have the sympathy and assistance of our parent Government, the Government of India. During my recent visit to Delhi I was happy to get heartening proofs that our difficulties are understood and that our needs in the matter of overcoming them are now to be given the assistance required. It is now up to the people of Assam to rise to the height of opportunities offered. I have no doubt they

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Howrah Railway Station

#### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Weights and measures in India vary not only from district to district but also for different commodities.

The principal units in all the scales of weights are the maund, seer at d tola, and the standard weights for each of these are 82.28 lbs., 2.057 lbs. and 180 grains troy respectively.

The Indian tola is the same weight as the rupee, vi2., 180 grains troy; the standard or railway seer is equal to 2.057 lbs. while the standard or railway maund of 40 seers is equivalent to 82 lbs. 4 oz. 9 drams. There are numerous local variations.

#### COINAGE-RUPEE IN DOLLARS AND POUNDS

Re. 1 is approximately 1sh. 6d. or 30.05 cents.

Rs. 100 are approximately £7/9/6 or \$30.05.

Rs. 1,000 are approximately £7/4/1/10 or \$300.53.

Rs. 1,00,000 (a lakh) are approximately £7.473/19/2 or \$30,053.

Rs. 1,00,00,000 (a crore) are approximately £747.395/16/8 or \$3,005,259.

10,000,000 is one crore (1,00,00,000)

COINAGE

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INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE GOOgle



Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union left Delbi for Moscow recently. Amongst those who saw her off at the aerodrome were Pandit Nehru (centre) and a Soviet Embassy Official (left)

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Cover Picture: The Hon'ble Pandit Jawa Nehru, Prime Minister of India, photogr	raphed

the latter's recent visit to Delhi. In the centre

is Miss Pandit, niece of Pandit Nehru.

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Dr. Mukerji, Minister for Industry and Supply, addressing the Industries Conference which opened in New Delhi on Dec. 15

## TRANSITION FROM COLONIAL TO NATIONAL ECONOMY

## Dr. S. P. Mukerji's Address to Industries Conference

the present industrial situation in the Indian Dominion was made by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji, India's Minister for Industry and Supply, in his opening speech at the Industries Conference in New Delhi on Dec. 15. He made certain concrete proposals for the immediate expansion and long-term planning of Indian industries and concluded with an appeal to all the parties in the country to join together in a vigorous co-operative effort which would make possible a rapid transition "from our preponderating colonial economy of raw materials produced by exploited masses to a national economy of industrial goods produced in abundance by skilled workers fully enjoying the fruits of their labour".

#### Industrial Development

The Conference whose object, according to the Minister, was not merely to exchange views on the larger problems of industrial policy and planning, but to assist the Government of India in arriving at decisions for an immediate increase in production and industrial development on a short term, was attended by about 190 delegates. Members of the Indian Cabinet, officers and experts of the Government of India, Ministers and technical specialists representing Provincial and States Governments and representatives of commercial bodies, industrial organisations, individual industries, labour groups and the Central Legislature were present, prominent among whom were Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Mr. G. L. Mehta, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Sir Homi Modi, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. Krishnaraj

M. D. Thackersey, Mr. N. R. Sarker and Dr. B. C. Roy.

After welcoming the delegates and referring to the unfortunate events in the country during the last four months, Dr. Mukerji said:

It is just four months since our country regained political freedom. I do not forget that partition of India which none of us liked, has brought in its train enormous problems, communal, political and economic, which almost baffle peaceful solution.

We cannot, however, minimise the fact that we have broken off the shackles of alien rule and are now in a position to dedicate ourselves to rebuilding the India of our dreams. It is not merely our self-respect which we regained on the 15th of August 1947, but also the freedom to secure whatever is our due in the community of nations on account of our initiative, our enterprise and our vast resources.

This Government is pledged to the proposition that the freedom we have gained will be used for the benefit of all, and accordingly it has been embodied in our constitution that this nation shall live and prosper as a Socialist Republic. It will be in the common interest of all to ensure that the transition from the present economic freedom to that ideal should be as smooth and speedy as possible and at every stage of our progress we shall utilise all available capital resources, man-power and talent

in business, administration and technology in the fullest extent possible for increasing the wealth and efficiency of our country.

Events beyond our control, specially arising out of the tragedy of the Punjab, have prevented Government from formulating a comprehensive plan for the economic advance of India. A Subcommittee of the Canbinet has been formed to draw up definite plans in respect of our future planning and expansion. The All India Congress Committee has also appointed an Economic Sub-committee which is examining the problems in their various aspects.

#### No Solid Progress

This conference, including as it does representatives of the Provinces and the States, of industry, commerce and of labour, will be in a fit position to advise Government as to the steps that are Government as to the steps that are to be taken for immediate improvement and for short-term and long-term expansion. We have also before us valuable data and proposals collected by various committees and gropus, official and non-official. The monumental work done by the National Planning Committee, which was sponsored and guided by two of the greatest sons and leaders of modern India, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehra, will serve as a valuable guide in the final shaping of our national policy.

Useful materials and schemes, covering a large number of industries, were also collected under the direction of the Government of India, according to a plan formulated by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, as Member-in-charge of Planning and Development. In October, 1946, the Interim Government appointed an Advisory Planning Board under the chairmanship of

Mr. k. C. Neogy to review the work previously done by various bodies, and its report is now engaging the active attention of Government.

It is now over two years since hostilities, into which India was drawn without her expressed cousent came to a close. We cannot look back to any solid progress in the industrial field during these two years. On the other hand, by comparison, the years of the war were more active industrially and fuller of achievement, although they were more concerned with war production, not necessarily designed to advance the permanent peace-time well-being of the people of India.

Let us not minimise the great danger of a feeling of frustration coming over the country. With your assistance, however, I am confident that we will emerge in the near future out of the stagnation of the last few months. The object of this Conference is not merely to exchange views on the larger problems of industrial policy and planning, but to assist the Government of India in arriving at decisions for an immediate increase in industrial production, and the development of our industries on a short-term plan. We have collected plenty of material and reports. The time is now fully ripe for action on lines best suited to our national advancement.

Almost since the end of the war, but more noticeably from August, 1946, there has been a steady decline in our industrial production. The decline has been so serious that some have wondered whether we should not for a while forget further industrial development in this country and concentrate our efforts in bringing installed capacity now lying idle up to its fullest possible working.

#### **Industrial Crisis**

A review of the recent fall in industrial production is indeed most disturbing. In cotton textiles for example, our production has fallen from round about 4,800 million yards in 1945—the production during the first two years of control—to 3,800 million yards. The causes of this decline are well known. In steel, the fall has been from 1,180,000 tons per year to 875,000 tons. It is the same with cement, the monthly production of which has dropped from 160,000 tons to 112,000 tons.

These examples are typical of the general fall in production right through the whole field of industry. Indeed the economic situation now is graver than during the last year. In every sense of the term we are now in an industrial crisis of a type we have never seen before.

Side by side with this unfortunate state of affairs is a worsening of the inflationary situation in the country. The gap between spendable income, which is growing, and the volume of goods, which is dwindling, is widening everyday. It is well known that our inflation is very largely due to the increase of currency in the country caused by the issue of rupee money by the Reserve Bank of India against sterling deposits in London. Although inflation due to this cause has ended and, in fact, currency circulation has been falling slightly, prices have

shown a progressive increase bringing in its train an enhancement of wages and salaries. This vicious circle of fall in production and rise in prices can only be broken by increasing our productive capacity through a sustained and planned effort.

We have examined a number of our most important industries with this objective. Of the many causes responsible for a fall in production the most important have been unsatisfactory relations between labour and industry, a shortage of raw materials and defects in their distribution, inadequacy of transport to meet present needs, difficulty in obtaining capital goods and constructional materials to instal them and supply and exchange limitation on the import of full requirements of industry.

The remedy for these defects will be the first major problems of Government. We depend on the collective wisdom and experience which this Conference represents for evolving practical measures which will speedily eliminate these bottlenecks in the way of full production of our industries.

#### Labour and Management

I should mention here that in view of its importance, the promotion of stable relations between labour and management, in particular by calling for a truce in lock-outs and strikes, until the present crisis is over, will be the subject of further discussions on Dec. 18. The Labour Minister is bestowing special attention on this matter. This is a vital part of the work of our Conference on which the ultimate success of our efforts depends.

I spoke earlier of the plans for expansion of industry, which were drawn up during the concluding years of the war. Brief summaries of the recommendations of these plans will be found in the little booklet of agenda and notes which has been distributed to you. These data could be the basis of our short-term planning during the next few years.

Government recognise that they have a special responsibility to discharge if these schemes are to materialise. For example, the capacity of rail transport should be increased to meet prospective demands of movement of constructional materials, fuel, raw materials and finished products; hydro-electric projects and ancilliary thermal stations to supply power to industry, should be speedily executed; the rapid growth of the coal industry on rational lines, has to ensured and for that purpose the recom-mendations of the Indian Coal Fields Committee have to be implemented soon. New steel plants have to be erected and brought into operation; and in the meantime, every effort should be made to import the country's essential requirements in steel and iron and other raw materials. The administrative machinery of Government at the Centre must also work in complete harmony with Pro-vincial Governments and the States with industry, labour and other interests so as to minimise delay and deadlocks and maximise progress and efficiency.

Government have not been altogether

idle in the meantime. They have already decided that two steel plants, each of 500,000 tons capacity with possibility of expansion to a milion tons, should be set up under the auspices of the State as early as possible. And this Conference will be followed immediately by the meeting of a Committee fully representative of our great Steel Works which will advise us on the lines to follow.

Government also intend to consider the possibility of utilizing the spare capacity of our Ordnance Factories, which were remodelled and expanded beyond recognition in war time for meeting the needs of industry. It has been decided to utilise the Mathematical Instruments Office in Calcutta for production of scientific apparatus and a committee has been appointed to advise Government on the matter. Expansion of the resources of the Alipore Test House is under active consideration. Quality control is considered essential for the stability of Indian Industry, and with this end in view, an Indian Standards Institute has already been established. Dr. Shewhart of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, a world authority in quality control technique, is now in this country as our guest. We will be having the benefit of an address by him on the morning of Dec. 17.

Government are also considering the manufacture by the State of penicillin, anti-malarial and sulpha drugs with the aim of achieving as soon as possible, sufficient production to meet India's vast requirements at the lowest possible price. If we succeed in this direction, we will be able to eradicate more than 90 per cent. of the diseases from which India suffers to-day.

#### Value of Research

Government are conscious of the value of research for improving the efficiency of technological processes, quality of raw materials and finished products, and funds on a generous scale have been placed at the disposal of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for this purpose. I have every hope that industry will utilise fully the technical knowledge available in the Council.

Government also intend to investigate the reasons why patents taken out by Indian nationals have not been exploited to anything like the same extent as in foreign countries and to consider a revision of the existing Patent Law, if necessary.

We hope that we may publish in the near future an annual digest of industrial statistics containing information similar to that published in the Monthly Digest of Statistics published in the U. K. Planning for resource development is a dynamic process, and unless accurate and up-to-date information is available targets fixed for achievement are bound to be very much off the mark. It is unfortunate that the Indian Statistical Act of 1942 has not yet been put into active operation. There cannot be two opinions about setting up an organisation, both in the Centre and in the Province, which will enable progress to be reviewed

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and watched by the yard-stick of precise statistics.

To a limited extent we may be able to supply some machinery and raw materials from surplus goods held for disposal by the Government of India. There has been a feeling in recent months that surplus goods held for disposal have not been used as they might be. I have decided to set up a technical committee which will scrutinise the surplus plant and machinery held by us all over the country and investigate what can be made immediately available for industry. I invite your co-operation in this behalf.

Most of our industrial equipment will for some years have to come from abroad. Some of this will no doubt help towards the progressive liquidation of India's sterling resources built up at much human and material cost during the war. But plant has also to be imported from countries like the U. S. A. with whom our balance of trade is in consequence likely to be adverse for many years to come. Last May, the heavy liquidation of our foreign currency resources constrained us to reimpose the control over imports which we had relaxed a few months earlier in pursuance of Government's general policy of progressive decontrol of commodities at the appropriate moment.

India is of course no exception in the matter of currency difficulties which affect most of the countries of the world. Like them, we also have to look either to the export trade or to foreign loans or to regulated investment of foreign capital in industrial enterprise to remedy difficulties regarding balance of payments. My colleague in charge of the Commerce My colleague in charge of the Commerce of the Export Advisory Council in New Delhi last month, emphasised that the export policy of Government would be conditioned by two main factors: The need for conserving and increasing India's resources of foreign exchange and the consolidation of her position in the export markets of the world. The need for an export drive, therefore needs no emphasis.

#### **Technical Personnel**

One of the most important problems facing industry is the paucity of competent technical personnel. During the past three years considerable sums of public money have been spent in overseas training of Indian scholars. A committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. B. C. Roy, has examined this scheme and recommended steps for making such training more effective. The wastage in this respect has been enormous. There is also a great demand for the services of competent foreign technical personnel to improve the efficiency of Indian industries. The establishment of scientific and technical liaison offices abroad for the recruitment of such technologists and for making better arrangements for training of Indian students in industry is under consideration.

But these are mere palliatives. India should not heaitate to establish the most up-to-date technological institutions, and if necessary, invite experts of high standing from every part of the world for



Dr. Schewhart, Founder of the Quality Control Movement, who visited India under the joint auspices of the Indian Statistical Society and the Indian Standards Association, addresing the Industries Conference

affording equal opportunity to Indians of all classes to acquire the highest technical knowledge and skill in their own country. It pays better to engage a foreign expert on £2,000 a year to train a dozen talented young Indians in the country itself than to send the same dozen overseas for similar training at a cost of £8,000 a year. We are also taking steps for maintaining a register of technically qualified men whom industry may absorb. The success of this scheme will depend on the response we receive from industry.

The increase of production of existing industrial plants and the execution of our short-term plans are doubtless matters of immediate urgency. Nevertheless, I do not consider that we can evon for the moment neglect thinking of the future. The immediate and shortterm programme will in the process of completion merge smoothly into future long-term plans. Such plans are, however, of a fundamentally different character and should be based on the needs of the country for the achievement of maximum self-sufficiency, the maximum exploitation of indigenous resources, equitable distribution of goods and services and a higher standard of living of the people. The State should take a major share in such industrial planning which involves a wise and co-ordinated investment of saving from national income in industrial undertakings with a view to increasing the contribution of industry to the national wealth at a definite rate.

Private enterprise in Europe and America has taken between 50 to 100 years to develop their present economic system where the major part of the income of the people comes from industrial pursuite. With National Government in Delhi, it will probably take as many years for private enterprise in India to

arrive at a similar state of development. The fact remains that the private capital invested in our organised industries did not exceed Rs. 250 crores in 1935. Even under the stress of the war the index of industrial activity in 1946 increased by not more than 15 per cent. over the base year 1935. Such slow progress will not do in the New India which we hope to build.

It has often been argued that State management is far less efficient than private management, and hence it should be avoided. This is rather an argument really in favour of the State adopting the methods of private management and not for giving up industrial undertakings altogether. In the advanced countries of the West, owner-managers are rapidly yielding place to salaried Managing Directors who are experts in business administration and industrial production. Management of State-owned industries by statutory corporations may offer the correct solution.

In the statement of Industrial Policy which was issued by Government in 1945, a list was given of some industries of national importance which might be owned and operated by the State if adequate private capital were not forth-coming. The list included iron and steel, chemicals and dyes, automobiles and tractors, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries. The Railways, the Ordnance Factories, the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., and a number of public utilities are already State-owned and operated. The Fertilizer Factory in course of construction in Bihar and the large projects of power development are going to be executed as State enterprises. The National Planning Committee whose reports are now being gradually publised, has recommended that all defence and key industries should be owned and operated by the State.

The Advisory Planning Board, which met at the end of last year, recommended that, apart from Defence Industries, and any industry or branch thereof which it might be found desirable to start as a State enterprise through the reluctance of private capital to undertake it, the nationalisation of the following should be considered: Coal, Mineral Oils Iron and Steel, Motor, Air and River transport.

#### Central Planning

Leaving aside any theoretical discussion on the issues of State-ownership versus private enterprise, Central Planning for the basically important industries is essential from the point of view of conservation of limited capital resources and foreign exchange, avoiding wasteful competition and securing regional development which would advance the standard of living in the country as a whole and ensure a proper dispersal of industries throughout India.

Central planning necessarily involves certain controls, such as regulation of prices and profits and the wages and conditions of labour. A tentative list of the industries which appear suitable for Central planning will no doubt be considered by you. It is far you to recommend to Government which of them should be



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, addressing the Conference

State-owned, partially State-owned or owned entirely by private enterprise. We have also to consider the nature and extent of the participation of foreign capital and management which will be allowed in our country by the central Government on conditions to be determined by them in the interests of our economic advancement and safety.

India is a land of villages, and Government must attach the greatest importance to the development of cottage and small-scale industries in order to ensure a balanced economy. From their very nature, the development of these industries must remain the responsibility of the Provincial and State Governments, but it should be the business of the Central Government to make continuous efforts to make them ancillary to large-scale industries. Their healthy expansion depends on the provision of cheap electrical power, provision of raw materials at economic prices, organised marketing of their produce and developing the latest skill in arts and crafts for which this land was once so famous.

#### Foreign Assistance

I would welcome suggestions from the Conference regarding the machinery it would expect Government to set up for advising them on some of the vital matters I have discussed, dealing with our immediate, short-term and long-term programme. I am most anxious that our long-term plans for industrial development will be ready in a precise and concrete form by April, 1948, so that we may be in a position to send out a special mission to visit foreign countries with a view quickly to obtaining assistance in regard to

(Continued on Page 109)

# FOR INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

DDRESSING the Industries Conference in New Delhi on Dec. 18, the Hou'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, stressed the need for stepping up production in the country and for an industrial truce to avoid strikes and lock-outs.

Referring to the role of the State in the field of industries, Pandit Nehru expressed the view that, in many cases, existing basic industries might have to be nationalised. He added, however, that a far better apporach to the problem would be for the State to concentrate more and more on new industries of the latest type and to control them in a large measure.

Pandit Nehru also stressed the value of the river valley schemes to India. The Himalayas, he said, were the biggest source of power and, if properly utilised, would transform the whole of the country with exceeding rapidity.

Here is the text of the Prime Minister's speech:

Dr. Mukerji, friends and comrades; I venture to address you in this way, more specially on this occasion, because probably no other major subject that we have to tackle requires so much a spirit of friendly co-operation than this subject of industry, labour and the general economic set-up of the country. It is rather presumptuous for me to come here at this fairly last stage of this Conference and gatherings that you

have had during the last few days, not having taken part in them, and now presumably to offer you good advice.

Many of you are more or less experts in your fields, where it is Labour or Industry, and though I am very greatly interested in all these matters and perhaps sometimes have an advantage over the experts in the sense that a layman can see the whole picture in proper perspective more than a specialist in his special fields of activity, nevertheless, I would have liked to have had the chance and opportunity to have taken part in your discussions during the last few days and known more as to how the mind of this gathering, of those who are participating in these discussions, was working.

#### Differences of Approach

It is obvious that in these very vital matters there are differences of opinion—vital difference of opinion and approach. There are what are called ideologies, there is what is called the practical approach which, I have often found, is far removed from anything that might really be called practical or that can be practical. A practical approach need not necessarily be just looking one yard ahead of you, it requires looking further ahead also.

Well, in a way, there are these differences and it would be a little absurd to think that you can charm away those differences and find some complete unanimity by just pure goodwill and good

advice. Nevertheless, I think, without doing away with those differences of approach, if we do appreciate that in a certain context of events it is necessary and highly desirable to function together, well, we create an atmosphere which helps in coming to some (if you like, not permanent—at any rate, semi-permanent or temporary, conclusions.

"Now, why are these approaches different? I suppose partly because of some difference in one's outlook on life itself, on the objectives of life, etc. on the social set-up, and the rest; but to put it very crudely, leaving out these wider objectives, the differences arise because various groups aim at getting some prize or other, some benefit or other. Capital may want a certain prize; the consumer, the producer, everybody wantanaturally to benefit himself or his group.

But a time comes when it may well happen that while the conflicting groups are fighting against each other, the prize vanishes and there is no prize left for anybody to take hold of. So it becomes important at that time to moderate one's own ardour or one's own particular desire to hold the prize, and save the prize itself. It is not necessary to give up the hope of getting the prize but rather to put first things first, that is, to preserve the prize and then either in a friendly way come to future decisions or, if you even like that, have a conflict endangers the prize itself, then obviously it is an exceedingly unfortunate and foolish way of approaching anything.

You all know that the India of today for the last few months has passed through all manner of tremendous crises and we have had to face colossal problems; we have survived all manner of surgical operations of a major kind and we still may not have an operation of that type, but the consequences of that operation have been so tremendous that few of us realised previously that they would be so had.

We knew they would be bad; therefore we resisted the operation and resisted what might be called quack remedies. But, unfortunately, sometimes quacks succeed, even in the best regulated household. And the result is that we have had operations and you have seen what a tremendously upsetting consequence followed them. We have not got rid of that consequence and we have to face problems of colossal magnitude still.

#### **Economic Situation**

While we have had to do this, on the other hand, we see and we have seen a progressively deteriorating economic situation. We talk, and rightly so, of the problems of distribution. In fact most of our troubles and conflicts and vital ideologies are concerned with distribution. But important as that is, there must obviously be some thing substantial to distribute before you can start that process of distribution. Therefore, we come to the problem of production.

Production becomes the first essential,

but with it is intimately aligned distribution. You cannot really separate the two. Production depends on many factors and one of the most important of those factors is the psychology to produce, apart from the technical apparatus, etc., that we may have—and one should have the efficiency and there must be the capacity and the psychology to produce. If that psychology is lacking, then inevitably production goes down, as it has gone down.

#### Psychological Background

Now, you can analyse the past few months or few years as you like; there are so many factors. There are the consequences of the war-a tired feeling after hard work. There are the consequences of political upsets, of this partition, of communal troubles and the like. But I should say perhaps one of the major things we have to face in industrial relations is this psychological background, which makes labour feel that it does not get a square deal, that somehow it is overreached all the time, which makes the employer class feel that they are threatened with all manner of dangers and that labour is not pulling the weight and is only threatening strikes and slowing up of work and so on and so forth. So they approach each other not only with a complete lack of confidence but a spirit of extreme hostility.

How are we to get over this? On the one hand, I think it is perfectly true to say that there has been a tendency on the part of labour or certain labour groups to take advantage of certain difficulties which the nation has had to face, to have strikes and stoppages of work and slowing down of work at a time whon it meant hitting the nation. If that kind of thing continues with labour—which undoubtedly has and should have the sympathy of vast numbers of people in this country—a slight barrier begins to grow up between the large labour element and the rest of the country. And it is not good to have that kind of barrier grow up.

#### Behaviour of Employers

That is so far as labour is concerned. So far as the employers' side is concerned, I hope no one will challenge me when I say that during this last war a certain section of the employer class did not behave well; in fact, they behaved excessively badly. excessively egotistically and far from giving a square deal to anybody, they thought mostly of them selves and of little else. I have yet to understand how, in spite of tremendous and heavy taxation in India, these vast fortunes by certain individuals or groups were made. I just cannot understand it; and we have to find out some means and machinery to prevent this kind of shameful traffic with human beings and profiting at the expense of the nation and others.

So, it is easy to find fault with certain sections of labour or certain sections of the employing class. But what we have to do is not merely to find fault but to seek some remedy. You cannot turn everybody into angels on either side; there would be no problem if people were advanced enough to think and act in

that way. One remedy is to create conditions when—if T may say so—those who are not angelic do not find it easy to flourish and find difficulties in their way. That is, you have to create inducement to fair dealing and honesty and certain disadvantages attaching to any other course of action.

Leaving out the people who may be not up to the right standard in fair dealing and honesty, the real difficulty con es when honest people are in conflict. It they are completely honest, they hold different views and they come to conflict. Normally, people who are not honest sometimes make up their differences sooner because they have nothing strong to stick on to. They are not used to any anchorage but just float about, and so, under pressure of events, they come to terms. But honest people who hold opinions very stoutly do not come to terms because they think that any other way is the wrong way. Now I take it that most of us who are here are honest people and people who have thought about these matters and hold strong opinion about these matters and, therefore, find it a little difficult to accept the other person's view.

#### Perils Facing India

Nevertheless, the major fact confronts us; that all manner of perils face us in India today. And although other perils for the moment be at the forefront, the ultimate peril is the slow drying up of the capacity of the nation to produce. That affects us politically, economically and in every other way, and gradually our strength goes down to resist these very perils that face us. Therefore, you have to stop this drying up of our productive capacity.

I believe you have been thinking about this and you have also passed a number of resolutions on the subject. We must increase our production; we must increase our national wealth and the national dividend and only then can we really raise the standard of living of our people.

We may here and there make some adjustment by a more equitable distribution of existing wealth. That must be done really not so much because it makes too much of a difference in raising the standard of life—it does, but not very much-but it must be done because it creates conditions for advance; because, if that is not done, there is continually that feeling of not having a square deal and people do not put their heart and soul in the work they do, thinking that they are not being properly treated, and so on. Therefore. it be comes essential first of all to see that where there are gross inequalities at present we tend towards a rapid reduction of those inequalities. But ultimately more wealth can only come from more production of all types and kinds of

Presumably, many of you here represent big industries and the like, and I have no doubt that production through big industry is essential. But in the present context of events today, I should like to say that when a talk of increased production, whether of feod or of any







l'elegates to the Industries Conference were entertained at the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club on December 18. Picture shows Lord and Lady Mountbatten discussing a point with Mr. J. R. D. Tata (left) and Dr. S. P. Mukerji.

(Fight) Pandit Nehru in conversation with Sir Ardeshir Dalal (left) and Mr. J. R. D. Tata

other commodity, it is necessary for us to encourage small-scale production in a large way also.

This question is often considered as if there was an inherent conflict between large-scale production and small-scale production. Perhaps it might indicate a different approach. But, leaving that idea of conflict aside it seems to me obvious that, at the present moment, more specially, and possibly later, the two have to go on together. And especially as short-term planning, there must be large-scale small production today of all manner of things that can be produced in a small way, because all manner of commodities are lacking. But we are really concerned at the present moment with bringing about a psychological atmosphere and bringing about some kind of machinery wherewith to tackle any conflict that may arise.

#### **World Conflict**

Now, if we are facing some perils along with the rest of the world, with some special troubles of our own, how are we to proceed? The very first thought that comes to one's mind is that in this rather dissolving world, which is heading again for a big-scale conflict, the sooner we put India on its feet in every possible way, the more chance there is of our pulling our weight and surviving and having some influence in the near future. None, not even the very biggest expert, can say how long this very precarious peace in the world will last. We hope it will last many years, but it may break at any time. And if that happens, you will realise that all manner of unforeseen things will take place. It will shake up even more than anything has yet done.

And how should we face that emergency? By building up, before that happens, an economically strong and well-balanced India with a strong enough defence apparatus. And remember what defence apparatus means today. People

talk of the army and navy and air force, obviously, defence means these. But far more than the army and navy and air force, defence means industry and production. Not all the soldiers in the world will do any good to India otherwise. People talk about compulsory military service. From one point of view I am not in favour, generally speaking, of compulsory military service. But I am in favour of it in this sense, that it will make our people a little more disciplined, and also from the physical-culture point of view, and so on.

But this business of compulsory military service means nothing mportant from the defence point of view, because the real problem is not to make people war-minded but to give them the means of fighting. If you have millions and millions of men walking about with antique weapons and lathis, it is not much good. But you have to have production of all the essentials of warfare. In fact, in war, weapons and everything else and all manner of things are necessary. If you are industrially strong, you can build up your army and navy and air force at short notice. If you depend on buying your warships and everything else in a foreign country and that source dries up, it is all useless to have only a few thousand men shouting about war. So that, in the ultimate analysis, even this war business brings you down to production and the growth of industries, small and big.

Many things contributed to the winning of the last war, but I think the final reasons were two, the amazing capacity of American industry and scientific research. It is these which won the war, not so much the soldiers and others. Therefore, we must, from every point of view—external and internal—stop this slowing down of production and increase it rapidly by new industries; and also tackle problems of unemployment and of raising the standard of living. These can only be done if there is peace in industry; without peace

there, it simply cannot be done. And I take it that the object of this Conference is to have peace in industry for a certain period at least, which will give us some breathing time.

In a draft resolution that I have been reading, a period of three years is mentioned. I am not interested in any particular period, and for some time past my mind has hardly functioned in regard to long-distance objectives except in an idealistic kind of way. I can make no plan for myself a few days or a weeks ahead, I do not know where I shall be. So I am not very much interested in whether it is two years or three years.

#### Role of Government

The point is that it would be a tremendous thing for India if all of you and all those whom you represent came to the conclusion that you should give a chance to this and have a period of truce when there will be no strikes and no lock-outs, And how can you that? Of course, it is too much to expect this to be done unless there is some machinery and apparatus to settle disputes to the satisfaction of the people concerned, or more or less to their satisfaction because there cannot obviously be hundred per cent satisfaction when two parties are in dispute. I suppose it is not beyond the wit of men or even beyond the wit of this Government to produce some such machinery or scheme. Whenever there are such schemes, it is curious that opposition is taken to them on both sides.

The other day I was in Calcutta and the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce there went on repeating and telling the audience that Gevernment should not interfere or intervene in any way. We thought that if Government stood aloof industry would flourish. It was very interesting for me to hear that, because I had thought that that particular viewpoint had almost vanish.

ed from the earth. But still it existed in Calcutta. At any rate, the labour people on the other hand want Government interference quite enough. But when you talk of arbitration and adjudication their idea of arbitration and adjudication often is that they should go into them; if they succeed well and good, otherwise they are free to do what they like.

That I can understand psychologically. It is a relic of old times, but practically speaking it becomes impossible to have arbitration and adjudication if you approach it in that spirit. So, if we can, as I think we can, have a proper impartial machinery—which machinery in the modern world is bound to incline towards labour rather than towards others—we can resolve these difficulties or such difficulties as may arise from time to time.

#### **New Industries**

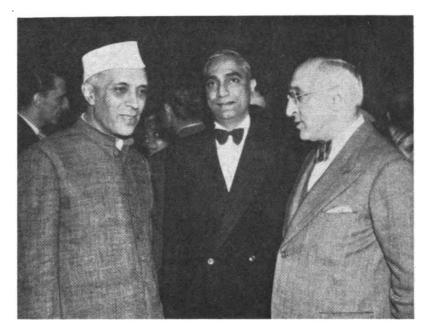
I am not for the moment talking about the final resolution, as to the future economic policy and the merits or otherwise of nationalisation, although inevitably they arise. For the present I think the first step should be a kind of adjustment of minor differences while we are considering major objectives of policy. With regard to the major objectives of policy, I have just said something in Calcutta and elsewhere and I will not repeat at them here.

Speaking as a person who is a believer in the socialisation of industry, I - should like to say this, that far too much attention is often paid to acquiring existing industries than to the building of new industries by the State or under State control. In many cases existing industries of the basic type may have to be acquired by the State and run by the State. But it seems to me a far better approach to the problem for the State to concentrate more and more on new industries of the latest type and to control them in a large measure, because then the resources of the State go toward, further progress and controlled progress instead of merely trying to get hold of something which exists. Of course one had sometimes got to do that.

#### Age of Transition

I say this because I am to some extent, if I may venture to say so, of a scientific bent of mind and I try to think more on dynamic terms than in static terms. The existing industry today that most people think of—capitalists, socialists or communists—is samething of which they think in static terms as if the thing is to go on and on, while as a matter of fact the thing is completely out of date and most of it should be scrapped.

If you think in a somewhat dynamic way, you can see that we are at one of the major ages of transition when completely new sources of power are being tapped, something of the nature of the industrial revolution or electrical revolution; but something even more far reaching than that. If somebody at the time of the industrial revolution was thinking in terms of the pre-industrial age and talking about acquiring this or that, he would be completely out of the



Pandit Nehru, Nr. S. A. Venkataraman (centre, Secretary of the Indu try and Supply A inistry, and Sir Homi Mody photographed at the reception

picture some time or later when a new age came and there were new resources of power.

In the same way we are on the verge of that and whether it takes ten, fifteen or twenty years-I doubt if it will take more than that-many of our methods of production will become completely out of date, and what you are thinking of acquiring today may have no value at all. That is a warning. I hope that does not frighten people and make them think that they should not invest money in any industry. But one has to be very wide awake today about these changes and one must think in terms of the future rather than the past, becuase the past is not only dead and gone, but we cannot go back to it, and even the present is rapidly changing present. If you approach it in terms of the future, then many of the present conflicts seem rather out of place or, at any rate they take on a new turn and you get out of the old ruts of your thoughts.

#### River Valley Schemes

These are some considerations for us to ponder over. But for the present I do hope that you, who represent great forces in the country industrial, labour and governmental, will come to an agreement on this period of peace and reconstruction and building up, and meanwhile we shall think of the larger policies for industrial and economic development and give effect to them fairly rapidly. For my part, I attach probably more importance to the development of our hig schemes—river valley schemes—than to anything else. I think it is out of those that new wealth is going to flow into this country.

When I see a map of India and I look at the Himalayan range, I like the Himalayas myself; I like mountains and all that, what I think of mostly today is the vast power concentrated there which is not being used, and which can be used, and which really can transform the whole of India with exceeding rapidity if it was properly utilised. It is an amazing source of power, probably the biggest source anywhere in the world—this Himalayan range, with its rivers, minerals and other things. Therefore, I attach more importance to the development of these big river valley schemes, dams, reservoirs, hydro-electric and thermal power and so forth, which, once released, will simply drive you forward. But before we release power we have to know how to control it and use it in the proper way.

#### **Industrial Peace**

We have been in some shape or other connected with this Government for the last sixteen months or so. One of the first things that I did when we came to this Government was to think of these economic plans and these various schemes, and we appointed an Advisory Planning Board for a rapid survey—not a detailed survey—of these schemes, so that we may consider some basic policies. The Planning Board reported fairly soon. It worked necessarily with some superficiality, but nevertheless it did well, and then immediately we got caught up in this business of approachig partition. After partition we got caught up with the business of the aftereffects of partition. So all these vital problems could not be solved. There they remained.

But part of the difficulty has also been this wrong psychology in the industrial field. So if we start at this end, governmentally, I hope, we shall approach this problem fairly soon, and I hope also that this procedure which my colleague, Dr. Mukerji, has initiated—that is, to confer with representatives of all shades

of opinion—will be adopted whenever necessary in the future policy. But in order to approach that properly, one has to have some breathing space. One cannot have it in this world with trouble all over the place. But let us have it in industry.

I do not ask you to give up any of your particular ideologies and beliefs. Stick to them. But just realise that even your particular ideology may have a greater chance of advancement if we have some peace and build up something now for the next year or two, and meanwhile we develop those other policies; and if you want a fight, let us have a fight afterwards, but at any rate let us have something worth fighting for, otherwise the thing we fight for vanishes and that is not good enough or wise enough.

#### Token Strikes

I heard last evening- I have not myself seen it in a newspaper-that in Bombay an announcement has been made that there will be what is called a token one-day strike against adjudication machinery and decontrol. I will not go into these two matters here. But it seems to me quite astoundingly irresponsible for any organisation, whatever its views and ideologies, to indulge in strike at this moment and in this way, even though they may be token one-day strikes. It shows a complete lack of understanding of the political situation or the international situation, of the national situation, of the economic national situation, of the situation, of the human situation, or for that matter of any situation.

I should not like to criticise any people without discussing the matter with them, but I confess that it passes my understanding how any responsible person can indulge in this kind of token strike at a moment when there is always a possibility of something like that giving rise even to bigger problems and bigger conflicts; when all of us here and all over the country are thinking in terms of finding some way out of this impasse, even though it may be a temporary way out. So just at this moment to indulge in this kind of token strikes seems to me to be very unfair and very unfortunate.

#### Policy on Controls

Now the strike, as I have just learnt, is against this compulsory adjudication and decontrol. Opinions may differ about either of these matters, but so far as decontrol is concerned, we have announced a policy which is a very cautious policy. The subject of control is of exceeding complexity and difficulty and opinions differ. The decision that Governmet has arrived at has been after the most careful thought. And even so, we have guarded ourselves that if anything tends to go wrong, we go back, or we reconsider our position. The whole machinery of control is being kept even where control is being withdrawn.

Now, whether we are right or wrong is another matter. We may be wrong, but the only way to proceed about such matters is to be always ready to correct an error as soon as one is convinced that it is an error. We are ready for that, but the point I wish to put before you is this. This Government is supposed to be a popular Government and to represent the wishes of a large

majority of people. If that is so and if that Government takes any measure like this, how do those who oppose that measure proceed? Either they are in a majority or in a minority. If they are in a majority it is very easy for them to put an end to that Government. If they are in a minority, any such action that they might want to take means that a minority is trying to coerce the majority and that inevitably leads—it may of course lead to a temporary success for the minority—to the majority getting angry and setting on the minority.

After all, if you start conflicts, two can play at that game of trying to coerce the other part of the community, or even from the narrowest point of view of a group, this business is unwise and does not pay; but it does a lot of harm to the community. I hope, therefore, that this type of token strikes, though they may be justified in expressing their wishes in any way they like, e.g., by meetings and peaceful demonstrations, that they disapprove of decontrol and adjudication, is not followed because not only does it mean loss of production for that day, but it may mean petty con-flicts. If someone does not go on strike then you pull him out and then there is trouble. Then someone is arrested by the police and immediately a vicious circle starts.

I would beg those who think in this

way to reconsider their decisions and try to think in a larger way or if I may say so, in a more rational way and consider the consequences of these actions. It may be that many of these things that occur happen because of some cause which does not appear on the surface. For instance, some kind of elections may be pending and people think that if they behave in a particular way they may have a pull in the elections—municipal, corporation, provincial. It is quite possible.

Ultimately, it becomes a question for all of us to consider whether we are to think in terms of some petty election or some permanent and larger interest. Of course if we are interested in the former, in the small things, then it is not much good talking about bigger things; they will escape us. I am sure there is quite enough determination and sense in this country to get over these petty difficulties and to face the larger issues.

Therefore, to come back, I hope that this conference will yield this very substantial result, namely, that we shall start in a friendly way, we shall decide on some kind of truce in industry for period and we shall devise means to see that every body gets a square deal as far as possible and, meanwhile, we shall sit down and think about our larger policies.



Assembling Automobiles in India: Mudguard, radiator, radiator grill and headlamp assembled unit being mounted on chassis from overhead conveyor

## THREE-YEAR TRUCE BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOUR

## Industries Conference Resolutions

RESOLUTION calling upon labour and management to maintain industrial peace and avert strikes, lock-outs and slowing down of production for a period of three years was adopted unaninously at the Industries Conference in New Delhi Dec. 18.

The Resolution says: This Conference considers that the increase in industrial production, which is so vital to the economy of the country, cannot be achieved without the fullest co-operation between labour and management and stable and friendly relations between The employer must recognise the proper role of labour in industry and the need to secure for labour fair wages and working conditions. Labour, for its part, must give equal recognition to its duty in contributing to the increase of the national income without which a permanent rise in the general standard of living cannot be achieved. discussion of all problems common to both and a determination to settle all disputes without recourse to interruption in or solwing down of production should be the common sim of employers and labour.

"The system of remuneration to capital as well as labour must be so devised that while, in the interests of the consumers, and the primary producers excessive profits should be prevented by suitable measures of taxation and otherwise, both will share the product of their common effort after making provision for payment of fair wages to labour a fair return on capital employed in the industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking.

"For attaining these objectives, this Conference recommends:

- (a) "That the fullest use should be made of statutory and other machinery for the resolution of industrial disputes in a just and peaceful manner; where it does not exist, it should be created without delay. Such machinery should, as far as possible, be uniform throughout
- (b) "The establishment of machinery, Central, regional and functional, for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions of labour, and fair remuneration for capital; and methods for the association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production, such as the formation of Central, Regional and Unit Production Committees.
- (c) "The constitution in each industrial undertaking of Works Committee representing management and duly elected representatives of labour for the settlement of any dispute which may arise from day to day.
- (d) "That, as a first step towards This Conference recommendation the standard of living of following immediate measures:-

workers, immediate attention should be devoted to the problem of housing of industrial labour; the cost of such housing should be shared in suitable proportions between the Government, employers and labour, the share of labour being given in the shape of a reasonable

"The principles enunciated having been accepted, this Conference calls upon labour and management to agree to maintain industrial peace and to avert lock-cuts, strikes or slowing down of production during the next three years.

"This Conference invites labour and management to assist Government to secure, promote and guarantee such agreement between the parties as will usher in a period of contented and orderly advancement towards a co-operative Commonwealth".

#### Industrial Planning

The following eight resolutions bearing on subjects relating to immediate ex-pansion of industry and industrial planning, both short-term and long-term, were adopted by the Conference on

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

SHORT-TERM AND IMMEDIATE, LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES.

Moved by Mr. J. R. D. Tata and seconded by Mr. M. A. Sriniwasan, Dewan of Gwalior.

- I. This Conference views with grave concern the continued decline in industrial producing which has occurred during the last two years.
- II. This Conference is of the view that the present inability of Industry to produce to its installed capacity and to expand as planned is mainly due to
- (a) inadequately of transport to meet present needs,
- (b) unsatisfactory relations between management and labour,
- (c) shortage of raw materials and defects in their procurement and distribution.
- (d) difficulty in obtaining capital goods and constructional materials to instal them.
- (e) supply and exchange limitations on the import of the full requirements of industry, and
  - (f) Paucity of technical personnel.

recommends the

#### (1) Transport:

- (a) The increase in the movement of coal by four million tons per annum over the existing level of 25 to 26 million tons per annum to enable existing requirements to be met. For this purpose, the fullest use should be made of present wagon availability, and every effort should be made to increase wagon availability and other railway facilities.
- (b) The assessment of the transport required for the movement of finished goods and raw materials necessary for full production: and arrangements to secure such transport through a reduction of less essential movements, whether of goods or passengers.
- (c) An examination of all possibilities of increasing total goods traffic such as rationalisation of line, power and wagon capacity, and fullest use of present resources.
- (d) The fullest utilisation of road river, sea and air transport.

#### (2) Raw Materials:

- (a) Special assistance for increased production in India of industrial raw materials like steel, cement, caustic soda and other chemicals, metals etc.
- (b) The increase of imports of essential raw materials in short supply, like steel, non-ferrous metals, caustic soda and other chemicals etc.
- (c) Foreign exchange difficulties should be overcome to the extent possible by limiting less essential imports, by increasing exports, including export for barter, and by arranging deferred payments and loans in cash or commodities on lines approved by Government.
- (d) The planned utilisation of industrial raw materials in critical short supply with a view to secure increased production. To the extent possible, such distribution of raw materials should be effected in consultation with representative Associations of industry in the case of organised industries and with Provincial and State Governments in other cases.

Provinces and States should be invited to consider, in consultation with industries in their areas, the possibilities of rationalising the use of raw materials in short supply so as to secure maximum production. For this purpose they should suggest standards of classification of units in an industry according to efficiency in production, so that all-India standards may be laid down.

#### (3) Technical Manpower:

- (a) The establishment of scientific and technical liaison offices abroad for the recruitment of technical personnel and the placing of advanced Indian students and technicians in foreign universities, technical institutions, and the acquisition of technical information.
- (b) The increase of facilities in India for the training of scientific and technical personnel, and the training of labour to increase its efficiency and skill.



- (c) The maintenance of a register of scientific and technical personnel.
- III. This Conference recommends that during the next three to five years the increase of capacity and production in certain industres for which plans have been approved and are under execution should be pressed forward with vigour. The essential pre-requisite for such expansion is the increase of production of commodities and provision of services which are basic to industry and without which any expansion would be impossible The following measures are, therefore, recommended:
- (a) Railways: The capacity of rail transport should be increased to meet prospective demands of movement of constructional materials, fuel, raw materials and finished products. The import of locomotives and wagons should be given high priority and existing capacity for manufacture should be developed so as to secure self-sufficincey at the end of this period.
- (b) Steel: New steel plants should be erected and brought into production and in the meantime every effort should be made to import the country's essential requirements in iton and steel.
- (c) Comment: The approved plan for the expansion of cement production should be hastened to an early comple-

- tion so that this important constructional material becomes available for the installation of new industrial plants.
- (d) Electric Power: Simultaneously with the preparation and execution of Hydroelectric projects like the Damodar Valley Scheme, which will take time, existing plans for the installation of ancillary Thermal power stations should be speedily implemented.
- (e) Ceal: The recommendations of the Indian Coalfields Committee regarding the acquisition of mineral right, planned and co-ordinated development of production in new areas, regulation of use and distribution and creation of suitable executive, machinery amongst other things, must be implemented early, so that, the growth of the coal industry on rational lines can be facilitated.
- (f) Oil: In order to reduce dependence on foreign sources, prospecting for oil should receive increased attention and the possibility of producing substitutes from coal should be investigated.
- In addition, legislation to secure the fullest utilisation of power alcohol produced in the country should be enacted.
- (g) In the light of the development anticipated under (a) to (f) above, targets

- for the next five years should be fixed in a realistic manner for other important industries like cotton textiles, paper and newsprint, chemicals, penicillin, sulpha drugs and anti-malarial, heavy, and light engineering, electric and other machinery should be established for watching and ensuring progress towards the targets.
- (h) Machinery for watching and ensuring the execution of immediate and short-term plans: The need for close consultation between the various Ministries concerned with industrial development needs no emphasis.
- It is also necessary to associate representatives of Provincial and States Governments, Industry and Labour in a periodical review of progress and the measures necessary to stimulate it. A Central Industrial Advisory Council should be set up with appropriate Sub-Committees for important groups of Industry and one Sub-Committee for reviewing and advising on problems of transport in relation to industry. Similar Industrial Advisory Committees should also be constituted in the Provinces.
- (j) To assist Government on the proper utilisation of scarce raw materials, capital goods, foreign exchange and other resources, a Priorities Board should immediately be set up.
  - IV. Current limitations of men and



Parts for hurricone lanterns being manufactured in the Steel and Metal Factory, Ishapore, near Calcutta

materials necessitate concentration en immediate and short-term measures fer increasing productive capacity. A long-term plan, however, should be based on the needs of the country for the achievement of maximum self-sufficiency, a higher standard of living and maximum exploitation of indigenous resources. The long-term plan, therefore, must be of a fundamentally different character. The Conference, therefore, recommends that separate machinery for long-term planning must be established very early so that completion of the immediate and short-term programme might merge smoothly into future plans for industrial development. A planning Commission or Development Board, free from the preoccupations of immediate problems of industrial development appears to be suitable.

V. This Conference recommends the creation of permanent machinery, both in the Centre and in the Provinces and States, for the regular collection and maintenance of accurate industrial statistics, as provided for in the Industrial Statistics Act of 1942.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. II**

#### NATIONAL POLICY

Moved by Pandit K. D. Malaviya, Minister of Industry, U. P., and seconded by Prof. D. R. Gadgil.

This Conference recommends to Government that while enunciating their national policy of industrial development, the following aspects among others, should be kept in view:—

- (1) The need for an equitable distribution of the country's wealth and production leading to rapid improvement of the standard of living and comfort of the masses of the Indian people, based on social justice.
- (2) The need for the fullest utilisation of the country's reurcesos without allowing wealth to accumulate in the hands of a section of the people.
- (3) The need for central planning, coordination and direction so as to obtain maximum efficiency and output, a fair and reasonable distribution of the industries throughout the country in relation to the potentialities of each area, and also to determine a fair basis of wages and profit.
- (4) The division of industries into three broad catagories:
- (a) Industries which should be under State ownership and management.
- (b) Industries which may be jointly ewned and managed by the State and privite enterprise.
- (c) Industries owned and managed by private enterprise.

In selecting the industries as aforesaid, which will be reviewed from time to time the parameunt considerations will be the country's basic economic and defence requirements on the hand and the possibility of quick and efficient production on the other.

#### RESOLUTION NO. III

#### FOREIGN CAPITAL

Moved by Dr. Alagappe Chettier and seconded by Mr. Anantasayanam Ayyangar.

This Conference, while recognising that participation of foreign capital and enterprise, particularly as regards industrial technique and knowledge, will be of value for the rapid industrialisation of the country, considers that the conditions under which they may participate in Indian Industry should be carefully regulated in the national interest, and that all arrangements between private industry: in India and abroad should have the prior approval of the Central Government.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. IV**

#### COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Moved by Dr. Banerji, Minister, West Bengal, seconded by Mr. Ramalingam Chettier and supported by the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

This Conference recognises the importance of cottage and small-scale industries to the economy of the country. It is of the view that while the size and nature of these industries make it unavoidable that their proper development must remain the responsibility of Provincial and State Governments, the Central Government should investigate how far and in what manner these industries can be co-ordinated and integrated with large-scale industries. The healthy expansion of cottage industries depends on the provision of raw materials, technical advice and organised marketing of their produce. For this purpose the Central Government should establish a Cottage Industries Board.

#### RESOLUTION NO. V

#### SALES TAX

Moved by the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sitarama Reddy, Minister, Madras and seconded by Mr. K. D. Jalan.

This Conference recommends that the following suggestions be considered by the Central Government in consultation with the Provinces:—

- (a) that raw materials of vital importance to industry like coal, steel, cement and cotton should be exempted from the Sales Tax;
- (b) that the tax on other industrial raw materials should be low and at uniform rates;
- (c) that taxation of the same material more than once should be avoided; and
- (d) that the policies of Provincial and States Governments regarding the levy of Sales Tax should be co-ordinated.

Resolutions VI and VII were moved and seconded together).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. VI**

#### ALCOHOL PHARMACEUTICALS

Moved by the Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, Minister, Bombay, and seconded by Mr. H. Rahman, Representative of Hyderabad Government.

This Conference considers that the lack of a uniform policy in the matter of provincial excise has adversely affected indigenous manufacture of spirituous, medicinal and other preparations.

#### The Conference recommends:

- (a) that a uniform rate of excise duty be fixed on spirituous, medicinal and other preparations in all Provinces and States, and be collected at the point of manufacture for credit to the first importing Province or State; and
- (b) that all inter-provincial restrictions on the free movement of spirituous, medicinal and other preparations be abolished.

#### RESOLUTION NO. VII

This Conference is of the view that the expansion of the alcohol industry whether for power or for other industrial purposes is of national importance.

The Conference recommends;

- (a) that Central legislation to enforce admixture of power alcohol with petrol should be undertaken,
- (b) that the question of reducing the excise duty should be considered with a view to making the mixture of power alcohol and petrol available to the consumer at a reasonable price, and
- (c) restrictions on manufacture of by-products be removed.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. VIII**

#### STATISTICS

#### Moved by Dr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee.

This Conference notes with regret that the census of manufacturing industries for the years 1944 to 1946 has failed. It is of the view that this failure is largely due to the inadequacy of staff and organisation in the Provinces and States. It recommends that adequate machinery is necessary both at the Centre and in the Provinces and States for the regular collection and maintenance of accurate industrial statistics as provided for in the Industrial Statistics Act of 1942. It is also of the view that the existing statistical forms should be re-examined with a view to simplifying them, if possible.

There is a misapprehension in certain quarters that restrictions still exist on the exports of spices and condiments. All spices and condiments other than chillies, are no longer controlled and export is freely allowed, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Food, on Dec. 23.

# FULL PRODUCTION UPTO EXISTING CAPACITY

## Immediate Action Urged in Selected Industries

THE economic situation now is as grave, if not graver, as during the war and it is obvious that increased production can be achieved only through a sustained and planned effort as during the war.

This warning was sounded in a memorandum prepared by the Ministry of Industry and Supply for consideration by the Industries Conference. The memorandum gives first priority to the problem of securing an immediate increase in industrial output up to full existing capacity.

For, said the memorandum, almost since the end of the war, but more noticeably from August, 1946, there had been a steady decline in industrial production with the result that considerable installed capacity was now lying idle. For example, while the peak production of ectton textiles in the period before 1944 was 4,826 million yards per year, the production estimated for 1947 was only 3,800 million yards. Of steel, though there is an installed capacity of 1,264,000 tons per year and as much as 1,160,000 tons was actually produced in 1943, production had declined up to 875,000 tons, as estimated for 1947. Similarly, the monthly capacity for cement in India was 173,000 tons, but the actual production estimated for the present year was 112,000 tons per month and while the annual capacity for paper production was 110,000 tons, only 86,000 tons would be produced in 1947, according to estimates.

#### Causes of Decline

The list of industries in which such a fall in production was so pronounced was a long one. But the Ministry had made a selection of some 30 items, in which they believed the problem of under-production was capable of being tackled and overcome immediately if proper measures were taken forthwith.

The following is the list of industries in which immediate action could be taken to step up production: Steel, cotton textiles, cement, drugs (tinctures and galenicals), sulphuric acid, superphosphates, caustic soda, alcohol, soap, glass, pottery, refractories, enamelware, abrasives, paper and boards, leather, plywood, diesel engines, iron castings, bicycles, machine tools, metals, electric lamps, dry cells, motor-car batteries, electric motors, transformers, electric fans, cables and wires, insulators, electrolyic black copper and belting.

The fall in production below installed capacity in all these cases was broadly ascribable to three causes: Transport difficulties, shortage of raw materials, both indigenous and imported, and labour unrest.

Though the railways in India now moving more goods than before the last war, there was yet a considerable gap between demand and supply and present level of movement was actually less than that attained during the war. The short fall in movement had reacted alike on the clearance of finished products and on the supply of raw materials to industry. Steel, coment and paper were three among the main industries suffering from this lack of adequate transport facilities, while chief among the materials affected was coal. For, while the railways were themselves taking about 50 per cent of all the coal being moved, they were moving less coal now than they did in 1945 or early 1946, while the demand from industry had increased by four to five million tons per year. If the indus-tries selected for immediate plan should be enabled to work up to capacity, the supply of coal would have to be increased by about 150,000 tons per month over the level that had been prevailing

The problems of [transport difficulties needed mainly a long-term solution, but meanwhile, it was hoped, with the co-operation of labour, rationalisation of available facilities and diversion of traffic through road, river and sea, a considerable improvement was still possible.

As for shortage of raw materials, though its incidence was very extensive, the main commodities in acute short supply impeding industrial examination in the country were besides coal, steel and cement. The demand for steel was well over two million tons per annum, but availability was less than one million tons and indigenous capacity only about 1½ million tons. Similarly, while the requirements of cement were between 200,000 and 250,000 tons per month, installed capacity was only 173,000 tons. Shortages in these commodities would persist even after full production of existing capacity was reached.

#### World Shortage

In a different category were raw materials such as caustic soda, soda ash and non-ferrous metals, for whose supply India was dependent mostly on imports but of which there was a world shortage. As measures to increase their imports could succeed only to a limited extent, there was a clear need for utilising their available supplies in a rational manner so as to yield maximum production.

For example, in soap industry there were three classes of factories, the first having an annual capacity of 64,000 tons, the second 96,000 tons and tho third 90,000 tons. The main bottleneck in the industry was caustic soda, of which only 12,000 tons, could be spared for

scap manufacture against the total annual demand of 28,000 tons. The present allocation of caustic sods, which was made more or less on a provata basis, had resulted in the production of scap to an extent of 85,000 tons, which quantity could easily be increased if the factories of the higher classes received preference in allocation.

Similar revision of allocation might step up glass production, in which case the main shortage was in soda ash, 22,500 tons being available against a demand of 30,000 tons.

Another category of shortages consisted of imported components, some of which were in world short supply. The main problem regarding the rest was however, that existing monetary ceilings and delays in licensing had created difficulties, which must be immediately rectified. It was, however, pointed out in this connection that certain machinery and raw materials might be immediately available in surplus stocks held by the Disposals Organisation.

In some ways, labour unrest had been the biggest cause of the decline in production, said the memorandum, which deplored that, though a supreme industrial effort was made possible during the war by the willing co-operation of labour, its post-war activities had had an adverse effect on industry. The effect had been most marked on the railways and on steel and textile production, to name the most important; but practically no industry had escaped.

"But surely", the memorandum concluded, "what labour gave to the war effort, it could and should give more freely now, when the crisis of the country's economic affairs is as grave, if not worse, than the war emergency".

## TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS FOR STEEL UNITS

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji, Minister for Industry and Supply, held a meeting on Dec. 19 with the representatives of the main steel producers and other experts to discuss the steps to be taken to implement the decision of Government that one or more steel plants capable of producing a million tons of steel per year should be set up in India at the earliest possible time.

The meeting, it is learnt, was of the unanimous opinion that the first step should be to obtain the services either from the U. K. or the U. S. A. of expert technical consultants to make a rapid survey and to report to the Government of India on the location, design and construction of the plant.

A small committee, which will include representatives of the main steel producers, will be appointed to draw up the terms of reference to the consultants.

Telegrams are now accepted for Southern Korea at the same rate as to Japan and in plain English only. Transactional telegrams are subject to censorship. Senders of telegrams to Southern Korea desiring reply are advised to prepay, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General Posts and Telegraphs, on Dec. 16.

## COUNTRYWIDE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY

## **Provisions of Electricity Supply Bill**

66 TVERY village in India is to have electric light and every home a radio," said the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, while referring his Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1948, to a Select Committee of the Dominion Legislature. This widespread use of electricity is sought to be effected by the adoption of the "grid system" and the establishment of Provincial Electricity Boards—features which are perhaps novel in the history of electricity legislation in India.

The "grid system" is really the very antithesis of the state of affairs which exists today. A limited local area comprising one or more municipalities and, served as a rule, by one heensee, still represents by far the most dominant type of electric development in India, and it is to remedy the present defectswhich consist of extremely low production of electricity, uneven distribution and, from the consumers' point of view, uneconomic supply that the "grid system" is evoked in the Bill.

The 'grid system" means, in effect, regionally co-ordinated scheme of electrical development which transcends the geographical limits of a municipality, a Cantonnent Board or a Notified Area Committee; and in order that it

may be put into effect, it envisages the erection of large-scale power stations located at suitable centres within a particular region and the construction of a main transmission system with smaller secondary lines attached to it for tapping agricultural and other outlying areas.

The positive programme of electrical development which is implicit in the "grid system" necessarily calls for a body armed with the requisite authority and possessing the necessary financial resources for the stimulation by technical methods of electrical development in the country, and it is here that the Provincial Electricity Boards, which are to be set up under the Bill, will play their most important role.

#### Provincial Electricity Boards

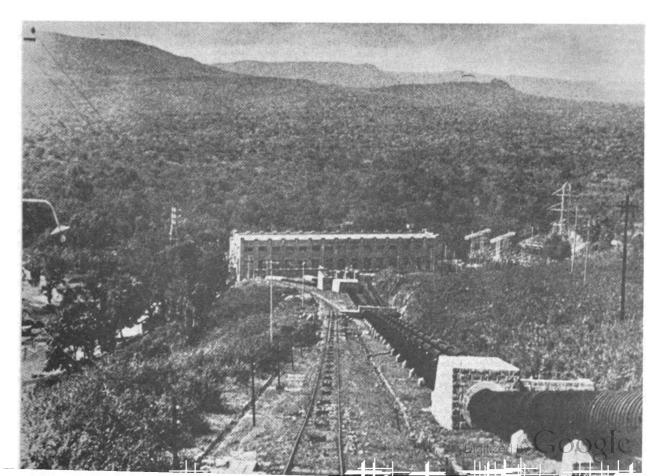
As pointed out by Mr. Gadgil, the Provincial Boards will perform a two-fold function. In the first place, they will be charged with the duty of promoting the all-round development of electricity within the limits of their jurisdiction and, in the second, to effect the rationalisation of the supply of power. The Board may establish new

proceed to interconnect the stations by means of main transmission lines. The Board may also buy electricity in bulk from the owners of "controlled" stations or sell it to them and to other licensees. In short, by ensuring that the generation of electric power is concentrated in the most efficient units distributed over the entire region and that the bulk supply is centralised under its own direction, the Provincial Boards will have the power to develop the "grid system" not only in new areas, but also in the areas of old licensees by controlling their operations.

Mr. Gadgil gave some striking figures which show only too clearly the vast possibilities that lie before this country in the direction of electrical development. For, while the possibilities in India from hydro-electric sources alone may exceed 35 million Kw.; the total installed capacity at present is below 2 million Kw. Again, the annual per capita consumption in India is 9.2 kw. hours as against 906 in England; 1,470 in the U.S.A.; 3,090 in Norway and in the C.S. A.; 3,000 in Norway and 3,510 in Canada. Further, even out of this low output and consumption of electric power nearly 50 per cent is concentrated in the four cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur and Ahmedabad, which together contain less than 11 per cent of the country's population.

It is intended that the Boards will exercise a form of financial control over commercially-owned undertakings with a view to ensuring the investor a reasongenerating stations or control existing table return and, at the same time, ones for the purpose of generating securing to the consumer as much reduc-electricity required by it, and then tion in the cost of electricity as possible.

The power house of the Pykara Hydro-electric scheme. The turbine pipes, taking water down the incline, can also be seen in the picture



A special Advisory Committee consti-A special Advisory Committee consti-tuted by the Government of India has recommended certain "Principles" of electricity supply finance, which define the form that this aspect of control must take. These "Principles" or rules proposed for the calculation of the capital, the standard rates of profits, the rate of depreciation and the requirethe rate of depreciation and the remuneration of managing agents, are intended to serve the interests of the consumer and the investor alike.

The consumer's interests are to be safeguarded by reducing the interest and the dividend payable by the undertakings to a level, below which they cannot be further forced except at the cost of diverting the flow of development capital from the industry. capital from the industry. And the interests of the invester will be safe-guarded by insisting on a properly devised system of compulsory depreciation and regulating the commission and expenses of managing agents.

#### Step towards Nationalisation

The Bill does not set out to nationalise the industry but only to control it at this stage. It enables the Provincial Boards to introduce many of the benefits of nationalisation without it being necessary to make prodigal use of public borrowing power to acquire assets already being efficiently operated by private enterprise. New undertakings will, however, be started mostly by the State and only when it is impossible for the State to come in, may private enterprise be allowed. As far as present undertakings are concerned, the measure of control on them contemplated by the Bill constitutes, according to the Hon'ble Minister, a reasonable compromise between nationalisation and private enterprise. Out of the 412 electricity undertakings in India, 30 belong to private companies, 249 of them in the Dominion and 51 in the States. Calculated in terms of installed capacity, 73.19 per cent of it belongs to privately-owned companies and the rest to municipalities and Government. of control on them contemplated by

It has been estimated that if Government were to transfer all private undertakings in this country to public ownership, it will cost the national exchequer nearly Rs. 150 crores. Meanwhile there is a proposal to amend the Electricity
Act of 1910 suitably with a view to
basing the appraisal of electricity undertakings on their book or written down value instead of the market rate, which is often inflated. It is the contention of the Hon'ble Minister that this proposal and the comprehensive powers vested in the Provincial Boards over private undertakings constitute a step towards nationalisation rather than an obstacle

The Government have decided to allow the export of 20 tons of chocolates of Indian manufacture. Applications for export licences should reach the Ministry of Food, New Delhi, by January 81, 1948. The applications should be supported by firm orders from bons fide traders in the countries to which export is intended, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Food, on Dec. 30.

#### **AUSTRALIA** GOODS FROM CAPITAL

### Indian Government Trade Commissioner's Pamphlet

FEATURE of the industrial advance made by Australia during the war was the comparatively high output of the engineering industry, the value rising from £ (Australian) 274-6 million in 1938-39 to £ (A) 358.1 million in 1943-44. Substantial progress was also recorded in the textiles, food and chemical industries.

"Capital Goods from Australia", a pamphlet prepared by the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Sydney, states that although the domestic demand in civilian industries for machine tools (an important component of the engineering industries) is great, there are certain items which Australia may at this stage be in a position to export.

The list, which may be of interest to Indian importers, includes grinding machines, surface grinders, radial drills, horizontal boring machines and lathes, turret lathes No. 7 (Comb No. 9B), heavy turret lathes No. 7 (Comb No. 98), heavy duty lathes, heavy centre lathes, S. S. and S. C. lathes, tool room lathes 2D (No. 4), shearing machines, boring and turning mill verticals, shaping machines, hacksaw machines, hydraulic presses, electric presses, hydraulic wheel presses, hydraulic pumps, electric motors, standard box type accumulator screw presses. planning machines. slotting presses, planning machines, slotting machines, bar turning and straightening machines.

#### Prospective Exports

From the long-term point of view Australia's prospective exports of machine tools range widely from precision watch makers' lathes to large wheel and shaft lathes. They may also include capstan and surret lathes, milling, drilling and gear generating machines, worm wheels of all sizes, boring mills and centreless grinding machines, mechanical and hydraulic presses, a full coverage of woodworking machines, box nailing, canister and canning, packing and processing machines.

Although Australia produces steel cheaper than any other country, observes the Trade Commissioner, comparative costs in the secondary fabrication tend to rise. Industrialists in Australia, however, believe that, with the application of modern production and quality control methods, there are many lines of specialised plant and equipment which Australia may be able to produce for foreign markets. Some major items of export of the iron and steel industry are wire-drawing, butt welding machines and die-polishing machines, electric melting and refining furnaces.

non-ferrous As regards Australia can fabricate complete sheet rolling and cold rolling mills. In the matter of power machines, the present export capacity is limited to various types of internal cumbustion engines,

diesel generating sets engines for power houses. and diesel

In the field of electric manufactures. Australian firms are interested in the export of alternators, transformers. four-engine D. C. generators, horizontal heavy face grinding machines, rotary traversing grinders, vertical grinders, universal milling machines, lead extension presses and hydraulic pumps, electric annealing equipment, electric furnaces and electric cranes. A list of smaller electrical goods includes household fittings, switches, plugs, electric-mechanical appliances and equipment for motor vehicles, cycles and stationary motors, electric stoves, ranges and cookers, refrigerators and heating apparatus and domestic cooking appliances.

Enquiries from India regarding agricultural machinery are limited to light types. Australia is capable of supplying such machinery and implements.

Jute, cotton, and other textile machinery, except some light wool machinery, is not made commercially in Australia. However, certain appliances used in the cotton textile industry are available for export, including hydraulic baling presses, grinding rollers, complete mercerising ranges, water tube boilers, drop valve steam engines (condensing type), hydraulic cotton presses and Lancashire boilers with economisers.

#### Woollen Industry

Regarding the woollen industry, Australia may be able to supply immediindustry, ately dyeing and scouring appliances, hydro-extractors and reduction gears.

For the hosiery industry, prospective items of export include knitting and pull-over machines, dyeing and bleaching machines, rib machines, linking machines, gauges, electrical dryers.

Chemical industry machinery available for export includes complete carburetted water gas plants, power plants, refrigeration equipment and machine tools for factory maintenance.

Machinery for the manufacture of processed food is generally imported, and only certain items of locally manufactured machinery are available for outside markets.

The designation of the Monitoring Office, All India Radio, has been changed to the Monitoring Service, All India Radio', says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Information and Broad-casting, on Dec. 23.

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Chhattisgarh Rulers Sign Merger Agreement: A conference of Rulers of "A" class States met in Nagpur on December 16 with Sardar Vallabbbhai Patel in the chair. Picture shows (R. to L.) Mr. K. V. K. Sundaram, of the Ministry of Law, Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary, Ministry of States, Sardar Patel, Mr. Mangaldas Pakwasa (Governor of C. P.) and Pandit Ravi Shanker Shukla Premier of C. P.

# SETTLEMENT WITH RULERS OF ORISSA AND CHHATTISGARH STATES

### Sardar Patel's Statement

T is the indisputable right of the people in these territories to modern amenities of Government which should be the governing consideration in everything that we do for them. It will also be the duty of the people concerned to help and co-operate wholeheartedly with the respective Provincial administrations in this process of unification and amelioration, so that they may derive the full benefit of this great achievement," said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, in a statement on his settlement with the Rulers of Orissa and Chhattisgarh States on the problems of integration of those States with the neighbouring Provinces.

Here is the full text of Sar-lar Patel's statement:

The public has already received through the Press and over the radio a fairly clear and detailed picture of the settlement which I have reached, during the course of my visit to Orissa, and C. P. and Berer, with the Rulers of Orissa and Chhattisgarh States on the problem of integration of those States with their neighbouring Provinces. I feel, however, that for a correct appreciation of this important event, it is necessary for me to explain the background and the policy

underlying that settlement. Democratisation of the administration which has long been the keynote of Congress policy towards the States, has become a pressing problem since August 15. The Princes themselves have in many cases begun to realise the spirit of the times and have been gradually introducing measures in accord with that spirit. The progress has been in some States slow, in others it has been swift, but everywhere it has been sure.

It should be obvious to everyone, however, that even democracy and democratic institutions can function efficiently only where the unit to which these are applied can subsist in a fairly autonomous existence, where, on account of smallness of its size, isolation of its situation, the inseparable link with a neighbouring autonomous territory, be it a Province or a bigger State, in practically all economic matters of every-day life, the inadequacy of resources to open up its economic potentialities, the backwardness of its people and the sheer incapacity to shoulder a self-contained administration, a State is unable to afford a modern system of government, both democratisation and

integration are clearly and unmistakably indicated.

In the world of today where distances are fast shrinking and masses are being gradually brought into touch with latest administrative amenities, it is impossible to postpone for a day longer than necessary the introduction of measures which would make the people realise that their progress is also proceeding at least on the lines of their neighbouring areas. Delays inevitably lead to discontent, which in its turn results in lawlessness; the use of force may for a time check the popular urge for reform, but it can never succeed in eradicating it altogether. Indeed, in many of the States with which I had to hold discussions during the last two days large-scale unrest had already gripped the people; in others the numblings of the storm were being heard. In such circumstances, after careful and anxious thought, I came to the conclusion that for smaller States of this type, placed in circumstances which I have described above, there was no alternative to integration and democratisation:

At the same time I felt that their rulers had acquired by heredity and history certain claims on the people which the latter must honour. Their dignities and privileges and their means of subsistance on a reasonable standard must be assured. I have always held to the belief that the future of the Princes lies in the service of their people and their country and not in the continued assertion of their autocracy. In conformity with these ideas, I felt that on release from an increasingly onerous and awkward responsibility, but at the same time with

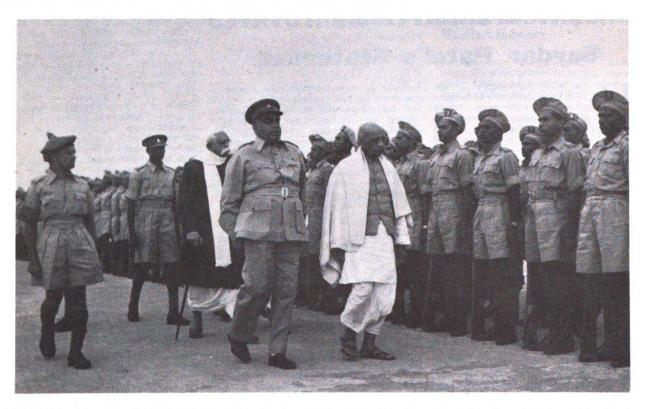


Sardar Patel photographed with the Rulers of "B" and "C" class States of Orissa after they had signed the Merger Agreement with the Indian Union at the Cuttack Government House. Picture shows (L. to R.) the Raja of Athgarh. Miss Maniben Patel, Sardar Patel, the Rani of Ranpura and Mr. Hare Krishna Mehtab, Premier of Orissa

their personal position and that of the ruling family fully safeguarded, they would have opportunities of service

and which many of them are genuinely longing for and genuinely arxious to

which have hitherto been denied to them and which many of them are genuinely targets of continuous bitter attacks and



Sardar Patel inspects C. P. Heme Guard's at Nagpur on December 16, during his visit there in connection with the Conference with Chhattisgarh Rulers

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The settlement which we have reached at Cuttack and Nagpur is actuated by these motives, prompted by these considerations and governed by these principles. I have no doubt that it is in the best interests of the Rulers, the people and the country at large. I am particularly grateful to the Rulers of the States who showed a commendable appreciation of the realities of the situation and a benevolent regard for public good. To all of them, undoubtedly the decisions they have taken have involved considerable sacrifice of powers and fortuna. They have accepted this sacrifice cheerfully and voluntarily in the interests of their people and the country at large. I am sure their people will react favourably to this generous response to public interests.

Throughout my discussions with the Rulers I was careful to emphasise that the solution which we suggested for the difficult problems with which we and they were equally faced was for them to accept or reject of their own free will. There was no compulsion save that of events and of the circumstances and peculiar problems of their States. I also told them that in offering this solution we were actuated by nothing but the friendliest disposition towards them and had nothing but the ultimate good of the Princes and their people at heart. I also maintained that their voluntary surrender of most of the powers that they wielded so far would increase and not reduce the prestige that they have enjoyed and would create in the hearts of their people a place of lasting affection and regard which would redound to their glory. I am very glad that they all responded to these sentiments at would ask the people of these States to play their own part and to extend to each one of them unfailing cordiality and unstinted goodwill.

#### Tribute to Rulers

In future, if the people of these States have any grievances, they can only be against the popular representatives and leaders who would be charged with their interests and welfare, and not against the Princes. These Princes have by their act of abnegation purchased in perpetuity their right to claim the devotion of their people. I am sure that very soon the Provincial Governments who would be acting for the Dominion Government in discharging administrative functions in these States will turn their thoughts and energies to amoliorating the conditions of the people and to devising ways and means of associating representatives of States with the fashioning of administrative measures. Let them all realise the stakes involved—some 56,000 sq. miles of territory with a population of about eight millon, a gross revenue of about Rs. 2 crores and immense potentialities for the future.

It is the indisputable right of the people in these territories to modern amenities of Government which should be the governing consideration in everything that we do for them. It will also be the duty of the people concerned to help and co-operate wholeheartedly with the respective Provincial administrations in this process of unification and amelioration, so that they may derive the full benefit of this great achievement.

# ACCESSION OF STATES TO INDIA "A SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO BOTH"

## Lord Mountbatten's Speech at Gwalior

recall that Gwalior State took a leading part in the negotiations which so happily resulted in the accession of the Indian States. I have always been a believer in the unity of India. In all aspects of the national life, whether we take defence, agriculture, industry or the national economy, unity is the most essential prerequisite of progress", said H. E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, in his speech at the Gwalior State dinner on Dec. 28.

Lord Mountbatten said: I thank Your Highness most warmly for the very cordial welcome accorded to us by Your Highness. It was indeed with great pleasure that we had looked forward to our visit to Gwalior.

I have the happiest memories of my first visit to Gwalier 28 years ago when I had the privilege of staying with His late Highness and of meeting Yeur Highness and your sister. I have never forgotten how smart you both were in perfect miniature uniform of the Gwalier State Forces.

Gwalior is fortunate in having in Your Highness a Ruler who has devoted himself to the task of efficient enlightened and progressive administration. The State has been blessed by nature with a large and fertile area; and Your Highness's Government has I know endeavoured ceaselessly to get the best out of the land by building new irrigation schemes, introducing improved methods of agriculture and better organisation. Nor does the State lag behind in industrial development.

The impressive list of industries established in the State, mentioned by Your Highness, is an indication of the success of the efforts made by you and your Government to ensure that Gwalior keeps pace with the rest of the country in this 'direction. In other fields of administration, too, the State has been making rapid progress, side by side with administrative efficiency, Your Highness has also initiated measures of constitutional reform and has already announced your intention of establishing responsible Government:

I am grateful to Your Highness for referring in such generous terms to what I have been able to do in the cause of the freedom of the country. I know that the steps which led up to the freedom of the country were put through with great speed and efficiency, but all this was possible because of the unstinted cooperation which I received from all alike.

I have particular personal reasons to be grateful to Your Highness and your Government, for when I was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia, in August 1942, the first thing I did was to arrange with the late Major-General Wingate, at the Qubec Conference for a special Long

Range Penetration Force to be set up, to operate behind the Japanese lines.

The Hotel de Gwalior, and the State Fair Grounds were generously placed at General Wingate's disposal for the Headquarters of this gallant force. The Commander-in-Chief of Your Highress's State Forces loaned transport and made ranges, etc., available for training. The old polo ground was lent as a Light Plane strip and I visited the airfield at Maharaipore where the Vengeance Squadron was being trained in co-operation duties with the force. The great success they achieved was in no small part due to the help we received from Your Highness.

Independence has brought with it new tasks, new problems of great magnitude, but we have proved ourselves equal to them. The States as well as the rest of India have presented a united front in facing these new difficulties and the result has been that we have been able to do a great deal and in a shorter time than at one time would have seemed possible.

I have always considered that the accession of the States to the Dominical of India would prove a great source of strength to both; and these months of trial and difficulty have fully justified my belief. It is with great pleasure that I recall that Gwalior State took a leading part in the negotiations which so happily resulted in the accession of the Indian States. I have always been a believer in the unity of India. In all aspects of the national life whether we take defence, agriculture, industry or the national prerequisite of progress.

I think, if I may say so, that the Rulers of India took a most wise and statesmanlike decision when they made up their mind to accede to the Dominion; and I am sure that its beneficial consequences will soon begin to show them: selves when India devotes her energies—as she will soon have to—to her urgent problems of economic and industrial reconstruction.

I thank Your Highness for the warm tribute which you have paid to the services which my wife has been able to render in this country.

Her Highness's personal interest in the education, health, and general welfare activities in the State are well known and have greatly contributed to progress in these directions.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in drinking to the health of His Highness the Maharaja George Jivaji Rao Scindia and in wishing all prosperity to him and the State.

## SCIENCE CAN BE A BLESSING TO HUMANITY

## Lord Mountbatten Opens Research Laboratory at Gwalior

A S Your Highness has so fittingly said science can be a blessing to humanity by bringing peace and prosperity and raising the standard of life of the nation. This is the future to which we should look forward in India; this is the future to which this laboratory can, and I am sure, will make a great contribution; and I wish it every success in the years ahead", said H.E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor General of India, while opening the Jivaji Industrial Research and Development Laboratory at Gwalior, on Dec. 28.

#### Lord Mountbatten said :-

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen-

It is a great pleasure to me to be asked by Your Highness to perform the opening ceremony of the Jivaji Industrial Research and Development Laboratory.

I do not suppose in this modern world that there are many these days who query the necessity for, and the value of research and development. I personally am fully convinced of the need for research and experiment in all directions. In my own small way I have had some experience of this, because during my naval career I was a technical Specialist in wireless communication. For a certain part of my time I was in the Experimental Establishments on shore and although I cannot pretend to have been concerned in all the later wireless developments such as radar, I saw enough to realise the necessity and value of our naval research and development work.

#### Industrial Development

Here in India the Government, as you know, are planning large-scale industrial development and there should be a rapid change in the economy of the country when in particular the planned hydro-electric works are completed. It is the policy of the Government not only to promote rapid industrial development but to ensure that it is spread over the country as widely as is economically feasible. It is, therefore very important that industrial development in States should be planned in such a way as to dovetail into the larger national plan, and my Government offer and invite in return co-operation to this end.

What applies to industrial development in general holds good, of course, with greater force regarding research, and here the pooling of knowledge and experience is even more important. It is, however, essential to ensure that there is economy in effort. For this purpose the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been formed, to ensure that individual schemes of research are drawn up in close collaboration with other organisations. I hope therefore, that this Laboratory will remain in close touch with this Council. It is also very desirable that there should be a

close liaison between research and industry to ensure that the value of research is applied as speedily as possible to industrial problems.

When I first visited Gwalior 26 years ago Your Highness's distinguished father was, as you have said, initiating progress in the Stato in the industrial field. I know he would have been proud to have seen the development of his ideas and the opening of this Laboratory. I congratulate Your Highness and your Government on the continued progress and foresight which are being shown in Gwalior and which are exemplified by this fine building.

#### Mineral Resources

I am also pleased to hear that Your Highness's Government is making a fresh survey of the mineral resources of the State. As is well known, India's mineral resources in power, are limited. There is also an urgent need for gypaum for use in fertiliser and cement industries. The present survey, therefore, comes at a most appropriate time and will, I hope, have even more valuable results than the one carried out under the auspices of His late Highness.

As Your Highness has so fittingly said science can be a blessing to humanity by bringing peace and prosperity and raising the standard of life of the nation. This is the future to which we should look forward in India; this is the future to which this Laboratory can, and I am sure will make a great contribution and I wish it every success in the years shead

#### RAW SILK FROM JAPAN

The Government of India have decided to purchase in Japan and import on Government account 3,000 bales of raw filature silk 13-15 denier and 20-22 denier, and 28 lakhs of pounds of rayon yarn of first quality in 120 and 150 deniers.

Rayon yarn and raw silk have arrived in Bombay, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, on Dec. 22.

The Government of India have decided that the rayon yarn should be made available to consumers through the distribution scheme which operated during the war. It will be offered directly to art silk mills through their recognised associations, where these exist, and to handlooms and cotton textile mills through the Textile Commissioner. A quantity of one lakh of pounds will be thrown open for sale by tender.

The raw silk will similarly be offered at a fixed price to the Governments of the Provinces and the States where the silk handloom industry is developed.



Facsimile of the Government of India's new Emblem and Seal

### India's Emhlem and Seal

The Government of India have now approved a design for their State Emblem and Seal, said a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Dec. 29. It has been decided that the State Emblem and Seal should consist of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka as it exists at present, locked at from the side which shows the lions standing on an alcus which has a Dharna Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a horse on the left, and the outlines of the Dharna Chakra on the extreme right and left.

The bell-shaped lotus at the bottom of the Capital has been omitted as the Capital would become too long for effective use as a State Emblem or Seal.

A suitable motto will be included in due course as soon as one has been decided upon.

A meeting of the Standing Committee for Roads of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) was held on Dec. 16, with the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister-in-charge of Transport, in the chair.

The Committee considered the agenda placed before it. The discussions which centred largely round the progress of Post-War Road Planning, including National Highways, and the administration of the Central Road Fund during 1946-47 are to be continued at the next meeting of the Committee.

Other items considered by the Committee were of a formal nature relating to sanctions and excesses approved during the course of the year.

## LADY MOUNTBATTEN OPENS CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

## "Model Teachers" for Provinces

cation will turn out teachers who will be model teachers' for Provinces; but over and above all this, this Institute will be a research centre for solving new educational problems of the country and will be a beacon light for the training institutions of the country, said the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, welcoming H. E. the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, who opened the Institute in Delhi on Dec. 19.

#### Maulana Azad said:

"India which has taken its place in the comity of free nations of the world has to march forward in every field of her national life with alacrity, but you will agree that none of these fields is as important as the educational field. At present, the percentage of literacy in India is only 14.7, that is, out of every 100 nearly 85 persons are totally illiterate. Not counting the population of the Provinces which have ceded from the Indian Union, the remaining population according to the last census, is in the neighbourhood of 24,02,54,500. Of these, 2,93,72,000 are schoolgoing children—between the ages of 6 and 11. These statistics show that even if we ignore persons above the age of 11 we have still to make immediate arrangements for the education of about 3 crores of school-going children between the ages of 6 and 11.

"I am sure you will agree with me that this state of affairs is most deplorable and no civilized Government can tolerate it. If we are unable to make arrangements for the primary education of about 30 million of our children, all our nation building schemes will, ipso ficto, become valueless. The only way out, therefore, is to try and lift millions of these children from the depths of neglect and ignorance immediately.

#### Lack of Trained Teachers

"The question is how best to solve this problem. The greatest hurdle facing us is the lack of trained teachers. Suppose, we take three teachers per 100 children, we will require a minimum of 9 lakhs of trained teachers for 30 million school-going children. But if we want to break this vicious circle, we should not postpone our educational schemes simply because there are not sufficient trained teachers. Rather we should mobilise as teachers all the educated persons available, and at the same time carry on the training of teachers with the greatest possible speed, so that trained teachers can be made available in sufficient numbers in the shortest possible time.



Lady Mountbatten arrives a perform the opening ceremony of the Central Institute of Education, New Delhi, on December 19. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (right) Education Minister, received Her Excellency. On the left is Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatangar, Secretary, Ministry of Education

"The former Government of India had set up a Central Advisory Board of Education which the present Government has also continued. This Board had in the year 1944 submitted a detailed report on the post-war educational development. One of the basic recommendations in this Report was the establishment of new training institutions for teachers both by the Central and the Provincial Governments. Accordingly all the Provincial Governments as well as the Central Government while formulating their five-year post-war programme had this recommendation in view. A number of such training institutions have already been opened and are still being opened in the various parts of the country.

"The educational plan of the Central Government included a proposal to establish a Central Institute of Education located at Delhi. In 1945, the details of this scheme were finalised and Rs. 18 lakhs for its buildings and Rs. 2,45,000 for equipment etc., were set aside. It was proposed that the building of the Institute should provide classroom accommodation for 300 students of both sexes and hostel accommodation for 150 students. It was also decided to have the Institute within the University grounds and regard it as a Faculty of Education of the Delhi University. It is estimated that when the scheme is in full operation, its annual recurring expenditure will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2 lakhs. This sum has been sanctioned by Government.

"It was decided in 1945 that this scheme should start from the year 1946-47, but it could not be taken in hand and a full year was thus wasted. The building pregramme was held up due to the non-availability of building materials, but the teaching work could have been started in a temporary building. This year, however, it was decided to start the institution in a rented building Accordingly, the house in which we

are at present assembled, was acquired in July last; but we could not proceed with this work earlier due to the recent unfortunate disturbances in Delhi. However, I am now happy that we have surmounted all our difficulties and that today this Institute is being opened by Your Excellency.

"The teachers trained at this Institute will naturally be employed in the teaching institutions in the Centrally-Administered Areas. But while gauging the real importance of the Institute, we should not give undue importance to this aspect of the Institute. The function of the Institute is something greater than this. It will turn out teachers who will be 'model teachers' for Provinces; but over and above all this, this Institute will be a research centre for solving new educational problems of the country and will be a beacon light for the training institutions of the country. The problems facing the Institute will be: how to correlate the different systems of Basic Education; how to reform the present system of examinations; and how to mould the primary education of a child so that he is given full opportunity to develop his individuality and also to equip himself to keep abreast of world affairs. This and similar other problems will come before the Institute and it will have to find ways and meens of solving them.

"We have had to start this Institute in a building which is hardly suitable for it but there was no alterative due to the acute shortage of suitable houses. This house, as Your Excellency can see for yourself, is not big enough for our requirements even with the two tents which we have had to pitch to supplement this accommodation. Because of this limited accommodation, our work and progress will necessarily be greatly hampered and restricted. We have every hope, however, that these difficulties will not hamper our progress for long and that soon this Institute will blossom forth and take its rightful place.

## Tribute to Lady Mountbatten

"Your Excellency, we are fully aware of the keen interest which you have evinced in the social and educational activities of this country. We are deeply grateful to you for the zeal, the promptness and the personal interest which you have shown in dealing with the relief of the unfortunate and the afflicted from the Punjab. To show our appreciation it was only natural that I should have asked you to perform the opening ceremony of this Institute. I am thankful to you for your kindness in accepting my invitation.

"I will now request Your Excellency to perform the ceremony of opening the Central Institute of Education, Delhi. By pressing the electric button you will open the doors of the Institute. May the gates of darkness and ignorance which have prevented light penetrating to the millions of my countrymen be thrown open very soon in the same manner."

# Lady Mountbatten's Speech

Opening the Institute H. E. the Countess Mountbatten of Burma said:

"I have great pleasure in now opening the doors of the Central Institute of Education.

"With this ceremony you are undoubtedly setting your hands to an historic enterprise. It is no exaggeration to say that on the quality of India's teachers will largely depend the importance of India's role in the future of civilisation.

"The Minister of Education in his speech has stressed the vital role which this Institute has to play and the urgency of the problems it is designed to tackle. I am most grateful to him for his kind personal remarks. India's educational development is a cause very near to my heart, and it is indeed fortunate for this country that a man of Maulana Azad's renowned scholarship and high reputation and integrity in public life should hold the Educational Portfolio at this time. His presence in the Cabinet is in itself a sufficient guarantee that education will receive its proper priority in the higher direction of the Nation's affairs.

## Long-Term Constructive Programme

"During the last three months our minds have naturally been concentrated on the primary problems of saving human lives, but with the launching of this Institute, the Central Government make it clear that they are not to be diverted by immediate difficulties from long-term constructive programmes. There can be no finer investment against the future than the establishment of an Institute of this kind. It is good to know that it will have the benefit of being under the wing of your fine University.

"'I was looking up the other day an address given by Lord Halifax at the convocation of the University some 20 years ago. He quoted on that occasion Cardinal Newman's definition of a university's purpose, which I think might eqally well apply as a guiding principle to the Institute. These were Cardinal Newman's words:

"It aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste, at supplying true principles to popular enthusiasms and fixed aims to popular aspirations, at giving enlargement and sobriety to the ideas of the age, at facilitating the exercise of political power, and refining the intercourse of public life.

"India has a great inheritance and has enriched the culture of the world, but cannot live on her history alone. Independent India is a new and creative force; perhaps the best symbol of its spirit is the emblem which my husband chose for his Command in South-East Asia during the war—the phoenix rising to new life from the fires of the past.

"The visits I have made to educational establishments in different parts of the country, as well as my personal contacts with large numbers of students, have convinced me that the thirst for knowledge in India is only matched by the amazing ability of her people to assimilate learning and to apply it to the best possible advantage. Every-where, I have been deeply impressed also by the outstanding enthusiasm of the teachers I have spoken to and of their great sense of responsibility. My personal hope is that with this new scheme for training teachers will come also a practical realisation of the high status which should be their right. Those, whose responsibility is to mould the character and impart knowledge to the future citizens of a great country, are in my mind deserving of the same special financial consideration as are those in the medical and nursing profession in whose hands the health and welfare of millions of human beings lie.

#### **Need for Trained Teachers**

"The Ministry has referred to the very great number of trained teachers that will be required if the primary education of some 30 million of India's children is to be properly provided for, and the need for mobilising all educated persons to fill the gap. Might I venture to suggest as well the full utilisation of the educational film and of the wireless as media for advancing education, including that of health, on a scale hitherto undreamt of. These services are still in their infancy, but will, before long provide tremendous intellectual reinforcement both for teachers and pupils. I am sure there is a great scope for their extension in India.

"They should be enlisted to deal with the tremendous problem of mass illiteracy to which the Ministry referred and which is blocking the light of knowledge, old and new, from helpless millions of India's people.

"The campaign has to be conducted on two fronts. First, there is the training of the mind. But we have learnt to our cost that mere factual knowledge and technical skill is not enough. Men cannot live by powers of reason only, and the training of character is equally vital. In this aspect of education teachers can influence their pupils not simply through what they know but through what they are. Their quality as human beings is not less important than their quality as scholars.

"They will go forward inspired by the knowledge that they are frontline fighters in the struggle for good citizenship.

"May I say once again what a privilege I feel it is to be taking part in this ceremony. I shall always follow the development of this Institute with the utmost interest and sympathy. A great future, I am convinced, awaits it, and all to whose service it is dedicated".

# PLEA FOR DIVERSIFIED TYPE OF INSTRUCTION

## Lord Mountbatten's Address at Bombay

NE of the prominent needs of our educational system is to provide a more diversified type of instruction suited to different capacities and aptitudes. This is desirable even from the point of view of giving full opportunities for self-expression and development of personality, "said H.E Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of Irdia, in his address at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Technical Department of the Robert Money School at Rombay on Dec. 17.

Lord Mountbatten said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I was asked a few months ago whether I would lay the foundation stone of this extension of the Robert Money School, I acceded to the request with much pleasure, for the cause of education (and particulary technical education) is one which has always interested me intensely. I say this because most of my formative years were spent at the Royal Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth, where technical instruction is given in addition to ordinary scholastic subjects, and because in later years I found myself in charge of the technical wireless instruction of the Royal Navy.

Since I have been in India, I have in spite of my many preoccupations on political problems managed to find time to keep in touch with the Ministry of Education's plans for the future of education in India and have also visited and read reports of certain of the bigger schools. Whilst I have been much impressed with what I have seen and heard, it is clear to me that you cannot have too many facilities for education at the present time in a country like India.

#### Confidence in India's Future

I have great confidence in the future of India, but what India needs at the present time in every walk of life is leaders, men who have been trained and educated not only in ordinary scholastic matters, but whose qualities of character and leadership have also been developed. It is here that schools such as yours can play such a prominent part.

But your School in its new role can play an even bigger part in the technical sphere.

One of the prominent n eds of our educational system is to provide a more diversified type of instruction suited to different capacities and aptitudes. This is desirable even from the point of view of giving full opportunities for self-expression and development of personality. It becomes all the more imperative from the point view of building up a balanced and progressive economy. In this legard the greatest lacuna so far has been the lack of facilities for technical

education with the result that young men have been more or less forced to follow a uniform pattern of instruction clearly inadequate to the growing needs of the country.

It is, therefore, all the more fitting that a school which has been a pioneer in the field of secondary education of the acadenic type should now show the way to others in the field of technical education, particularly as the number of technical high schools in the country is small. I am told that although Bombay is one of the largest industrial centres in India, there are at present only two technical high schools in the city, and your School will therefore supply a badly felt need.

## Importance of Technical Education

I have stressed the importance of technical education because I personally have probably received as much technical and scientific training and experience as a Naval Officer can. I spent over 8 years as a wireless specialist serving continuously in wireless appointments. I have given many technical loctures and written technical handbooks on this subject for the seagoing fleet. This year I am President of the British Institution of Radio Engineers, and I qualified as an associate member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers more than 20 years ago; so I can assure you that I am not

speaking about these matters with purely superficial knowledge.

There is one final point which I want to make about the technical school. It can serve as a preparatory school for advanced technical training of the University standard and it can serve as a preparation for a career for those who have not the means to pursue their education any further.

I understand the tendency at present among students is to rigard a technical school merely as a stepping stone to higher technical education and when it fails to enable them to obtain entry into the portals of an Engineering College, students are apt to blame the educational authorities. In fact, there is plenty of employment for young people who have had the kind of elementary training in mechanical and electrical engineering and other branches of technological studies that the technical school has to offer. As industries develop, this type of employment will increase. Young Indians of average means and ability who cannot afford University education will therefore do well to demand and avail themselves increasingly of these schools which in the long run are bound to play a very significant part in the industrialisation of the country.

I should like to endorse all that your Prinicipal has said about the support which the Church Missionery Society has given in the conversion of this establishment into its new sphere as a technical school. I am sure that they will not regret the change over. I should also like to thank him most sincerely on behalf of my wife and myself for the very kind welcome he has given to us.

I shall now have great pleasure in laying the foundation stone.

## University Grants Committee Reconstituted

N view of the recent constitutional changes and the additional responsibility that the Central University Grants Committee will have to undertake in the co-ordinated development of University education in the country, the Government of India have reconstituted the University Grants Committee with an enlarged membership. The Rt. Hon. Dr. M. R. Jayakar will be the Chairman of the Committee. The members are Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, F. R. S., Dr. M. N. Saha, F.R.S., Sir Homi Mody, the Hon'ble Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Mr. K. Zacharia, member Federal Public Service Commission and Dr. B. C. Roy. The term of appointment of the members of the Committee is for five years but they will be eligible for re-appointment.

The Committee will make enquiries and recommendations regarding (i) the lines on which the Universities and other institutions of higher learning should develop (ii) the additional amounts in the form of grants-in-aid from public funds required for them and (iii) the co-ordination of their activities with a view to avoiding unnecessary overlapping.

Since its inception in 1945, the Central University Grants Committee has done valuable work in helping the development of the three Central Universities, viz., Benares, Aligarh and Delhi. The basic annual grants to these Universities. have been nearly doubled.

For the advancement of Women's education in the country, the Committee recommended nearly Rs. 17 lakks as capital grant towards buildings, equipment, etc., and a sum of Rs. one lakh and a quarter per annum as recurring grant. In the case of the Benares Hindu University, the Committee also made certain recommendations for the Teachers' Training College and the Engineering College and also the necessary grants for its Agricultural College and that of Aligarh.

In the case of the Delhi University, grants have been provided for many-sided developments. A capital grant of nearly Rs. 40 lakhs was recommended for various building projects such as those of the Arts Faculty Building, the Women's College, the Biology Block, and the University Hall. The grant also provides

; (Continued on Page 117)

## Inter-Dominion Representatives Meet in New Delhi

## Agreements Reached on Important Matters

GREEMENTS reached between the Dominions of India and Pakistan as a result of the Secretariat level conference of the Inter-Dominion representatives in New Delhi, on Dec. 18, 19 and 20, are now released, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on Dec. 28.

This covered decisions on matters relating to Insurance Companies, Postal Savings Bank Deposits and Cash Certificates, pensions, removal of assets of trusts, educational, cultural and religious institutions, removal of holy volume of Garanth Sahib and other holy books, restoration of licensed arms and ammunition and payment of unpaid bills of contractors.

Here is the text of the agreements:

Insurance Companies:

- l. It is agreed that Companies which have moved their head offices to India will advise the Reserve Bank through the Government of India that 15 per cent. of the statutory deposits made by them with the Reserve Bank shall be deemed to be held on account of the policy-holders now resident in Pakistan until the Superintendent of Insurance has determined the appropriate percentage of policy liability pertaining to persons at present resident in Pakistan.
- 2. The Superintendent of Insurance is to be requested to report the appropriate percentage figure by Jan. 15, if possible.
- 3. On behalf of the Companies which have moved their head offices to India, an undertaking is given that their assets, other than statutory deposits with the Reserve Bank of India, will not be reduced or withdrawn from Pakistan to the detriment of Pakistan policy-

## **Reciprocal Facilities**

- 4. Insurance Companies, in particular, General Insurance Companies, will be accorded all reasonable facilities by the Pakistan Government in respect of protection and investigation of claims for their representatives who must go to investigate and appraise claims which have already arisen or may arise hereafter. The Government of India will accord reciprocal facilities. Agents of such companies should report to the Home Secretary. Government of West Punjab; and similarly, agents of companies in Pakistan should report to the Home Secretary, East Punjab, Jullundur. Both Governments will advise the companies concerned to send out agents and investigators, as far as possible, belonging to communities which prime facie would not require protection.
- 5. In respect of investigation of claims in N.-W. F. P. and Sind, the

procedure agreed upon in respect of West Punjab will apply and the agents of companies concerned will report to the Chief Secretary to the N.-W. F. P. and Home Secretary, Sind, for grant of necessary facilities. It is understood that reciprocal facilities will be accorded in the Delhi Province. Agents of Companies concerned will approach the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, for grant of necessary facilities.

- 6. Complaints in regard to delay in settlement of claims will be referred by Pakistan to Mr. Ranganathan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, and complaints from India will be referred to Mr. Karamatullah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan, Karachi. It is recognised, however, that settlement of claims can be expedited only after the companies concerned get their records, equipment, furniture, etc.
- 7. It is agreed that as soon as the provisional allocation under para 1 has been made, the companies concerned may remove their head office records, equipment, furniture, fittings, etc., and for this purpose they should make application to the Custodian of Evacuees Property, West Punjab, Lahore.
- 8. The same procedure should apply in respect of any insurance companies in other parts of Pakistan, who may have removed their head offices to India.

## Savings Bank Deposits

- (a) (1) In regard to Post Office Savings Bank Accounts it is recognised that there are two categories:
  - (i) where the pass-books are available;
- (ii) where the pass-books have been lost or misplaced.

In regard to (i) it is understood that the Director-General Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan, has been in correspondence with his opposite number in India and that a satisfactory procedure had been devised. It is agreed that the proper procedure should be for persons resident in Pakistan to hand over passbooks at Pakistan post offices and that the Director-General Posts and Telegraphs, Pakistan, should consolidate such cases and forward a list to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphe in India who would arrange transfer of accounts without insisting on production of pass-books or on verification of signatures.

As to (ii), where pass-books have been lost or misplaced, persons resident in either Dominion should apply to the Directors-General, Posts and Telegraphs concerned, giving particulars of post offices where they had savings bank

accounts. Consolidated lists of such cases would be exchanged between the Director-General of the two Dominions, who would make the necessary investigations and have the accounts transferred. Once the accounts have been transferred, the responsibility of a particular Dominion towards the depositor will cease. The two Directors-General should clear legal and procedural difficulties between themselves.

2. It is agreed that the same procedure will apply to Post Office Five-Year Cash Certificates, Defence Savings Certificates and National Savings Certificates

It is agreed that consolidated lists on both these items, separately, should be exchanged by the two Directors-General at regular intervals weekly or fortnightly. This is a matter for the two Directors-General to arrange between themselves.

## Co-operative Societies

The Conference is of opinion that the question of deposits with Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Banks and Unions and of loans owing to these concerns is a complicated matter. It is, therefore, agreed that the Registrars of Co-operative Societies, East and West Punjab, should discuss the matter and submit joint recommendations to their own Governments as soon as possible. The Conference trusts that the two Registrars will make joint recommendations not later than Jan. 20, 1948.

1. It is agreed that all Provincial Governments in either Dominion should take definite measures to facilitate transfer of pension papers with the least possible delay. It is further agreed that all complaints of pensions in either Dominion should be made to the Auditor-General of the Dominion in which the pensioner is now residing and all such complaints will be cleared between the two Auditors-General. Pending transfer of pension papers the Conference agrees to accept the suggestion made in the Pakistan memorandum on this item.

The agreement is as follows:-

- "When a pensioner presents his half of the Pension Payment Order, the Auditor-General concerned will, after obtaining the following documents, authorise a Treasury Officer or Post Master to make provisional payment:—
- (a) A certificate from a Magistrate or a Gazetted officer, certifying the pensioner's identity.
- (b) An Indemnity bond from the pensioner, with two sureties, who should either be permanent Government servants or persons certified to be solvent by an officer not below the rank of Tehsildar, agreeing to refund any amount wrongly paid."
  - 2. Such payment should be autho-

rised for pensions due for the period ending Mar. 31, 1948.

- 3. In regard to pensioners who have lost their halves of the Pension Payment Order, the Conference agrees that following procedure be observed until the Treasury half of the Pension Order can be transferred from one Dominion to the other. It is understood that on receipt of the Treasury part of the Pension Payment Order the Auditor-General concerned will issue a fresh Order. Meanwhile, pensions should be paid for the period ending Mar. 31, 1948, on production of the following:—
- (a) Certificate from a Magistrate or a Gazetted Officer, certifying the pensioner's identity;
- (b) An Indemnity bond from the pensioner with two sureties, who should either be permanent Government servants or persons certified to be solvent by an Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar, agreeing to refund any amount wrongly paid;
- (c) Other corroborative evidence to show that he was in fact a pensioner and the Department, and Office from which he retired;
- (d) A declaration stating the amount of his monthly pension, the month up to which he had received payment and the name of the Treasury or Post Office from which he received payment;
- (e) The number of Pension Payment Order, if possible.
- 4. Under this procedure, pensions will be payable for the months of August, 1947, to March, 1948, inclusive.
- 5. In order that fresh permanent Payment Orders may be issued, the Auditors-General of the two Dominions will collect all cases in which Pension Payment Orders have been lost by persons now resident in their territories and refer such lists to each other so that the Treasury Halves of the Pension Payment Orders may be quickly transferred.
- 6. The procedure agreed upon above will apply to all Provinces of either Dominion.

## Assets of Institutions

- 1. The assets of the institutions concerned may be divided into two categories—(a) Movable and (b) Immovable.
- 2. In regard to Movable assets, it is agreed that on application being presented to the Custodian of Evacuees Property, West Punjab, a quick decision shall be made in regard to equipment, etc., which the Provincial Government wish to retain for their own purposes. In regard to the rest of the assets, the Custodian will grant a permit authorising removal by the party concerned. In making the decision for retention of a part of the Movable assets, due regard will be paid to mutual needs of equipment, furniture, fittings, etc. Above all, special consideration will be given to articles to which the institution attaches special cultural, sentimental or religious importance and, as

far as possible, such articles will be released.

3. In regard to immovable assets India requested that this category of property be taken up for special consideration apart from the general case of treatment of immovable property of non-Muslim evacuees and proposed that the Pakistan Government and Provincial Governments concerned consider the question of taking a quick decision in regard to acquisition of such property or its release so that the trustees or managers could liquidate it otherwise.

The Pakistan representatives said that as India's original memorandum did not raise this issue, there had been no occasion to consult the Governments concerned but agreed to put up India's suggestion and communicate decision at an early date.

## Restoration of Licensed Arms

There are two categories here:.-

- (a) Persons who hold receipts for licensed arms and ammunition taken away from them;
- (b) Persons who do not hold such receipts.

In regard to (a) the Conference is agreed that the two Dominion Governments should issue instructions to Provincial Governments to have such arms and ammunition restored. In regard to (b)

it is agreed that the Dominion Governments should furnish lists of cases to each other and all such cases should be promptly investigated.

The Pakistan representatives agree that facilities will be accorded for the removal of all Birs of Shri Guru Granth Sahib and all other religious books and books on the history of religion. India agreed to accord reciprocal facilities.

The Finance Secretary, East Punjab, explained that an agreement had already been reached between the Governments of East and West Punjab and a satisfactory procedure devised regarding unpaid Bills of Contractors.

A claimant puts in a claim in duplicate to the Chief Secretary of the Province where he is resident. The Chief Secretary forwards one copy of the claim to his opposite number who, after having the necessary verification made, replies whether payment may be made. Action is then taken accordingly. The principle is clear that authority to pay the claim must be given by the Government in whose territory the service or supply in respect of which the claim arises, was rendered or made.

The Conference agrees that this principle and practice are satisfactory and should be extended to all Provinces of either Dominion. In all Provinces the Officer to whom correspondence should be addressed is the Chief Secretary, unless the Provincial Government nominates some one else.

# Transfer of Bank Accounts

Pakistan have been considering the policy that should be followed in respect of operation of the safe deposit vaults and the transfer of bank accounts from one Dominion to another, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Dec. 24.

In regard to safe deposit vaults, the Communique adds, Government wish to make it clear that they are anxious to see that the valuables lodged in the vaults are restored to their rightful owners. In so far as West Popiab is concerned, in order to ensure that this is done on proper lines, it has been arranged by Pakistan Government that any person wishing to remove his valuables should apply to the Custodian of Evacues Property for a permit to operate his locker. In granting such permits the Custodian will satisfy himself that no claims against the applicant in respect of the valuables concerned are pending; this applies especially to removal of articles pledged with a pawnee.

As regards the transfer of bank accounts from one Dominion to the other, both the Dominion Governments have agreed not to place any restrictions on such transfers and to take reciprocal action for ensuring that they are made smoothly and expeditiously. Difficulties in this respect have been mainly due in the past to deficiency of staff

and communication delays. The two Dominion Governments are affording all reasonable facilities to the banks to enable them to function in a normal way.

A committee of six members, comprising of Government representatives, both Central and Provincial, as well as banking interests, is being constituted in order to investigate the difficulties of banks and to suggest measures to both Governments for restoring normal functioning of the banks. For the convenience of depositors wishing to get their accounts transferred from one Dominion to the other it has been decided that each bank should designate and notify in the Press one office in each Dominion to which applications for transfer should be addressed. It is hoped that these arrangements will facilitate transfers as soon as the banks' staff position and communications have improved.

Janab K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim, M. L. A., Tirunelveli, and Mr. M. Ruthnaswami, C. I. E., Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee to the Trichinopoly station of All India Radio rice Rev. Fr. Sequeira and Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Jan. 8.



Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, addressing Press correspondents on the nationalisation of India's Armed Forces

## NATIONALISATION OF ARMED FORCES

## Sardar Baldev Singh's Address

ATIONALISATION of Armed Forces has progressed at a rapid pace in spite of great difficulties that we had to face. Due care has been taken that the efficiency of the Armed Forces is not impaired. The results achieved are very satisfactory and by April 1, 1948, our Armed Forces will be officered almost entirely by Indians", said the Honble Sardar Baldev Singh, Minister for Defence, Government of India, at a Press Conference in Delhi, on Dec. 22 last.

The l'efence Minister said:

Rarely in peace time has a fighting force suffered such great vicissitudes during so short a period as the Indian Army in the last six months of this year. Following the decision to partition the country, the Army had to be divided and the reconstitution, which began immediately, meant the breaking up of battalions, regiments, installations, training institutions, etc.

## Call from Kashmir

"Very few realise how complicated a job this was and the difficulties entailed as it had to be done in the short period at our disposal. In addition to the difficult job of reconstitution, the Arnoy had also to take up the responsibility of the evacuation problem in the lumpab. The magnified of this task was tremendous and it has been magnificently handled. In all, nearly million Muslims were evacuated from India to West Pakistan and a little over 4 million Hindus and Sikhs from Western Takistan, to India. No army of any country in the world had to tackle a problem of such magnitude ever before.

"We had hardly finished the evacuation problem when all of a sudden we had to send troops to protect the people of Kashmir. Enormous effort had to be put in a short period and—thanks again to the efforts of the Armed Porces—the Indian Union territory in Kashmir is being well protected against the savage attacks of the raiders.

"The most important task of nationalisation also had to be carried out in spite of the great difficulties. This has not only proceeded well, but has gathered such a momentum during the last few months that, almost all the important posts will, in the near future, be held by Indians.

#### Indians to be in Command

"This rapid progress towards complete nationalisation has naturally necessitated a large number of transfers and each change inevitably involves a series of consequential changes. As the mere physical movement of officers from one post to another requires a certain amount of time, and as care must necessarily be taken to ensure that efficiency is not impaired in the process of transfers, the completion of the whole programme of transfers has had to be spread over a period of months.

The position today is that by Jan. 1, Indian Officers will be in command of all operational formations and units. Before Aug. 15 the united India Army had over 10,000 British Officers. On Aug. 15, this number fell to a little over 1200 for India. After Jan. 1, 1948,

that number will be further reduced to less than 300.

"On Aug. 15, 1947, less than 10 per cent. of the battalion Commanders and Regimental Commanders in the case of the Armoured Corps, were Indians. On Jan. 1, 1948, the position will have been reversed, and about 95 per cent. of the Commanders, including those of such Gurkha battalions as are to remain in our Army, still be Indians. The British Officers who will continue, will be in command of Regimental Training Centres. By April 1, 1948, all Commands in the Lieut-Colonel level will be held by Indians.

"Again, on Aug. 15, 1947, only 5 per cent of Brigade and Sub-Area Commanders were Indians. On Jan. 1, 1948, all Brigades will be commanded by Indians and only three out of thirteen Sub-Area Commanders will be British. There was no Indian Officer commanding a Division or an Area on August 15, 1947. By Jan. 1, 1948, only two Area Commanders will be British, all other Area Commanders will be British, all other Area Commands and Divisional Commands being held by Indians.

"In the Technical Arms such as Artillery and Signals no Indian held the rank of Brigadier on Aug. 15, 1947. It must be remembered that there is a great deficiency of the Indians in this branch. By Jan. 1, 1948, 60 per cent, of the posts will be held by Indians and by April 4, 80 per cent. Lastly, on Aug. 15, 1947, there was only one Indian Major-General holding a Staff appointment out of a total of 8 senior appointments. All the GOC-in-Cs of the Eastern, Southern, and D. E. P.

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Commands will be Indians by the middle of January and 5 rosts of Major-General on the Staff will be held by Indians.

"It is clear thus that a great measure of nationalisation will have, in fact, been effected on Jan. 1. It was originally hoped that it would be possible to effect even more changes by that date, but the problems of nationalisation had inevitably to be subordinated to the problems arising from internal disturbances, protection and movement of refugees and evacuees, and operations in Kashmir.

"It was not until Nov. 20 that it became possible, as a result of successful negotiations with II. M. G. in the United Kingdom, to announce terms for British Officers whose services the Government of India wished to retain. The response from British Officers has been satisfactory although it has been greater in certain Arms than in others and there may be many vacancies left in the officers cadre of purely technical arms, such as Engineers. We hope to find suitable candidates in India, with the secessary engineering and other technical qualifications, to fill these vacancies. In some special categories, however, it will still be necessary to secure the temporary loan of certain number of specialist technical officers from the United Kingdom.

"Stated briefly, the policy of the Government of India for the future is to retain a certain number of British officers as advisers, staff officers and Instructors as commandants of certain training units and establishments and in certain technical units. I attach the greatest importance to training eastablishments, and every effort will be made to get the best possible instructors. The total number of such British officers is likely to be between two and three hundred.

#### Naval Training Establishments

"From Jan. 1, Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart is, for reasons of health, vacating the appointment of Commander-in-Chief. His place will be taken by Lieut. Gen. F. R. R. Bucher, at present Chief of Staff, Indian Army. Gen. Bucher will be relieved on April 1, 1948, and an Indian Officer will then occupy the highest office in our Army. Gen. Bucher will continue thereafter, however, as the Chief Adviser. His other colleagues as Advisers will be Lieut. Gen. D. Russell, Major Gens. H. Stable, Pert and O. Lentaigne.

"Naval training is a lengthy process and experience is a factor of great importance in the Sea Nervice. The pre-war I. I. N. was very small and although development during the war was rapid, the regular entry was not appreciably increased. The result is that the most of our naval officers have only 5 to 8 years' service. Out of a total cadre of 6:20 commissioned officers only 9 have more than 10 years' service. Covernment is pursuing a policy of developing and modernising the navy. We are acquiring new types, a cruiser and three destroyers, which India has never previously possessed, and have decided to set up modern naval training establishments.

Rapid progress is, nevertheless, being made in nationalisation. On Aug. 15, 1947, there were 200 British Commissioned and Warrant Officers serving in the R. I. N., out of a total cadre of 85%. During 1948, the total number of British Officers, who will be needed to assist in our programme for the development and modernisation of our Navy, will be about 60 Commissioned and 70 Warrant Officers, out of a total cadre of 620 tommissioned and 209 Warrant Officers. Indian Officers are being appointed to responsible positions as early as possible.

"All our ships are, at present, commanded and officered by Indians as are also several of our shore establishments. Of the Naval Headquarters staft of 75 Officers, all except 9 are Indians.

## Air Force Development

"Before the 15th of Aug. 15 the Indian Air Force was mixed with the R. A. F. and there were some 100 R. A. F. officers and 500 R. A. F. airman working in the R. I. A. F. units. Today, there are only six R. A. F. officers. These officers will continue to serve on in India for a further period. The dovernment of India attach the greatest importance to the development of the Air Force and are anxious to make every possible provision for its development. All the training institutions that are

necessary to train our officers and men, have now been sanctioned and steps are being taken to get them going as early as possible. Due to the partition, some training institutions were left in Pakistan and arrangements are in hand to build up these institutions in Indis.

"The Government of India are also obtaining on loan the services of 7 more R. A. F. officers for posts requiring specialized knowledge.

"This, in brief, is the comparative position before the Aug. 15, and new. Nationalisation, it will be seen, has progressed at a rapid pace in spite of great difficulties that we had to face. Lue care has been taken that the efficiency of the Armed Forces is not impaired. The results achieved are very satisfactory and by April 1, 1948, our Armed Forces will be officered almost entirely by Indians.

"The Government of India are anxious to bring our Armed Forces in line with our new intional status and I have every hope that Indian Officers, who take up now responsibilities, will not only maintain their previous proun record but will better it and show to the world that the antionals of this great country are capable of shouldering the heavy responsibility of management and command of our Forces.

## **CLASS II SERVICE ON RAILWAYS**

T their meeting held on Dec. 15, the Central Advisory Council for Railways have endorsed the proposal of the Railway Board to introduce Class II Service on railways where it does not exist at present. This is a complete reversal of the proposals which have been placed before the Railway. Standing Finance Committee since 1942, and to which the Committee have been opposed, that the Lower Gazetted Service should be abolished on the railways where it exists and that there should be only one gazetted service viz. Class I.

#### Lower Gazetted Service

The Lower Cazetted Service, as constituted at present on the Railways on which it exists consists almost entirely of men promoted from Class III Services. Now direct recruitment will also be permissible through the Railway Joint Services Commissions but only after all staff in Class III who come up to the requisite standard are premoted to Class II. After this system has been in force for two years, the Council will be asked to consider whether definite percentages for direct recruitment and for promotion from Class III should be laid down. The Council also agreed to continue for the present the practice of reserving 20 per cent of the vacancies in Class I for suitable officers from Class II.

The Council recommended that in regard to the European style refreshment rooms, seperate refreshment rooms for lat and 2nd class passengers should be abolished but different tariffs for the

two classes of passengers should continue for the present.

The Council recommended the establishment of a Local Advisory Committee for the Provinces of U.P., Delhi, and East Punjab on the B. B. and C. I. Railway, which will include representatives of the U.P. and E.P. Logislative Assemblies, Chambers of Commerce serving the area; and the U.P. and East Punjab Governments.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, says a Press Note, has had under consideration the question of granting some relief to Central Government servants stationed in West Pakistan who opted for service in India and have suffered loss of personal effects in the course of their evacuation.

It has now been decided that Heads of Departments may, in deserving cases, grant special advances upto three months' salary, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,500 to enable Government servants to provide themselves with personal equipment essential for their duties as Government servants.

These advances will be interest free and will be recoverable in not more than 36 monthly instalments.

This concession will also be admissible to Provincial Government servants who have come as refugees from areas in West Pakistan and have subsequent y been employed under the Central Government.

# INCOME-TAX INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

THE Government of India have recently appointed an Incometax Investigation Commission, which has been charged with the duty of investigating the methods and the extent of evasion practised by certain persons contrary to the provisions of the Indian Income-tax Act and the Excess Profits Tax. The Commission is presided over by a retired Judge of the Federal Court, and among its two other Members is a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Experience of income-tax procedure is provided for by appointing a Member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and an ex-Commissioner of Income Tax as the other Member.

## An Appeal

With such a composition and with requisite powers for calling for information, etc., the Commission is expected to inspire confidence that the scales will be held even between the tax-payer and the tax-gatherer. At the same time the Commission will deal with the tax-evader without fear or favour.

While the requisite machinery is thus provided for collecting as far as practicable the lost or evaded taxes, which may amount to a substantial sum, it is obvious that the machinery cannot hope to achieve its purpose without the co-operation of the public.

Whatever might have been the motives or reasons for the evasion, the interests of Independent India make it

the patriotic duty of every citizen to make good to the State what was held back under the old regime.

Government are prepared to assure the public that a lenient view would be taken of those cases in which the persons concerned spontaneously respond to this appeal.

To those others from the public, who, although not themselves evaders, have knowledge of the men who have evaded and of the methods of evasion practised, the duty is clear that they should place their knowledge at the disposal of the Commission and assist it in exposing the evaders and the evasion practised.

In doing so they will be assisting towards better Government by placing the State in funds to push forward the many schemes for the public good which the lack of funds has retarded or fcreed Government to abandon. They will be assisting themselves and the other honest tax-payers by reducing their burdens. The Government of India confidently hope that such assistance will be forthcoming and that the labours of the Commission will receive from every honest citizen the help and assistance ho is able to render to it.

The office of the Commission is situated in the Imperial Secretariat Buildings (North Block 1st floor), in the wing occupied by the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division). The Secretary of the Commission will give every facility to whoever approaches him with the honest desire to help the Commission in its work.

## Customs Duty on Export of Jute

In their Communique of Nov. 23, the Government of India, while dealing with the imposition of a duty on raw jute by the Pakistan Government, stated that they were examining what measures they should take in order to protect the interests of the Indian Dominion. The matter has received further careful consideration of the Government of India and they have decided to declare forthwith the Dominion of Pakistan to be foreign territory for the purpose of levying Customs duty on the export of raw jute and jute manufactures, from India to Pakistan, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Finance (Rovenue Division) on Dcc. 23.

To implement this decision the Government of India have issued the necessary notifications under the Indian Tariff Act, the Sea Customs Act and Land Customs Act with immediate effect.

The Government of India are also taking suitable measures to ensure that sufficient

stocks of raw jute are kept available in the Indian Dominion.

The above decisions or any others that the Government of India may be called upon to take to cope with the situation caused by the levy of Customs duties by the imposition of export duty on raw jute by the Pakistan Government are, however, as already stated without prejudice to reconsideration of the position if an amicable and reasonably long-term settlement is reached over the entire field of freedem of trade and commerce between the two Dominions, levy of Customs and excise duties, their pooling and allied matters.

Telegraph Service to French and Russian Zones of Germany and to Berlin is restricted to full or urgent rate plair language telegrams, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General Posts and Telegraphs, on Jan. 9.

## Negotiable Instrument Act Amended

TO meet the difficulties which are being experienced in dealing with bills drawn on firms and companies situated in disturbed areas, an Ordinance has been promulgated on Dec. 27, 1947 temporarily amending the Negotiable Instrument Act, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Finance on the same day.

Banks have been given power to treat bills as dishonoured when presentment is impossible owing to the prevalence of disturbances.

The Ordinance also temporarily suspends operation of the Indian Limitation Act, and Courts are accordingly empowered, during the period of the Ordinance, to admit suits which became time-barred on and after Aug. 1, 1947, and whenever they are satisfied that owing to disturbed conditions the creditor was unable to institute the suit within the period of limitation.

These measures have been decided upon in consultation with the Government of Pakistan, and it is understood that they are taking parallel action.

#### Banks' Risks

Amondment of the Negotiable Instrument Act became necessary, because, as the law stands at present, bills are required to be precented for seceptance or payment before they can be treated as dishonoured, and there are no exceptions to cover cases where this is impossible owing to disturbed conditions. The result is that banks have to incur godown and insurance charges if they clear and store goods without presenting the documents for acceptance, and, not being authorised to sell the goods, they run the risk of their security being seriously reduced by these charges.

Apart from the question of affording protection to banks, the country's economy demands that these goods are quickly distributed. This is also in the interest of clients themselves since storage charges, which are high at present, may not only absorb all the profits on the eventual sale, but may also result in the drawes being asked to reimburse losses due to an indefinite pericd of storage.

#### The Amendment

The amendment makes it possible for banks to sell the goods after a reasonable period, keeping the proceeds for their constituents' benefits after deducting their own dues. In order, however, to prevent abuse of this power, banks will be required to make returns to the Reserve Bank of India. Importers are advised to contact the nearest offices of their bankers so that enquiries may be instituted as to the goods they are expecting.

Amendment of the Indian Limitation Act became necessary because banks, unable to function normally during the disturbances, were not in a position to take legal action in order to realize their claims. This problem also affects other creditors placed in a similar position.

ENDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 15 1948
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# ENQUIRY INTO EX-MILL PRICES OF CLOTH AND YARN

## Tariff Board's Terms of Reference

THE Government of India, in their Resolution No. 88(2).—Text 1-47 dated Nov. 17, 1947, have entrusted the Tariff Board with an enquiry regarding (a) fair ex-mill prices to be paid for cloth and yarn with special reference to the changes created by the introduction of the Standardization Scheme (b) steps to secure the co-operation of labour in order to increase production and eliminate wastago or leakage and (c) the desirability of the existing system of control over production and distribution of cloth and yarn.

The following are the terms of reference of the Board:—

(i) To enquire into the cost of production of the various types of cloth and yarn produced, and to recommend fair ex-mill prices to be paid for cloth and yarn, with special reference to the changes created by the introduction of the Standardization Scheme.

#### **Production at Maximum Level**

In making their recommendations the Board will keep in mind the desirability of maintaining the production of all mills at the maximum level while at the same time ensuring that the profits of the more efficient units will not thereby become excessive. If the Board consider that it would be impracticable to settle a level of prices which would balance these two requirements, they may consider whether prices cannot be kept down to reasonable levels with a subsidy or similar relief to sections or units of the industry whose production cannot otherwise he maintained. If special circumstances apply to mills engaged in the production of yarn alone, the Board will take those circumstances into consideration when making their recommendations.

- (ii) To advise on the adjustment to be made from time to time to the ex-mill prices recommended by them for cloth and yarn, so as to allow for fluctuations in the prices of raw cotton and in other elements of the cost of production.
- (iii) In the event of subsidy or other relief being recommended for certain sections or units of the industry under (i) above, to suggest ways and means of finding the necessary funds.
- (iv) to recommend in what forms the co-operation of labour should be secured in order to increase production and eliminate waste or leakage.
- (v) To advise Government generally on the existing system of control over production and distribution of cloth and yarn, and on its continuation.

The Board are requested to submit their report in two parts the first relating to the terms of reference numbered (i) to (iii) above, and the second to the remaining terms of reference. The first of these reports should be submitted within a period of about three months subject of course to the Board being

satisfied that reasonable accurate findings can be arrived at within this period.

As required in the resolution the Board is first taking up the question of fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn. In order to facilitate the preparation and consideration of the case, the Board has prepared a questionnaire setting out points on which detailed information is required. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Indian Tariff Board, Contractor Buildings Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay.

Firms or persons who desire their views to be considered by the Board should address their representations (with 11 spare copies) to the Secretary, so as to reach the office of the Board before January 15, 1918. Dates for public examination of the witnesses will be notified in due course.

#### Dr. MUKERJI'S SPEECH

(Continued fram Page 86)

plant and machinery and technical personnel.

Meanwhile, every one of us, Government, industry, labour and the public, should do every thing possible to speed up production to the maximum of cur capacity and not allow any party or other extraneous consideration to sabotage this great and united effort. The efforts of those who are represented here will and must be harnessed with the programme of expansion, envisaged by the Ministrics of Food and Agriculture and Works, Mincs and Power, thus leading to a planned and progressive reconstruction of India's economic structure.

May I conclude with the appeal that at this dawn of a new era in India, we bury our differences, cease to fight on mere slogans, and with malice to none and charity for all, join together in a vigorous co-operative effort which will make possible a rapid transition from our preponderating colonial economy of raw materials produced by exploited masses, to a national economy of manufactured goods produced in abundance by skilled workers fully enjoying the fruits of their labour.

Let us agree to be judged by one test and one alone, and that is the raising of the standard of living of the common man and an end of exploitation for the benefit of a chosen few. I have every hope that with the active co-operation of the Governments of the Provinces and the States, of industry and labour, we shall soon be able to lay down an all-India policy and programme of industrial development which will enthusiastically rally all classes of the Indian people to a supreme endeavour to raise our country out of the morass of poverty and hunger, of disease and degradation.

## PAY OF PRE-1931 ENTRANTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

COMPLAINTS have been received that the rules sanctioning the revision of pay on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission operate unduly harshly in the case of pre-1931 employees of the Government of India who desire to elect the new scales, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Finance, on Dec. 23.

The rules referred to give every pre-1931 entrant the choice of getting whatever is more favourable of the following:

- (1) Retaining pay in the pre-1931 scale.
- (2) Opting to have his pay fixed under the new scales at an amount not exceeding the pay admissible if he had been a new entrant from the beginning of his service.

In view of the fact that the pre-1931 scales of pay were substantially more favourable than the post-1931 scales, and, might in some cases, be more favourable than even the latest scales based on the Pay Commission, it will be recognised that this is very fair to the Government servants since they can choose whichever is more favourable.

In certain cases, however, it is found that a pre-1931 entrant is discouraged from accepting the latest scale, even though it might be better in certain respects, as the initial pay, fixed under the rules, would involve a loss. In order to encourage as many pre-1931 entrants as possible to elect the latest prescribed scales and attain uniformity in pay scales sooner than would otherwise be the case, the Government of India have decided that the pre-1931 entrants electing the new scales should be protected against any immediate reduction in pay.

## Personal Pay

The Government of India have accordingly decided to grant protection to pre1931 entrants who finally elect the new scales, in the shape of personal pay equal to the difference between the pay they were actually drawing before election and the pay to which they would be entitled on fixation in the prescribed scales under the present rules (where it is lower). The personal pay is liable to be absorbed in future increments.

Since the scales prescribed under the Pay Commission are regarded as adequate consistent with post-war economic conditions, the latest decision secures that no Government servant, whether pre or post-1931, gets a scale of pay or initial emoluments lower than under the latest scales.

## NEARLY TWO MILLION REFUGES destinations in East Punjab for distribution amongst farmers as fertiliser. RESETTLED

## Further Scope in States and Provinces

EARLY two million rafugees have been resettled in East Punjab and Indian States. Of these over 1,500,000 have been resettled on more than two million acres of land in East Punjab, which has adopted a plan for the resettlement of another 550,000 refugees by internal dispersal from rafugee camps, particularly in the Ambala Division. Nearly 223,000 refugees have been settled in various States, including 123,000 in Patiala and 50,000 in Jodhpur.

Another 15,000 have secured employment through Employment Exchanges and the Government of India's Transfer Bureau. The average size of a family being five persons, this means resettlement of 75,000 refugees.

Further plans for the resettlement of refugees are indicated in the latest reports received from the Provinces and States. Patiala State proposes to resettle another 75,000 refugees or so, including five to ten per cent of urban refugees. A scheme has been drawn up in Holkar State for resettlement of agriculturist refugees and artisans in the Rampura, Bhanpura and Nemawar districts, the State authorities sanctioning a special advance of Rs. 500,000 for the purpose.

Alwar State, which has already settled 8,000 refugees, proposes to resettle

another 50,000 in villages where agricultural lands and houses will be provided. In Partabgarh State, rehabilitation plans include the allotment of ten bighas of land per family with no land revenue for five years and only half the assessment for the next five years, as well as taccavi loans for digging wells and buying bullocks. The State has also sanctioned a loan of Rs. 500,000 for building a colony of 1,100 plots for refugees.

## Import of Tractors

Efforts are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture to import 220 tractors by March, 1948, for a project which aims at-mechanical cultivation of land in East Punjab for the next kharif season. At the instance of the Government of India oil companies are arranging to supply sufficient quantities of high-speed diesel oil to the East Punjab Government for the tractors already supplied.

About 200,000 acres of fallow land could be secured and made available to agriculturist refugees for rehabilitation in East Punjab if tubewell irrigation could be arranged, and this matter is at present under consideration by the Government of India and the Government of the East Punjab. Meanwhile, a consignment of 1,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia is on its way from Bombay to various

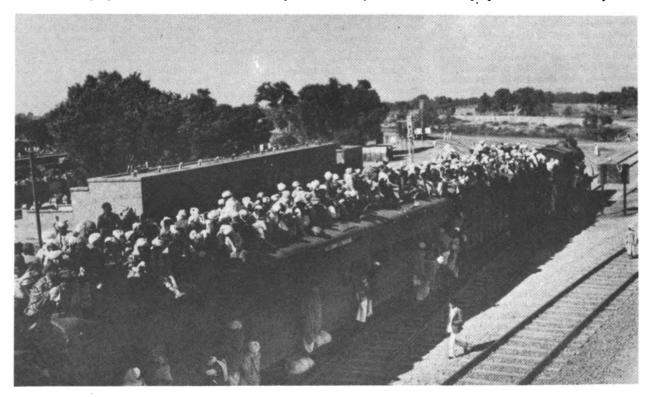
The absorption of urban refugees in trade, commerce and industry is under way. The question of affording facilities to refugee firms dealing in fruit preservation is under consideration, though licences are being issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to selected fruit preservers, some of whom have already established their activities here. These firms are being issued sugar permits after inspection on the basis of the normal quota of sugar which they used in Pakistan.

Field Officers of the Ministry of Industry and Supply have been deputed to Calcutta to investigate the capacity and other details relating to factories which have recently been put up there by refugees from West Punjub. On receipt of their reports supply of raw materials required by them will be arranged.

The Ministery of Railways has arranged for the speedy despatch of cotton and wool from the purchasing centres like Hansi, Fazilka, Rewari, etc., to the manufacturing stations, e.q., Rampur, Kanpur, Delhi, Indore, etc., where the raw material is used for making blankets and quilts.

#### Industrial Schemes

In the United Provinces the Government have carried out an occupational census for planned rehabilitation. A large number of refugees seeking paid employment are getting absorbed in the life of the Province. Special industrial schemes are being considered for the large number of petty traders. It is also proposed that facilities previously



Into the township which has grown up in Kurukshetra, a train steams in, carrying still more people, who need shelter first and the encouragement to start life anew

provided to ex-soldiers for the purpose of training in technical and vocational trades for resettlement on land and for production work at the workshops of vocational training centres should be extended to refugees.

Mysore State is willing to absorb about 5,000 refugees and provide them work on daily wages at the site of the reservoir under construction in the north-western part of the State.

Plans for rehabilitation in Baroda State include employment in State services of professional men like doctors, engineers, professors and skilled and semi-skilled workers, mechanics and artisans; allotment of residential plots, reclamation of jungle areas on a limited scale, and encouragement to industrialists and business men who wish to start their own industries.

#### Sites for New Colonies

Holkar State has sanctioned the construction of two roads at a cost of Rs. 750,000 to provide immediate work to refugees. In the city of Indore a list has been prepared of the various trades and professions to which refugees belong, and attempts are being made to absorb them in the trades concerned. A proposal for developing sites for new colonies farther away from the city is under consideration.

In Jodhpur State, 25,000 refugees have been settled in the town of Jodhpur, a number of them being employed in State Public Works Department, private industrial concerns, as well as business.

Almost all the gaps created by Muslim evacuee businessmen in Faridkot State have been filled by non-Muslim refugees. About 18,000 Muslim evacuees from Faridkot and Kotkapura have already been replaced by 15,617 non-Muslim refugees. About 300 teachers and artisans have been absorbed in the State Services and Works. The State proposes to employ another 2,000 semi-skilled and unskilled refugee labourers by restarting existing industries. It is also proposed to build two new grain markets at Jolewals and Romans Albebsingh to accommodate 1,000 business men and small traders.

## Quilts and Blankets

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Supply of quilts, blankets, garments and cloth to refugees, in camps is gathering momentum. Up to Dec.-14, 791,910 quilts and 266,703 blankets were despatched to East Punjab, Delhi and Kurukshetra. Other despatches to these centres include 954,507 shirts, shorts, great coats and the like and 108,595 yards of cloth.

There are more than 160 refugee camps all over the country providing accommodation to 1,250,000 refugees. In East Punjab alone 721,851 refugees are being looked after in 85 camps. Then there are 53,000 refugees in camps in the States of Faridkot. Udaipur, Indore, Gwalior, Alwar, Rewa, Kotah and Rutlam. Over 13,000 refugees have

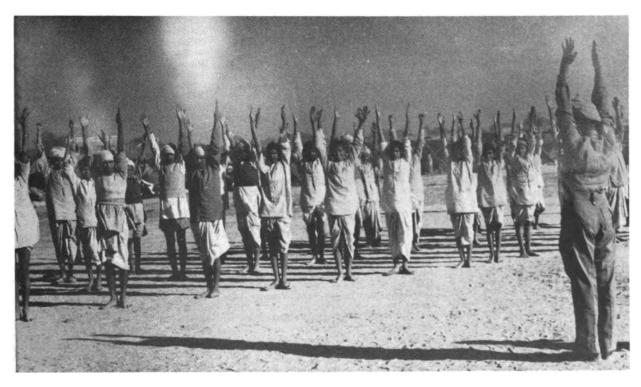
found shelter in 32 camps in the Bombay Presidency, 30,000 refugees in about 31 camps in the United Provinces, 600 refugees in three camps in Madras and 1,500 refugees in the Central Provinces. About 15,000 refugees are in camps in Delhi.

In almost all these camps food, clothing, medical and sanitary facilities are provided, quite a number of them being run by philanthropic organisations. In the United Provinces all the refugees in camps are lodged in buildings with proper shelter and are provided with a special quota of cloth at nine yards per refugee, where necessary at Government expense. Schools have been opened for children and the United Provinces Government are distributing 50,000 blankets and quilts and 20,000 fbs. of wool in addition to considerable quantities already distributed by private organisations.

#### Daily Expenditure

Daily expenditure on camps runs into several hundred thousands of rupees. During 1947-48 the Government of Irdia have made a budget provision of Rs. 100,000,000 for relief.

The total number of non-Muslim refugees evacuated up to December 14 from West Punjab, the N. W. F. P., Sind and Baluchistan came to 4,362,000. Organised evacuation on a large scale was completed by the Military Evacuation Organisation, India, in the first week of December, a week earlier than the date fixed. Pocket clearance and rescue of abducted women and forcibly converted persons is now in progress.



Male adults and children in the Kurukshetra camp turn out for physical training every morning

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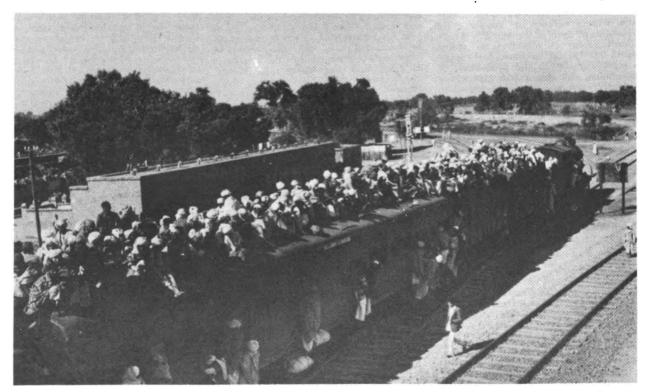
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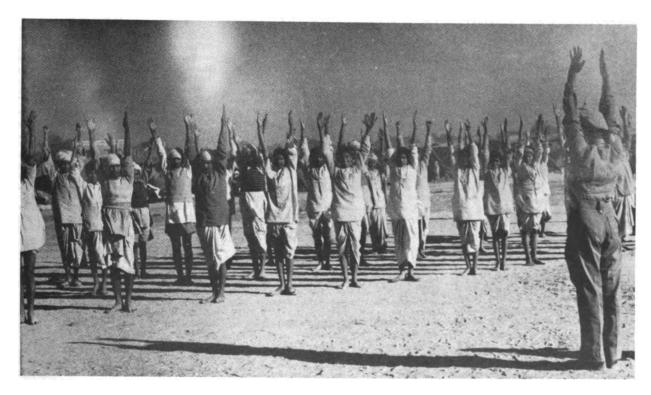
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A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Kurukshetra Camp

## MEDICAL FACILITIES AT KURUKSHETRA Supplies to Refugee **Progressive Decline in Rate of Mortality**

S a result of steady progress in the provision of medical relief and preventive health care to the people of Kurukshetra camp, there has been progressive decline in the rate of mortality. It is now in the neighbourhood of 30 per day or half of what it was some time earlier, with a smaller population.

The hospital accommodation has risen to about 800 beds for a population of 2,60,000—a ratio of over 3 beds per 1,000 or 12 times the average provision for the country as a whole.

## Anti-Plague Measures

The sanitation of the camp has greatly improved. Anti-plague measures are being taken in view of an outbreak of plague in areas not far from the Camp. Spraying with D.D.T. is carried out in respect of all vehicles coming into the camp. Delousing of the population has been completed and the process is being repeated periodically.

There has been some increase in the incidence of small pox, partly as a result of incoming refugees bringing in cases of this disease. A thorough examination of such persons and a search for patients in the Camp itself have been in progress and all cases that are discovered are segregated in the Infectious Disease Hospital. The resident popula-tion of the Camp has all been vaccinated. The new arrivals are also vaccinated.

Arrangements have been made for recruiting suitable girls from among the refugees for training as nurses.

The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, visited the Camp on December 24. Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, High Commissioner for India in London, also paid a visit to the Camp on December 28.

The Education Ministry has appointed a Special Officer, Mrs. E. Rudra, to assist refugee students who may have difficulty in continuing their previous courses of study in the Indian Dominion. The Special Officer will organise the planning of education for refugee students and will help them in getting admission in the various institutions in the country.

Applications in the prescribed form from refugee students, giving details of their previous study and the Colleges to which admission is now sought, should be sent to Mrs. E. Rudra, whose office is in Room No. 44, 'M' Block, near North Block, Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

# Camps

Truckloads of blankets, razais, cloth and ready-made clothes are being rushed daily to Kurukshetra and other camps in East Punjab, says a Press Note is ned on Dec. 20 by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. A large number of tents have also been sent by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to afford shelter to refugees.

Up to December 17, the Ministry had made available 266,703 blankets, 791,910 razais, 75,000 jersies and 70,000 bundies for distribution in Delhi, Kurukshetra and East Punjab Camps. In addition, over 99,523 yards of various kinds of cloth and ready-made clothes, including kurtos and trousers, numbering 955,507 have been sent to refugee camps. The Ministry has also despatched to Kurukshetra and other camps in East Punjab 31,548 large tents and 150,000 bivouc tents. A large number of these tents have already been pitched.

The Ministry is daily receiving large quantities of blankets and old and new garments from all over India.

In Delhi, the Clothes Collection Works Sub-Committee of the United Council for Relief and Welfare is collect-ing clothing and organising knitting parties.

Kurukshetra, being the largest camp with an approximate population of



His Excellency M. Motamedy (second from right) Iranian Ambassador in India, presented to Rajkumari Amrit Raur, Minister for Health, gifts of tinned food for refugees on behalf of the donors, The Asiatic and Atlantic Stores, an Iranian firm in Bombay

270,000, has received 164,835 blankets, 83,416 razais, 25,000 jerseys, 60,000 kurtas, 27,000 shorts, 13,000 yards of China sheeting, 2,476 yards of drill (bleached)

mand 10,000 yards of desuti.

Distribution to other camps at Amritsar, Phillaur, Ludhiana, Gurgaon, Panipat, Hissar, Karnal and Rohtak has been as follows: 100,638 blankets, 700,484 razais, 70,000 bundies, 50,000 jerseys and 75,000 yards of dasuti. Readymade clothes sent to these Camps in East Punjab include 400,000 kurias (cotton), 451,000 shorts and 10,000 great coats.

The Government of India have given full consideration to the question of resettlement and rehabilitation of Muslim citisens of Delhi city who have left their houses. This applies more especially to those evacues from Delhi who are at present in Humayun's Tomb Camp.

It has been decided that such persons

It has been decided that such persons in this category, who do not have their homes to return to or who cannot make arrangements to stay with friends and relations in Delhi city, will be allotted accommodation by the Custodian of Every Property in those areas which are at present occupied predominantly by Muslim citizens.

The Chief: Commissioner, Delhi, and the Custodian of Evacuees Property have been informed of this decision and given

necessary instructions.

# Iranian Gift For Refugees

A pleasant function was held on Dec. 23, in the office of the Hou'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, when the Iranian Ambassador in India, H. E. Mons. Motamedy, formally presented to the Minister gifts of tinned food for the destitute refugees on behalf of the donors, The Asiatic and Atlantic Stores, an Iranian firm in Bombay.

The articles included 2,500 tins of meat and vegetable ration and 2,500 boxes of American cereals. 250 rugs and 10 bags of rice were also to be included among the articles but money had been given instead for their purchase.

The articles will be utilised for the refugees in the Kurukshetra and other camps, who are suffering from malnutrition.

The Health Minister thanked the Ambassador for the gift and expressed her great appreciation of this gesture of good will by Iranians for the refugees in India.

## DOMICILE RESTRICTIONS FOR REFUGEES WAIVED

All Provincial Governments have generally agreed to waive their demicile restrictions in the case of experienced Hindu and Sikh refugees, formerly serving in Pakistan, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Pres. 27.

This is in response to the request made by the Government of India to Provincial Governments to provide facilities of employment to refugees by waiving their domicile restrictions.

The Government of Assam, however, are absorbing Government personnel from Sylhet who opted for service in the Indian Union. In addition, there might be scope only for technical officers.

The Government of Bomoay are attempting to absorb in service refugees from Sind, including a large number of teachers. The Government of Madras will consider cases of technical men and men with special qualifications for posts where knowledge of a provincial language is not essential.

## LOANS TO REFUGEE STUDENTS

## Government of India's New Scheme

ON-MUSLIM students from Western Pakistan who are unable to pursue their studies or training for lack of funds and whose parents or guardians have settled down in Centrally Administered Areas may apply for loans to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, for continuing their technical and collegiate education, says a Press Note.

Loans, which will be given only for studies in a recognised institution or college, will be strictly for completion of studies which a student is already pursuing and not for any further or higher education or training after completion of the present course. For instance, if a student was in the course of studies for graduation, his studies shall not be financed for a post-graduate course.

Loans will be given in instalments, monthly or otherwise, as may be considered fit in each individual case taking into account the recommendation of the head of the institute where the student is studying or receiving training. The loan shall be repayable on the rehabilitation of the student, or the parent or guardian of such student. For this purpose a half-yearly review shall be carried out of the financial position of the parent or guardian. The student as well as the parent or guardian or the surety shall sign the undertaking to repay the loan, whether in lump or by instalments, on the rehabilitation of either of them. Further, Government will have a prior lien on the service of the student under this scheme.

The loan instalment to any student under training will stop immediately on his failing to pass a recognised periodical examination.

Applications for loans should be sent to the Chief Commissioner through the head of the institution where the student expects to complete his studies or receive training. The head of the institution will forward the application to the Chief Commissioner with his recommendation and attach a schedule of the student's yearly expenses. The application will then come to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for final sanction.

Pending sanction of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation of the loan applied for, interim relief may be paid by the head of the institution or college who may be authorised in this matter to advance up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per head.

Applicants should give the following particulars:

- (a) Full name, age and address of the student.
- (b) Full name and address of the parent or guardian in Indian Dominion as well as previous address in Pakistan.

- (c) The course of studies undertaken, name of the institute where studies undertaken and examinations already passed.
- (i) Students who have been granted admission to an Institution but have not been able to join due to lack of funds, should mention the name of the Institute and the course of studies for which definite admission has already been granted by the Institute. Evidence should be supplied to show that admission has been granted.
- (ii) Students whose studies have been terminated, but who have not been able to obtain admission in any institution should give the course of studies or training undertaken and examinations already passed at the Institutes where they had undertaken such studies prior to being displaced as refugees.
- (d) Minimum period required for completion of such studies.
- (e) Fees etc. payable to the Institution or Factory and when due (Items should be given separately wherever possible) e.g., Tuition fees, deposits for Laboratory or Library, games fees, examination fees etc.
- (f) Minimum allowances required for books, instruments, lodging boarding and outfit etc., each item to be given separately.
- (g) Any security or surety the student of his parent or guardian is able to put up for repayment of loan, if granted.
- (h) The manner in which the loan is desired to be repaid.
- (i) Any particulars regarding the parents or guardians of the student or trainee, that the applicant is in a position to furnish. These particulars should state properties, and assets, social standing of the parents or guardian or surety.
- (j) If the student or his guardian has registered as a refugee under any enactment that may be in force in the area, the registration number should be quoted.

Maj.-Gen. T. O. Thompson, British Red Cross Commissioner for refugee relief assistance to India and Pakistan, recently visited Delhi for discussions with the Indian Red Cross Society, the United Council for Relief and Welfare and Government departments in regard to relief needs which may be helped through the generosity of the British Red Cross Society and the Society's appeal to the public of Great Britain.

Gen. Thompson visited refugee camps at Kurukshetra, Karnal and Panipat on Dec. 29.

## **NEW BOMBAY GOVERNOR**

His Excellency Sir John Colville, who had at the time of the transfer of power been invited by the Government of India to continue to serve as Governor of Bombay and who had agreed to do so until the end of the year, demitted office on Jan. 6, 1948, says a Press Communique. His Excellency the Governor-General has on the advice of his Government appointed Raja Sir Maharaj Singh, C.I.E. to be Governor of Bombay in succession to Sir John Colville.

# Progress in Employment of Refugees

Of 10,429 refugees registered during the fortnight ending Nov. 30, 1947, at the Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices in the Indian Union, 2,001, involving 8,840 dependants, were placed in employment. The number of refugees placed in employment is nearly double the number placed in the previous fortnight.

The total number of refugees registered by Exchanges up to Nov. 30 was 39,593, of whom 6,667, involving 31,645 dependants, were placed in employment.

Further resettlement is being hampered by such factors as lack of accommonation near the places of employment, ignorance of local languages, loss by retugees of documentary evidence regarding academic qualifications and experience, and rigid adherence on the part of some Provincial Governments to rules governing domicile.

Moreover, there is a general reluctance among refugees to accept manual work, as a result of which many jobs have to be filled by persons from the open market although employers are prepared to give first preference to refugees.

## REFUGEES' INCOME-TAX : INDO-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT

Refugees in India have feared that their income-tax assessments in Pakistan might be made ex parte in spite of the fact that they have not received notices issued to them at their old addresses, and in any case it is impossible for them to make arrangements for representing their cases before the Income-tax authorities under prevailing conditions. Apprehensions have also been expressed that their property in Pakistan might be attached and sold at very low prices in satisfaction of the tax demands.

The matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan, says a Piess Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on Dec. 20, and the Government of India are glad to announce that an agreement has been arrived at whereby both Governments have undertaken to ensure that during the current financial year no exparte assessment will be made against absentee assessees and that property belonging to refugees in either Dominion will not be auctioned in pursuance of the demands of the Income-tax Department. Instructions to this effect are being issued in both the Dominions.

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# SARDAR PATEL ON AJMER out in a procession for cremation. The procession was proceeding peacefully when on the way it was stopped by a crowd of Hindus who wanted it to go via a route close to the Dargah and not by the customery route. The

N assurance that adequate measures had been taken for the protection of the Dargah in Ajmer and that government will "strain every effort" to score its safety, was given by the Hor'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Minster, Government of India, in a statement on the situation in Ajmer issued on Dcc. 19.

#### Sardar Patel said:

The recent disturbances in Ajmer City and its immediate vicinity have attracted a cortain amount of attention not so much on account of their intrinsic character but mostly because of the undoubted importance of the holy City, of Ajmer. Some misapprehension of the situation also appears to exist in certain quarters where rumours or exaggerated stories have gained some credence. I have now had fairly full reports of them from official and nonofficial sources as a result largely of personal discussions with the Chief Commissioners and two deputations from Ajmer. In order to allay these misaprehensions I feel it would be best to give to the public at large a somewhat detailed account of the various incidents.

After an unbroken peace since the rious of 1923, the first communal explosion in Ajmer took place on Aug. 27, 1947, when a crowd of Muslims, which had gathered in front of a mosque with the ostensible purpose of offering prayers but really with the set purpose of creating trouble, attacked a Hindu Mahabir Dal procession. Some bands of Muslims immediately after attacked a number of passers-by in about half a dozen Mohallas of the City resulting in 17 casualties, all Hindus with the exception of a Muslim who was dressed like a Hindu. The situation was immediately brought under control and no retaliatory attacks took piace. Nevertheless, this unprovoked attack combined with the influx of about 10,000 Muslim refugees from the neighbouring States kept tension somewhat alive and created among the Muslim population a feeling that trouble might brew up in retaliation for the previous incident.

#### Vigilant Attitude

Under the inspiration of local Muslim League leadership, a deliberate plan was put into force to evacuate Muslims from Ajmer to Pakistan and active propeganda was undertaken to see that Muslim personnel in the local administration opted for Pakistan and sent their families in advance. This was in the face of attempts on the part of the local administration to explain to them that it was not open to them to exercise any option and that the Indian Dominion would retain their services if they so wished and the local administration had no choice but to ask those who wished to leave for Pakistan to resign.

These activities not only resulted in depletions in the administrative ranks but in keeping the tension alive. In the meantime refugees poured from Sind in increasing numbers. At the same time the local Muslim leadership realised its mistake and a trek, back from Sind, of Muslims, who had left earlier, started. This produced some uneasiness, but calm still prevailed.

The local administration maintained a strong grip and a vigilant attitude and no untoward incident took place until Dec. 5 when peace was again disturbed over a trifling dispute on the sale of gramophone between a Muslim and a Sindhi boy in Dargah Bazar, a Muslim This resulted in injuries to locality. three Sindhis. But this clash followed up in other localities and shops of rival communities were attacked. Within the course of an hour 41 persons were injured of whom three Muslims died. Four Hindus were among the injured. The Riot scheme was at once introduced and some improvement was effected in the situation. Next day the curfew was lifted. Stray assaults again took place resulting in injuries to 16 and death of two Muslims; a Sindhi boy was also done to death. The curfew was reimposed. On Dec. 7, sporadic incidents teck place resulting in the death of six and injury to two Muslims. On Dec. 8, two Muslims were attacked in a village near Ajmer; there were two cases of arson and one grave was desecrated.

#### Collective Fines

But the gravest and most explosive incident was the disappearance of a Hindu Constable on duty in an exclusively Muslim locality. The Constable was believed to have been done to death and a research for the body in the locality resulted not in its recovery but in a haul of two cannon, one muzzleloading gun, one breach-loading gun, 10 swords, 4 daggers, 2 gun-powder bottles and 300 percussion caps. Collective fines of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 3,000 were imposed on Hindus and Muslims respectively in different localities and immediate steps were taken to recover the amounts. Military were called out. As a result of the repressive measures adopted there was no further incident and the city was absolutely quiet during the period Dec. 9, to Dec. 13, except for some excitement on account of a twoday hartal by the Hindus to protest against the imposition of collective fines and a most ill-timed strike by local

On the evening of Dec. 13, on information furnished by some Muslims, the dead body of the constable in a mutilated condition was found buried in a Muslim grave-yard, and a collective fine of Rs. 10,000 was imposed on Muslims in the locality and realised. On Dec. 14, the body of the dead constable was taken

out in a procession for cremation. The procession was proceeding peacefully when on the way it was stopped by a crowd of Hindus who wanted it to go via a route close to the Dargah and not by the customery route. The motives were obvious and the Chief Commissioner quite properly refused permission. The crowd was recalcitrent and a lathi charge was made. Thereafter the dead body was taken by the usual route and was cremated but certain mischievous elements began to indulge in arson and looting of Muslim shops in different parts of the city. The area most effected was Mohalla Ghas Katla where determined fighting took place between the Hindus and Muslims. The Hindu crowd was stoned from a Muslim's house and a country-made homb was also thrown at it from the house of a prominent Muslim Lerguer.

The police came upon the scene but was also attacked by Muslims from the house-top; a bomb was thrown on a constable who died. Another constable received a gun-shot wound and subsequently died. Another Hindu was admitted in hospital with gunshot injuries. The Chief Commissioner himself visited the scene and found intermittent firing from Muslim houses. The area was cordoned off but the inmates of the house did not surrender until the next morning when six country-made bombs ready for firing were recovered together with many swords and daggers and one unexploded hand grenade.

From another Muslim house also stones were being thrown and shots were being fired. The police demand for surrender was met by a shot from the house. The police returned the fire and inmates surrendered. One D. B. B. L. gun and 25 cartridges were recovered; the right barrel appeared to have been used. The house was tenanted by Mirza Abdul Qadar Beg who had already left for Kotah and the gun was found to be his preperty.

#### Vigorous Action

Simultaneously looting and arson of Muslim property by refugees and local Hindus was going on in other localities. The Muslim shops in Mohalla Karakka Chowk, Dhanmandi, Nala Bazar, and Madar Gate were looted. Some big Muslim shops on Station and Imperial Roads were attacked and burnt. A mosque was set on fire after the Pesh Imam had been murdered. Attempts were made to set fire to three other mosques. Vigorous action was taken against the looters and the Police and military fired 238 rounds, of which 40 were fired by a party led by the Chief Commissioner himself. A number of rioters were arrested and a few were shot dead. Two persons were arrested when engaged in demolishing a mosque. Most fires were put out quickly largely due to the active measures taken by the Chief Commissioner himself. Many buildings clould have been saved but the local administration had only one fire-fighting engine at their disposal.

The night of Dec. 14-15 persed off quietly. But on the morning of Dec. 15, a Muslim family of 5 persons was attacked

and destroyed by Hindu raiders. Four Muslims were killed while raiding a house. Four Muslims and 7 Hindus were shot down when engaged in looting. Over 100 persons were arrested for substantive offences of arson and looting. On Dec. 16, six Hindus were arrested while looting some Muslim houses. The dead body of a Muslim was found on the Beawar Road. One country-made bomb was recovered from a deserted mosque. The situation had, however, shown rapid signs of improvement after the initial outburst on Dec. 14 and the curfew was lifted on Dec. 17. Since the midday of Dec. 15 and up to this morning no incident had happened and the city was showing signs of returning confidence.

The total number of casualties since Dec. 5 are as follows:—

		K illed	M, c	nunaea
Hine	dus M	Iuslims H	lindus M	uslime
By Rioters	5	31	21	62
By Police firing.	1	3	••	••
By military firing.	8	7	2	2

There has been severe loss of property but the prompt action of the local military and Police circumscribed the loss, the main losses being restricted to 8 big Muslim shops on Station and Imperial Roads. Others were petty shops stocking books, glass bangles, potatoes, coal, ctc. In all 41 shops were looted and 16 burnt of which only three are total wrecks. Intensive efforts are being made to recover the property and to arrest the offenders. A few truckloads of property worth thousands of rupees has already been recovered and deposited in the Kotwali.

I have received enquiries from influential Muslims about the Dargah. I am very glad to say that through all these disturbances the Dragah has escaped any damage whatsoever. I should like to assure its devotees everywhere that adequate measures have been taken for its protection and Government will strain every effort to secure its safety. Government also hope that peace and normal conditions will soon be restored in this historic city which enshrings an enviable tradition of communal concord and which is a standing testimony of all that is best in Indian culture.

In view of the complaints which are being received from certain text-book publishers that owing to the shortage of newsprint in sheets with dealers in certain areas at present they have not been able to secure newsprint either in part or in full against permits issued by the Newsprint Officer, the Government of India have decided to extend the time-limit or the purchase of newsprint against those permits up to March 31, 1948, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, on Dec. 27.

All dealers in newsprints are informed that permits authorising the purchase of newsprint issued to text-book publishers which were valid up to Dec. 31, 1947, stand automatically revalidated up to March 31, 1948.

## "U. N. O. LAST HOPE OF CIVILIZATION"

## Mr. Vellodi's Broadcast

R. M. K. Vellodi, Secretary-General of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Organisation, giving his impressions of the meetings of the United Nations Organisation in a broadcast from the Delhi station of All India Radio on Dec. 17 said:

What is the United Nations? What happens at Lake Success and Flushing Meadows? What did the Indian Delegation accomplish? The answers to these questions can be clearly comprehended only if one knew the background of events that preceded the meeting of the Assembly.

Between Dec. 1946 when the 1st Session of the Assembly completed its work and Sept. 1947 a few things hap-pened. Early in 1947 Mr. Churchill made his memorable speech at Fulton. It was the first utterance after the end of the World War No. II of a world statesman in which the division was proclaimed of the world into two blocks-the Soviet block -- and those outside it, with an iron curtain in between. Not long after, the President of the United States expounded what has come to be known as the "Truman Doctrine." The economic and financial aid to Greece and Turkey followed. Meanwhile the repeated efforts made by the Council of the Foreign Ministers of U. S., U. K., France and Russia to solve the post-war problems of Europe ended in discomfiture. All efforts towards a co-ordinated control of atomic energy had failed.

#### The Marshall Plan

The Greek question after having been discussed at endless meetings of the Security Council had been finally removed from its Agenda. The Marshall Plan for the economic rehabilitation of Western and Central Europe, a genuine effort to put War-shattered Europe on its feet had become the subject of furious controversy. Everywhere one turned, one heard of 'dollar diplomacy' "containing Russia" and such other passionate outbursts. It was in this setting that the Second Session of the United Nations Assemgly opened at Flushing Meadows and it is against this background that its achievements should be measured.

Those of you who are not familiar with the set up of the United Nations Organization and have not visited New York would perhaps like to know something about the place of these meetings and the nature and the composition of the various Committees that form part of the General Assembly. The United Nations Organisation is at present housed in a very large building at what is known as the village of Lake Success—which actually derives its name from a Lake of that name in the vicinity. This place is 25 miles outside New York City and it is here that the United Nations' very large Secretariat has its headquarters.

Committee Meetings are held in this building. Hall way between New York and Lake Success is Flushing Meadows, where in a building which was originally constructed in connection with New York World Fair in 1935, the plenary sessions of the General Assembly are held. Every possible contrivance has been devised for the comfort of the delegates attending these two places and for the expeditious discounting of the work on which they are engaged. Almost all Delegations live in 1 otels in New York and have to proceed by car every day to these meeting places. The loss of time and inconvenience resulting from the location of these meetings so far away from residences of the delegates are prodigious. However, pending the construction of permanent buildings in New York City these discomforts and inconveniences will have to continue.

Fifty-seven Nations are now represented at the United Nations and each member State is allowed to send to these meetings five representatives and five alternates. Smaller countries that cannot afford to send large delegations find it difficult to be represented at all the Committees.

Arrangements have been made for the simultaneous interpretation of all speeches into five languages-English, French, Russian, Spanish and Chineseso that any one wishing to listen in any of these languages has only to adjust the indicator on his ear-phone to the particular language in which interpretation is desired. The proceedings of each day are printed and circulated the following day in the shape of a journal which is the most efficient condensation of material that I have yet come across. Apart from these journals a vast quantity of literature, such as the verbatim records of the proceedings of the Assembly, the precise of the proceedings of all the Committees and the huge number of documents such as Resolutions, amendments and so forth, are turned out by the Secretariat of the United Nations with a promptness and precision that is truly marvellous Both at Lake Success and at Flushing Meadows suittable arrangements exist for both solid and liquid refreshments.

### Work of Last Session

To go back to the work of the last session of the Assembly this may be divided into four parts. The first consists of the discussions in the plenary session of the Assembly on the report submitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the work of the Organisation during the period that intervenes between the two sessions of the Assembly. This is made an occasion by all Delegations, for general observations on the state of the world in much the same way as the Budget Session of an Assembly or of a Parliament is made the occasion for observation

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## INDIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN BELGIUM

Pending the appointment of an Ambassador the Government of India have appointed Mr. B. F. H. B. Tyabji, I.C.S., as Charge d'Affaires in Brussels, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Dec. 24.

on the running of the governmental machinery.

The second part consists of elections of member States to the various permanent bodies of the United Nations Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and now the Trusteeship Council. The third part consists of the work in the various Standing Committees. There are six of these namely: Political and Security Committee; the Economic and Financial Committee; the Social and Humanitarian Committee; the Trusteeship Committee; the Administrative and Budgetory Committee; the Legal Committee and now the Headquarters Committees. Every member State is represented in each of these Committees.

The last and final stage is the concluding plenary session of the Assembly at which the reports of the work in the various committees are considered and the Assembly takes decisioms on those questions which had been discussed and on which recommendations had been made to the Assembly. It would take too long to describe in detail the various subjects that came up for consideration before the Committees and before the Assembly. The Political and Security matters assume an air of importance which their intrinsic values do not always justify. But such is the case.

## India's Prominent Part

Among the more important matters discussed during the last session were, the political integrity of Greece; the grant of Korean independence; the future of Palestine; the South African question; the extension of the trusteeship system to South West Africa; the creation of a permanent Committee of the Assembly to deal with questions that arise during the course of the year that intervene between the two sessions of the Assembly; the question of admission of certain States to the membership of United Nations and a vast number of equally important subjects relating to social, economic, legal and budgetory matters. It is significant that on almost every subject dealt with the political Security Committees the United States and U.S.S.R. were opposed to each other. The Latin American countries and some of the Western European countries were usually found on the side of the United States. The Slav States solidly and mostly on the side of U. S. S. R.

I think it is true to say that of all the countries represented at the United Nations Organisation, India alone invariably took an independent line, which in our present state of domestic and other difficulties nover ceased to be

a matter of surprise to many States. India's special concern was of courte the question of Indians in Scuth Africa but she took a very prominent part in many other important subjects and made very useful contributions towards their discussion.

I believe there has been some comment in our Press that the Indian Resolution on the South African question having failed to obtain the requisite 2.314 majority in the Assembly, which India was able to secure during the previous session of the Assembly, this should be regarded as a defeat. Apart from the fact that we failed to obtain the 2-3rd majority only by 3 votes, the fact is that at the last session of the Assemly the general feeling among the Delegation, particularly of South African countries and those of Western Europe, was not so enthusiastically in favour of a condemnation of South Africa as it was in the previous session; and to most members of the Indian delegation who had studied the trend of thought and feeling in the Assembly it was a matter for surprise that we did get the majority that we managed to secure.

## Mrs. Pandit's Speeches

On the Palestine question India consistently supported establishment on an Arab State with safeguards for the Jewish minority. On the Greek question we supported the Russain proposal for the evacuation of British troops from that country. We supported the formation of the Interim Committee which was sponsored by the United States whereas on the question of the admission of new members we followed the correct attitude of admitting only those countries as members of the United Nations whose applications had been recommended by the Security Council. India's attitude of complete impartiality has, I believe, won for her the respect of the member States.

Such in brief was the nature of the business transacted at the last Sessien of the Assembly. If I were asked to say who among the delegates were the most colourful individuals I would say Mr. Vishinsky, the representative of the U. S. S. R. young Mr. Boller, representative of Yugoslavia; and the Chairman of the Indian Delegation, Mrs. Pandit. For sheer eloquence measured in terms of flow of words, I doubt whether any one came within measurable distance of Vishinsky. But it was always a pleasure to watch and listen to young Boller, who very often spoke without notes, never faltered, never stepped for a word but in the most polished and refined French spoke for long periods. His wit and sarcasm were telling.

Mrs. Pandit's speeches always went down very well. They were carefully prepared and were delivered with an ease and charm that are peculiarly her own. I must confess I was disappointed with Mrs. Roosevelt, partly perhaps because the subjects that she bandled did not lend themselves to any great forensic effort.

Thus for well over 2 months we battled manfully over world problems of varying degrees of importence. Towards the end of the proceedings one noticed—cr

## INDIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN FRANCE

Pending the appointment of an Ambassador the Government of India have appointed Sir N. Raghavan Pillai, I.C.S., as Charye d'Affaires in Parie, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Dec. 24.

was it only my imagination—a certain drawing tegether of the opposing groups, though the last subject that was discussed in the Assembly, namely, the question of Palestine has left in its train a load of trouble which has already begun to be felt all over the Middle East. In spite however of this unfortunate affair, and in spite of the various decisions taken by the Assembly which had been violently opposed by the U. S. S. R. and the Slav block, there is among all the member States of the United Nations a realization that the United Nations Organisation is indeed the last hope of civilization and it was with this feeling that I left Flushing Meadows on the last day of my stay with the Delegation.

With the flags of the 57 Nations fluttering in the gentle breeze outside the Assembly building I wended my way to New York to find the lights on 'Queen Mary' twinkling in the harbour.—the ship that was to carry me back to England on the following day en route to Delhi.

## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

(Continued from Fage 103)

Rs. 11 lakhs as loan for the construction of staff quarters, Rs. 5 lakhs for equipping the science laboratory and Rs. 24 lakhs for bringing the library up-to-date. On the recurring side a considerable amount was sanctioned for starting new Readerships and for the revision of salary scales.

For this record in such a brief period the Committee owes a great deal to its former Chairman, Sir Mirza Ismail.

No awards of the Order of British India and Honorary Commissions as ICOS were made on Jan. 1, 1948, as the form which these awards would take in future was under active consideration. The decisions reached will be announced in due course, said a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence, on Dec. 31.

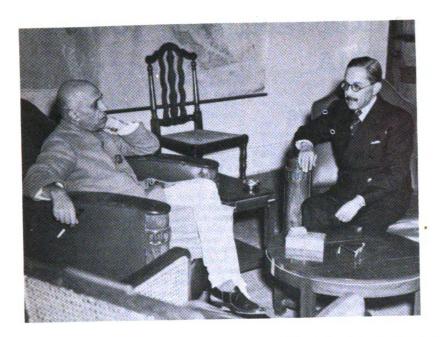
No awards of Jagirs, Meritorious Service Medal, or the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal were made as the future policy which was going to be adopted in making these awards was also under consideration.



# PANDIT NEHRU ENTERTAINS CEYLON PREMIER

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, gave a buffet dinner in honour of Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister of Ceylon, during the latter's recent visit to Delhi. These pictures show (Top L. to R.) Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Mr. R. T. Chari, First Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, Lady Elmhiret, wife of Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Begum Motamedy, wife of the Iranian Ambassador in India, and Pandit Nehru. (Centre) Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmir Leader, Mr. R. T. Chari, Mr. V. V. Giri, Government of India's High Commissioner in Ceylon and Mr. D. S. Senanayake photographed at the dinner and (right) Miss Pandit, niece of Pandit Nehru, Mr. V. V. Giri and Mr. D. Senanayake at the dinner.





# FOREIGN AMBASSADORS CALL ON PANDIT NEHRU

Commanding General Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana, Nepalese Ambassador to India, and M. Novikov, Soviet Ambassador to India, who arrived in Delhi] to take up their appointments last month, called on Pandit Nehru on December 24.

(Above) Commanding General Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana photographed with Pandit Nehru in the Prime Minister's Office.

(Right) The Soviet Ambassador discussing a point with Pandit Nehru.





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(Left) Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister of Ceylon, met Pandit Nehru on December 28.

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# CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR INDIANS IN BURMA

## High Commissioner's Message

future independent Burma?
That is a vital question which each one of you is called upon to answer", said Dr. M. A. Rauf, High Commissioner for India in Burma, in a message to the All-Burma 'Indian Conference which met in Rangoon on Dec. 27.

The Conference was inaugurated by Sir B. N. Rao, Constitutional Adviser to the Government of India, and was addressed by Burma's Deputy Prime Minister, Bo Let Ya, and the Foreign Minister, U Tin Tut. It was attended by delegates from various parts of India, and Mr. M. A. Rashid presided

Here is the text of Dr. Rauf's message:—

"This Conference has met on the eve of the most important event in the history of modern Burma. After over a century of struggle against European political domination, Burma is to be free on January 4, 1948.

## **Vital Question**

- "During the last 79 years Indians had acquired a very important role in the economy and administration of this country and it is admitted on all hands that the services rendered by Indians have been of great value.
- "But that is of the past. What is to be the function of Indians in future independent Burma? That is a vital question which each one of you is called upon to answer.
- "The answer is to be sought not merely in the light of personal interests, but in full view of the fact that you are citizens of, or spiritually and culturally bound up with, a country of which you are proud and which wants you, her sons, I mean India. I am sure you will do nothing of which your motherland will be ashamed of.
- "Since my coming to Burma over a year ago, I have hoped Indians in Burma would get together and ponder over the problems facing the community as a whole. "Coday I am happy this conference has been made cossible by the hard work of some of your leaders."
- "It has been the misfortune of India for the past centuries that her sons could only very rarely be found to work in unison. Disunity among us has been the tragedy of Indian history. It was to be hoped that outside India, when freed from local disagreements, Indians would be united. Unfortunately that has not always been possible.
- "In the past we have, on occasions such as this, been able to put our heads together and come to a decision on what

Indians should do. Therefore, I hope this Conference will set an example of unity for Indians and that your decisions would be such as would keep in view the interests of the Indian community as a whole. I do not believe that the interests of the various sections and classes that go to form the Indian community of Burma are absolutely irreconciliable. But it is not enough to pass resolutions, even if they be unanimous.

"In Burma, as everywhere else, you must have a central organisation which would work all the year round. Day after day, new questions arise which cannot be anticipated. They must be resolved. The functions of this organisation would also be to undertake representations of the Indian point of view before the Government and the people of Burma. Also to reassure the community itself that they can lead useful and happy lives in Burma and to give them a lead in all important matters.

"I wish this Conference great success and I hope when you again meet, perhaps next year, you will have a record of achievement to which you may look back with pride. Jai Hind."

#### Burmese Premier's Message

An important announcement of policy towards Indians in Burma was made in the following message to the Conference by Premier Thakin Nu:

I tender to all of you assembled here on this happy occasion hearty greetings and good wishes of the people and the Government of Burma. Many of you were born in Burma, while others may have decided to make Burma their home. To all of you who elect Burma citizenship, let me assure you, on behalf of the Burmese people, of our determination to abide by the terms of our Constitution which guarantees equality between all citizens.

To those of you who prefer to retain their political connections with India and Pakistan, let me say that though you will not be entitled to the privileges pertaining to the citizens of this land, we shall, nevertheless, protect you to the best of our power and endeavour to assist in your lawful avocations.

Now that the Burmese people will be a free people you will, I am sure, find them as courteous and friendly to the nationals of other countries as they have ever been.

You must not resent such permanent immigration laws as we shall be estab-

lishing shortly, for no country can afford to leave immigration uncontrolled. We shall endeavour to make our immigration laws as little vexatious as possible and, while we must exclude from permanent entry into Burma all those not needed for Burmese economy, those that are allowed to join us in this country will be well treated and protected.

We, on our part, hope that the Indian and Pakistani communities in Burma will endeavour, while they are in this country, to be close to us and to try and understand our point of view.

All those who decide to reside permanently in Burma, we would expect them to indentify themselves with the people of Burma with whom they will be one politically. They will form an important ingredient in the composition of the new Burmese nation. The need for national unity is paramount and all races who make their homes in Burma must co-operate to that end.

The continuance of Burma's happy relations with India and Pakistan depends a great deal on the men and women of the Indian races who will reside in Burma. To a large extent it is with their eyes that India and Pakistan will see Burma, and to an equally large extent the people of Burma will form their ideas of the people of India and Pakistan from the Indians and Pakistanis that they meet in this country.

## Long-term Interests

The long-term interests of our three countries, the continuance of happy relationship between them, is of far greater moment than any immediate advantage or disadvantage that may ensue from any particular measure having application to the Indian and Pakistani residents of Burma. I beg all of you who are assembled here today, and all those whom you represent, to have ever in view the continued friendship of our three countries and to work and live in such a way that you will retain the friendship of the indigenous races of Burma, and also that in interpreting the Burmese people and the Burmese Government to your own countries you will endeavour to understand us and our difficulties, so that you may be able to convey a fair and just impression of our land.

Through you, may I and the people whom I represent, convey to the great Dominions of India and Pakistan the greetings and the good wishes of the people of Burma. May these two great Dominions be ever happy and prosperous and may they enjoy for ever the sovereignty that was restored to them last August.

India's progress in the fields of trade, industry and science will be demonstrated to the peoples of South-East Asia at an exhibition, to be held by the Government of India, in Singapore in the last week of January and the first week of February, 1948. For this purpose the exhibits supplied by Indian firms for the Bangkok Exhibition, which was arranged for early December but was cancelled owing to unsettled conditions in Siam, will be sent to Singapore.

## COMPOST DEVELOPMENT PLANS

from me," humorously remarked Mahatma Gandhi when the members attending the All-India Conference on Compost sought his blessings at the conclusion of their labours in New Delhi on Dec. 17. Sir Datar Singh presided over the Conference.

Some of the resolutions passed at the Conference are:—

This Conference is of the definite opinion that the compost programme offers vast potentialities for increasing food production in the country.

This Conference urges on the Provincial Governments the needs for accelerating the pace of the existing schemes, so that:—

- (a) under the urban compost scheme, all municipalities, notified areas and town committees are brought under the scheme within the next two years.
- (b) under the village compost scheme, at least 10 percent of the total number of villages in the Provinces are taken up during 1948-49 and an additional 10 percent are taken up in each succeeding year.

In regard to the Town Compost Scheme, this Conference makes the following recommendations:—

- (a) In view of the present food situation it should be made obligatory on all municipalities, notified areas and town committees that they should convert the whole of their refuse material into compost.
- (b) The Health Department of the Government of India is requested to issue a directive to Provincial Governments recommending to them the adoption of the Compost System in reference to other methods of disposal of refuse.

## Village Compost Scheme

Regarding the Village Compost Scheme, the Conference recommends that:—

- (a) The scheme should preferably be operated through Village Panchayats, Kisan Sabhas or Village Co-operative Societies; and a Compost Supervisor should be posted for each group of 10 villages.
- (b) Where the villagers possess insufficient or no land for preparing compost, a common land should be acquired by the Government for the purpose in the immediate vicinity of the village.
- (c) In order to popularise the composting habit among the younger generation of villagers, a practical course in composting should be included in the syllabus in all primary and secondary schools situated in villages.

This Conference is of the opinion that transport has been the chief limiting factor for rapid expansion of the compost

scheme and urges on the Government of India and on Provincial Governments to give all necessary help to composting organisations in getting sufficient number of motor trucks for the purpose. It also strongly urges that the trucks at present in use by different Government Departments should also be utilised whenever possible for compost distribution. Transport by canal may also be considered wherever possible.

## Intensive Propaganda

This Conference urges that intensive propaganda should be carried out among farmers to point out the value of compost manure and for this purpose it urges on the Central and Provincial Governments to arrange for carrying out the above propaganda through the medium of ballads, dramas, radio talks, lantern slides, films, posters, pamphlets, exhibition stalls, demonstration plots, lecture tours. etc. Existing field publicity vans, newspapers, journals and other media should also be utilised for this purpose.

The Conference suggested the formation of a Central Compost Development Committee consisting of non-officials and officials and comprising the delegates who attended the Conference as a nucleus, with Dr. C. N. Acharya as Secretary. This would act as an advisory body to the Central and Provincial Governments and meet periodically in different Provinces for the purpose.

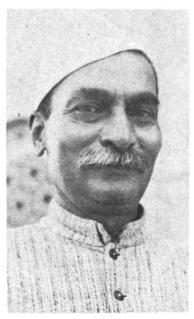
#### **PLANT PROTECTION SCHEMES**

To meet the challenge of food scarcity in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture is giving high priority in its "Grow More Food" campaign to the control of pests and diseases, which cause considerable damage to food crops. This loss is estimated at about Rs. 500 crores a year.

Provincial and Stato Governments have been advised regarding the urgency and importance of sanctioning and implementing plant protection schemes. The first step they are likely to take, is to appoint qualified mycologists and entomologists in their respective areas.

Another Royal Indian Air Force Ground Training School, known as No. 3 G. T. S. has been established at Arkonam, near Madras, under the command of Squadron Leader Rawel Singh, M.B.E., to raise the educational and service standards of airmen wishing to remuster to other RIAF trades.

This is the third Royal Indian Air Force Ground Training School to be set up, the other two being No. 1 G. T. S., at Jalahalli, commanded by Wing Commander R. Sitaram, which trains the non-technical personnel of the RIAF, and No. 2 G. T. S. at Tambaram, commanded by Group Captain S. N. Goyal, O.B.E., which provides all the technicians for the R. I. A. F.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad

## WORK OF FOOD MINISTRY OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

SINCE I took over the Food portfolio 16 months ago, political problems before the country have completely changed, but the work of the Food Ministry continues to be of the greatest national importance," said Dr. Rejendra Prasad, Food Minister, at a farewell function organised by the Ministry of Food on Dec. 19.

"The country's food position," continued the Food Minister, "has remained difficult right through these 16 months, and still continues to be so. If we have succeeded in resolving the crisis, even in a limited measure, the credit goes entirely to those who have co-operated with us in this task, and if any mistakes have been made, the fault is mine".

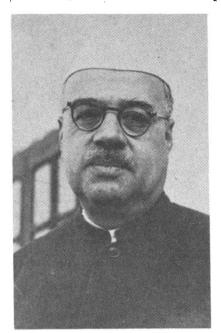
Referring to the policy of "gradual decontrol" adopted by the Government, Dr. Rajendra Prasad stated that this task was not easy, but the Government were guided by their desire to bring back the country into its pre-war position in food. The responsibility of the Food Ministry would therefore continue to be as great as in the past.

#### Land of Milk and Honey

Turning to the prime necessity of increasing food production, the Food Minister stated that the responsibility in this direction lay on the Ministry of Agriculture. India had once been famed as the "land of milk and honey"; they should strive to reach that position once again. "Although I am leaving the Ministries of Food and Agriculture," concluded Dr. Rajendra Prasad, "I shall continue to take the greatest interest in the problems of food."

Earlier Mr. B. R. Sen, who has taken over the Secretaryship of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. R. A. Gopalaswami, Food Secretary, thanked Dr. Rajendra Prasad on behalf of their respective Ministries.

## NEW FOOD MINISTER



Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram

Mr. Jairamdas Dauiatram, who recently relinquished the Governorship of Bihar and who has been appointed by H<sub>is</sub> Excellency the Governor-General to be one of his Ministers assumed charge of his office on January 14.

The Hon'ble Mr. Jarramdas Daulatram, who has been allotted the portfol o of Food and Agriculture, was appointed in place of the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who left the Cabinet to become Congress President.

Brig. P. N.Thapar has been appointed officiating Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army Headquarters, with the acting rank of Major-General, in place of Maj.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, who has become General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

Commissioned 21 years ago from Sandhurst, he spent nearly ten years with the 1st Punjab Regiment. He later attended staff courses both at Quetta and Minley-Manor, England. During World War II he saw service in Burma in 1941 and two years afterwards was in the Middle East and Italy. After a spell of duty as Assistant Military Secretary at General Headquarters, India, he was selected to serve on the Army Reorganisation Committee. With the British Headquarters in Aden he was also for some time a first grade staff officer.

In early 1946 Gen. Thapar commanded the 1st Bn. 1st Punjab Regiment in Indonesia and later commanded 161st Indian Infantry Brigade in East Bengal. He took up the appointment of Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at Army Headquarters, India, on Aug. 15, 1947.

## Pandit Nehru's Appeal For Peaceful

## Settlement of Dutch-Indonesian Issue

PANDIT Nehru, Prime Minister of India, has appealed to the Indonesian Republic and the Netherlands Government for an early and peaceful settlement. Citing the example of the peaceful transfer of power from British to Indian hands, he urged them to work in a similar spirit for a similar consummation.

The message was conveyed during a party given at Batavia by Mr. N. Raghavan, Consul-General for India in Batavia, at which were present both the Dutch and Indonesian Delegations to the "Renville Talks"—their first social meeting since the July hostilities.

Among the guests were the Netherlands East Indies Governor-General and Mrs. Van Mook, the Dutch Minister for Reconstruction, members of the U.N. O. Good Offices Committee, the Indonesian Premier and Chairman of the Indonesian Delegation, the Chairman of the Netherlands Delegation and members of the Consular Corps in Batavia.

Pandit Nehru's message, received

during the party, was read out. It said:

"I am happy that representatives of the Netherlands Government and the Indonesian Republic are meeting tonight as your guests at a party. India's sympathy for Indonesia's freedom is well known. As a lover of peace, India earnestly desires that differences, which unhappily have arisen between the Governments of Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia, and which have led to armed conflict between the two, should be settled without further bloodshed, as quickly as possible.

"In India the transfer of power from the British to Indian hands has been achieved without strife by the exercise of understanding and the spirit of give and take. I would appeal to our Indonesian and Dutch friends to work for a similar consummation in a similar spirit.

"India will watch the negotiations now in progress under the auspices of the Sub-Committee of U. N. with interest and hope".

## Standing Finance Committee for Railways

The first meeting of the Railway Standing Finance Committee of Indian Parliament, was held on December 16, under the Chairmanship of Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways. Eight out of 11 members attended.

The Committee confirmed the action of Government in having given notice of special purchase of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions as a preliminary to the conversion of the line from Kishanganj to Panchanai, as part of the through direct link to Assam. The purchase price is expected to be approximately Rs. 70 lakhs. The Committee also approved of the preliminary action taken by the Railway Board to set up the organisation necessary for constructing the link, which will involve the building of two major bridges on the Tista and Torsa Rivers.

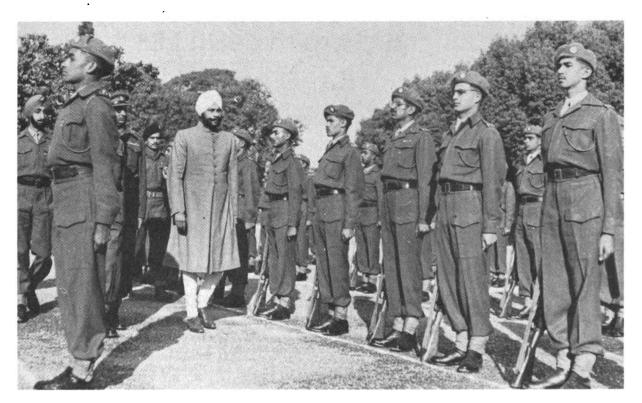
The Committee approved of the Rolling Stock and Machinery Programmes for 1948-49, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 26.7 crores, out of which Rs. 19.14 crores will be charged to the Depreciation Fund. The Machinery Programme is the fourth annual programme of the 5-year Post-War Machinery and Plant Rehabilitation Programme framed in July 1944, but it is very likely that the Programme will extend beyond the five years. The Rolling Stock Programme provides for the purchase of 243 loco-

motovies and 109 boilers, and the building of 58 metre-gauge locomotives in the B. B. and C. I. Railway Workshop will be taken in hand at Ajmer. There is provision for 1,100 coaching vehicles, including 648 thrown forward from the previous programme, and for 6,359 wagons including 1,000 thrown forward. Of the coaching stock, 350 Bogie Broad-Gauge coaches will be obtained from coach building firms in India and the rest will be built in Railway Workshops. The 350 broad-gauge coaches to be obtained from manufacturers in India will be all steel coaches 10' wide, while the coaches to be built in Railway Workshops will be to conventional design.

It is expected that a start will be made with the manufacture at Bangalore of the under coaching stock the Railway Board have been engaged in designing, and if the prototypes stand the necessary tests, 250 such coaches (150 Broad-Gauge and 100 Metre-Gauge) may be built during 1948-49.

The pilgrim ship "Akpar" sailed from Jedda on Jan. 4, with 1,373 pilgrims. She will disembark about 340 pilgrims at Karachi and the remainder at Bombay, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on Jan. 9.

ENDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 15, 1948
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Sarder Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, took the salute at the Passing Out Parade of Officer cadets at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, on December 20. Picture shows the Defence Minister inspecting the cadets on parade

## KEEP INDIA'S FLAG FLYING

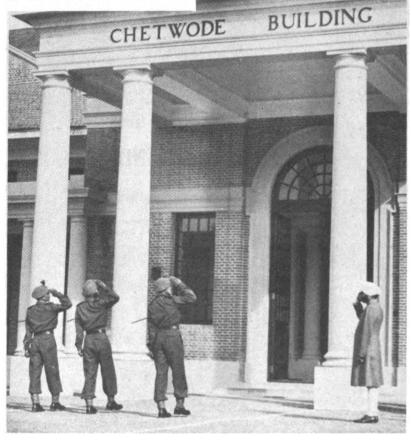
# Defence Minister's Address to Military Cadets

No army can be efficient without sound training. The Government of India is determined to do everything possible to get the best instructors, equipment and anything else required for this purpose", said the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, addressing the cadets of the Indian Military Academy, Delra Dun, at the passing out parade on Dcc. 20. One hundred and eighty-nine cadets who passed out that day would be Commissioned in the Indian Army.

Speaking to the cadets, Sardar Baldev Singh said: "I am today addressing you as a free Indian, in a free India—a status we have attained after making great sacrifices. You are the builders of our nation. It will be your foremost duty to keep India's flag flying.

"It is the first time you have, as Commandant, an Indian, Brigadier Thakur Madho Singh, D. S. O., in charge of this great institution. British officers did a good job here in raising the standard of this institution and it is now for you to maintain the high standard, if not raise it still higher.

"No army can be efficient without sound training. The Government of India is determined to give all possible



The Defence Minister taking the salute with the cadets marching past from the parade ground into Chetwode Building

help to get the best instructors, equipment and anything else required for this purpose.

"The Indian Army is being nationalised very rapidly and you have to shoulder a much greater responsibility now. No Indian can tolerate any foreign power looking at India with an evil eye".

"I appeal to you all young officers," concluded Sardar Baldev Singh, "to be above politics and to remain loyal to the Government".

#### Commandant's Address

"The unique distinction of being the first batch of Cadets to pass out under your own flag and be admitted to the Officer ranks of the Army of free is yours", said Brigadier Madho Singh the Commandant of the Acadeux.

He added: "You are the custodian of India's flag which is the dearest thing we have. To safeguard the honour of this flag it may even call for a supreme sacrifice which must be paid when occasion demands it. The division of the country has made the partition of the armed forces inevitable and has resulted in the establishment of another Pakistan Military Academy which is being formed in Kakul with a nucleus of staff from this Academy".

The Commandant reminded the cadets of the motto of the Academy: "the Honour, Welfare and Safety of the country comes first always and everytime; the honour, welfare and safety of the men you command come next and finally your own safety and welfare.

"Go forward to serve this great land of yours which needs the services, of a soldier more than it has ever done before in its long history", concluded Brig. Madho Singh.

Sardar Baldev Singh decorated Lt. Col. Kanwar Zorawar Singh with the ribbon of the Military Cross and Submaj. Hoshiar Singh Gurung Bahadur with the ribbons of OBI 2nd Class. Senior Under Officer, Cadet Harbhajan Singh Grewal was the recipient of a gold medal and Senior Under Officer, Cadet Jai Krishen won a silver medal.

The Defence Minister on Dec. 19, visited St. Dunstan's School for the war-blinded and Gurkha Rifles' Regimental centres. He also inspected the Technical Development establishment and an army formation.

The question of awards for acts of gallantry, is under review by Government of India and recognition of valour in the Kashmir operations will include issue of Certificates of Gallantry. These will, for the present, be in the form of Commendation Cards and issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, in respect of Army personnel and Air Marshal Commanding R. I. A. F., in respect of R. I. A. F. personnel, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence on Dec. 30.

# H. M. S. "ACHILLES" TO BE TRANSFERRED TO R. I. N.

## Three Modern Destroyers to be Purchased

THE Government of India have agreed with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that H. M. S. Achilles, a Leander class Cruiser of 7,000 tons, should be transferred to the Royal Indian Navy, said a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Defence on Dec. 27.

H. M. S. Achilles was completed in 1933 and has a main armament of six 6-inch guns and a secondary armament of eight 4-inch anti-aircraft guns. The torpedo armament comprises eight 21-inch torpedo tubes. The designed speed of Leander Class Cruisers is 32 5 knots.

The cost of this ship, when constructed was Rs. 2 crores. The complement of H. M. S. Achilles will be about 30 officers and 750 ratings. Some of the officers and ratings forming the crew of this ship are already in the United Kingdom where they have been undergoing courses of instruction and the balance of the crew will be despatched to the United Kingdom within the next few weeks.

## Purchase of Destroyers

It is hoped that H. M. S. Achilles will reach Indian Waters in the autumn of 1948.

Except for 4 officers and 16 warrant officers the whole of the ships company of H. M. S. Achilles will be composed of Indians.

Negotiations are also in progress for the purchase of three modern Destroyers, which it is hoped to take over towards the end of 1948. The Covernment of India intend to build modern naval training establishments in India but it will be some time before these are ready for use. Arrangements have been made with the Admiralty to undertake the training of a large number of R.I.N. officers and ratings in the United Kingdom during 1948 and a party of 18 officers and 60 ratings left for the United Kingdom in the hired transport Francon on Dec. 13.

Two sloops of the R. I. N., H. M. I. S. Kistna, and H. M. I. S. Cauvery left India on Dec. 23, with a contingent of 400 ratings for training in the United Kingdom and a further 30 officers will be leaving India for the United Kingdom in the near future. These officers and men will be trained in the Royal Naval Gunnery School (H. M. S. Excellent) the R. M. Electrical School (H. M. S. Collingwood) the R.N. Navigation School (H. M. S. Dryad) and the R. N. Torpedo School (R. M. S. Defiance).

The two schools are entirely manned by Indians, the Commanding officers being Commander R. D. Katari, R. I. N. and Lieut-Commander Sawhny, R. I. N.

The admiralty have also agreed to accept 36 Indian cadets for training each year for the next three years in place of the 16 per year who have been sent previously. The Government of India are grateful to H. M. G. for the facilities which have been afforded for the training of their personnel during the period their own establishments are under construction.

## STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE

In place of the Defence Consultative Committee, which ceased to function from Aug. 15, 1947, a Standing Committee of the Legislature for the Ministry of Defence has been constitued.

The following ten members have been declared duly elected by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) to serve on this committee until the end of the next financial year.

Ministry intend to undertake. Major questions of general policy and financial matters and any other topic of public importance within the field of the Committee, which the members of the Committee may propose for discussion, will also be included in the agenda.

legislative proposals which the Defence

The functions of this Committee will be purely advisory.

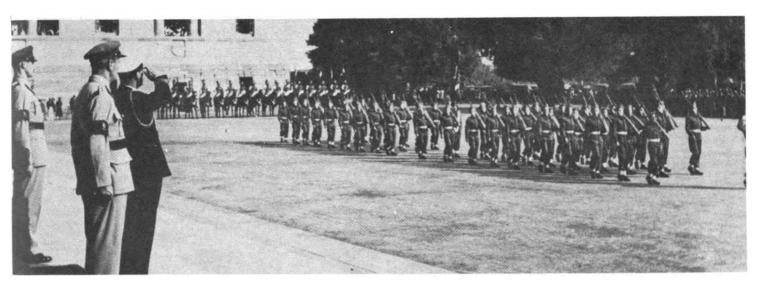
## Members

(1) Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, (2) Sardar Jogindra Singh, (3) Mr. Manikyalal Verma, (4) Mr. Mohahlal Gautam, (5) Mr. C. M. Poonacha, (6) Mr. Hari Vishnu Kamath, (7) Maj. Gen. Maharaja Himmat Singhji, (8) Pandit Thakardas Bhargava, (9) Mr. S. M. Patil and (10) Mr. Hussain Imam.

Among the subjects which will be laid before the Standing Committee will be non-official bills introduced or proposed to be introduced in the Assembly and The Ministry of Health, Government of India supplied up to December 15, one million doses of vaccine lymph for vaccination against small-pox. Of these \$56,045 doses were sent to East Punjab, 212,720 doses to Kurukshetra; 10,100 to Kashmir; 5,800 doses were given to the Delhi Province and 2,500 doses for the use of non-Muslims in Pakistan.

The vaccine was prepared at the various Institutes in Belgam, Nagpur, Calcutta, Madras, Ranchi and Nainital.

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From the steps of Government House, New Delhi, Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, bids farewell to the contingent of the last British troops to leave Delhi—the First Royal Fusiliers and the Second East Lancashire Regiment

# LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S FAREWELL TO BRITISH TROOPS

BIDDING farewell to contingents of lst Bn. Royal Scot Fusiliers and 2nd Bn. East Lancashire Regiment at a parade on Dec 19, at Government House, H. E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, said:—

"I am very glad to have the opportunity of saying goodbye to representatives of the last British Brigade to leave Delhi. There are no two battalions in the whole of the British Army whom I would sooner see represented on parade today than your two, not only because of your ancient history and long association with India, but particularly because we were associated together in the war.

"The first battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, which was raised 270 years ago, first came to service in India nearly a hundred-and-fifty years ago.

"The second Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, which was raised 200 years ago, first came more than 120 years ago for service in India. But it is your last tour of service which is the most important and which should make the most lasting impression.

## Tribute to 36th Division

"After both your Battalions had carried out the Madagascar landings, with the planning of which my Combined Operations Headquarters in London were associated, you formed part of the 36th Division. In February, 1944, during the crucial phase of the battle for Arakan, the 36th Division came in and made pertain of the first victory which the Allies won in South-East Asia.

"Later, when the famous American General, Joe Stilwell asked for a British Division to help him with his five Chinese Divisions and his American Brigade on the North-East front of Burma, I personally selected the 36th Division as being the ideal unit for the job, under Maj.-Gen. Frankie Festing. Your Division covered itself with glory in the difficult fighting, and even got a high measure of praise from Gen. Stilwell,

who was not known as Vinggar Joe for nothing.

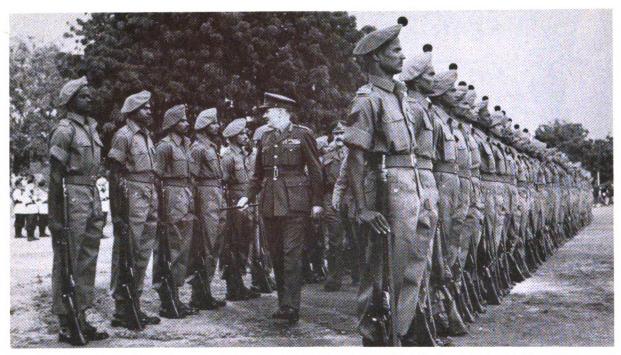
"After the war there came these great changes. As you know, with the passing of the Indian Independence Act and since the transfer of power on the 15th August, relationships between the United Kingdom and India rest now on only two factors—friendship and trust. There are no better factors in



Admiral Sir Arthur Palliser, British East Indias Naval C.-ir.-C. met Lord Mounthatten at Government House, New Delhi, on December 18. Picture shows Their Excellencies with Admiral Palliser immediately behind, leaving the parade ground, where the latter inspected a Guard of Honour provided by a contingent of 6th Gurkhes

ENDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 15, 1948

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Many senior officers of the Armed Services were present at the New Dethi Railway Station on December 30, to bid farewell to General Sir Rob Lockhart, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, who left for Bombay on relinquishing his appointment. Picture shows General Lockhart inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by a detachment of 4th Bn. The Madras Regiment

the world on which relationships can be based.

"You were in Delhi when the troubles started, and the Government of India, I am certain, decided correctly when they did not ask any British forces to come and assist the very small garrison that was left in Delhi, in dealing with the riots.

#### Noble Work

"I am proud to think, however, that Tommy Atkins was not prepared to sit down and do nothing while there was trouble all round, and the battalions of these Brigades, including the Bcd-fordshires and Hertfordshires, who have already left, volunteered their service to help with any of the refugee camps, Muslim or non-Muslim in Delhi.

"The Delhi Emergency Committee decided to accept their ofter, and as you know, the Battalions worked in the Purana Qila and Humayun's Tomb camps, where they did noble work, work which will not be easily forgotten, and which contributed greatly to that state of friendship on which our future relations between the two countries will depend.

"The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, asked me personally to give a message to you on behalf of the Government of India, and to ask you to pass it on to the rest of the Brigade when you meet them on board ship. It is that the Government of India is grateful for what the 16th Brigade did in assisting them in Delhi and have charged me in bidding them farewell, to wish you a happy voyage home and the best of luck in the future".

## GEN. SIR ROB LOCKHART LEAVES DELHI

ANY senior officers of the Armed Services were present at the New Delhi Railway Station on Dec. 30 to bid farewell to General Sir Rob Lockhart, K. C. B., C.I.E., M.C. Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, who left by train for Bombay on relinquishing his appointment.

A guard of honour composed of detachments from the 4th Battalion the Madras Regiment and the 1st Battalion 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles gave the general salute when the Commander-in-Chief arrived on the platform. General Lockhart inspected the guard of honour and talked to officers and men. As the train steemed away the guard presented arms and the band of the Rajputana Rifles, which was in attendance, played "Aud Lang Syne".

## 34 Years' Service

Among those who were present on the platform were Colonel Currie, Military Secretary to the Governor-General, representing His Excellency, Lieut.-General F. R. R. Bucher, Chief of the Staff, Indian Army, Lieut.-General D. Russell, G. O. C.-in-C., D.E.P. Command, Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Smith, Commanding British Forces, in India and Pakistan, Major-General Rajendrasinghji commanding Delhi Area, Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, A.O.C.-in-C. and Major Generals Srinagesh, Swinburn, Dhillon, Rudra, Stable, Steadman and Thapar.

General Lockhart is retiring after over 34 years' service in the Indian Army.

Commissioned in 1913, after Marlborough and Sandhurst, he was posted to 51st Sikhs (Frontier Force) in March 1914 and fought with them in Egypt and Mesopotamia in World War 1, winning the M. C. and being mentioned in despatches.

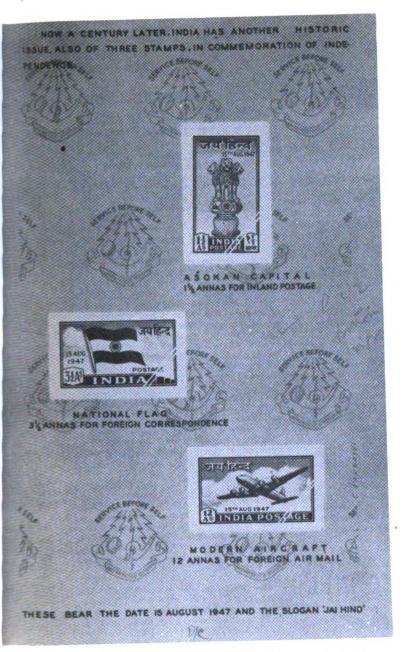
He graduated from the Staff College at Chamberley in 1927 and was Brigade Major at Kohat and General Staff Officer (Intelligence) at Army Headquarters, as it was then called, before being appointed Military Attache in Afghanistan in 1934. He became Commanding Officer of his battalion in 1936 and in 1937 he officiated in command of the Jubbulpore Brigade and in 1938-39 the Vana Brigade.

In February, 1939, General Lockhart was appointed Deputy Director of Staff Duties and in March became Director, an appointment which he held with an interval of two months until September 1941.

In 1941 he became Major-General and was appointed Secretary of the Military Department at the India Office in London, a post he held for two years, when he assumed command of the L. of C. Area at Ranchi. He became Deputy Chief of General Staff in May 1944.

In April, 1945, he was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, where he remained until June, 1947, when he was made Governor of the North-West Frontier Province at the time of the referendum. He successfully fulfilled his mission as Governor during the historical period in August 1947. General Lockhart assumed his present appointment on August 15, 1947.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 15, 1848
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## India's Commemoration · Stamps



The postal system in India is, perhaps ancient as her temples. For, like all postal systems, it was born of the necessity of maintaining communication, so that the emperor keep in touch with the officers in charge of provinces at a distance from the capital; and himself, be kept informed of what was taking place.

Ibn Batuta, travelling in India, in the time of Mohamed Bin Tughlak, in the

middle of the fourteenth century says:-

"There are in Hindustan, two kinds of couriers, horse and foot; these are generally termed "El Wolak", the horse-courier which is generally a part of the Sultan's cavalry, is stationed at a distance of every four miles. As to the foot-couriers there will be one at a distance of every mile occupying stations which they call "El Davah" and making on the whole three miles; so that there is, at the distance of every three miles, an inhabited village, and without this, three sentry boxes where the couriers sit prepared for motion with their loins girded. In the hands of each is a whip with their loins girded. In the hands of each is a whip about two cubits long, and upon the head of this are small hells. Whenever, therefore, one of the couriers leaves any city he takes his despatches in one hand and the whip, which he keeps constantly shaking, in the other. In this manuer he proceeds to the nearest foot courier and, as he approaches, shakes his whip. Upon this, out comes another who takes the despatches and so proceeds to the next. For this reason it is that the Sultan receives his despatches in so short a time".



Fecsimile of world's first air mail letter

The postal service in India was first thrown open to the public in 1837, charges were levied in cash, and the lowest rate being two annas for every hundred miles, copper tokens of the value of two annas were struck and made available for the payment of postage.

The first issue of postage stamps in India, was made in Sindh

in 1852. They were of three kinds.

1. The design embossed on white paper, without colour.

Blue, embossed on white paper. The design embossed on vermilion wafers.

The first official air mail flight ever undertaken was on the 18th February, 1911 when 6500 letters and postcards were flown from the U. P. Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition grounds in Allahabad to Naini Junction by M. Pequet, a French aviator. A souvenir postmark was provided by the Postmaster-General U. P. for the occasion, the seal being destroyed immediately after flight.



## Vaccination Certificates for Passengers Health Minister Visits Going Abroad

ONSIDERABLE difficulty been experienced recently by Indian passengers going abroad, on account of their inoculation and vaccination certificates being found defective by the countries of their destination, says a Press Note, issued by the Director te-General of Health Services, on Dec. 14.

The Government of India, therefore, want to bring to the notice of passengers proceeding abroad, and of the medical profession generally, that according to international requirements certificates of inoculation and vaccination against cholera, small-pox, typhus and yellow fever must be in the internationally prescribed form.

#### Yellow Fever

Copies of prescribed forms can be obtained from the nearest Administrative Medical Officer. These forms should be filled in by the passengers doctor very carefully, to see that all items have been accurately completed as any defective of incomplete answers to the various items may result in the certificate not being recognised by the countries of transit and destination, and the passenger may, in consequence, he placed in quarantine.

As regards certificates of inoculation against yellow fever, the medical profession

and the public are hereby warned that on account of certain technical difficulties in the storage and administration of yellow fever vaccine, this vaccine is not available to the doctors or the public and certificate cannot be issued in India by anyone except by the following five Government centres of inoculation:

- 1. Haffkine Institute, Bcmbay.
- 2. All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.
- 3. King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, Madras.
- 4. Central Research Institute, Kasauli.
- 5. The Provincial Public Health Laboratory, New Delhi.

Vaccinations should be arranged, by appointment, with the nearest of these] centres where internationally recognised certificates on the prescribed form will also be issued.

The Government of India propose to take legal action against any unauthorised issue of yellow fever certificates. The medical profession are, therefore, warned not to issue yellow fever vaccination certificates under any circumstances whatsoever and to direct passengers requiring such certificates to one of the above-mentioned centres.

## DEMOBILISED MEDICAL PERSONNEL **Employment and Training Facilities**

Medical Resettlement Organisations at the Centre, in the Provinces and in the States have, up to end of November, 1947, placed 1,253 ex-service medical, nursing and ancillary personnel in employment and 467 in training, out of 5,533 and 1,338 applications for employment and training respectively, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate General of Health Services, on Dec. 20.

These resettlement organisations consist of a Central Medical Employment Bureau in the office of the Director-General of Health Services, New Delhi, and Provincial or State Medical Employment Bureau in Provinces and States. The bureaux are attached to the offices of Surgeons-General, Inspectors-General of Civil Hospitals in various Provinces and to the offices of the administrative medical officers of the various States.

Medical, nursing and ancillary personnel who have done war service, are given assistance in securing suitable employment, or in arranging appropriate training in medical, nursing and allied sbjects. They have been granted several concessions in such matters as increased grades, counting of war service towards increments, re-

servation of vacancies, etc. Candidates undergoing training are entitled to financial concession in the shape of free education, including tuition and examination fees, books and equipment and a maintenance allowance, based on conditions prevailing in the district, province or area concerned.

These bureaux also meet the requirements of factories or institutions, who may require the services of medical or public health officers, nursing personnel and technicians. They should contact the nearest medical employment bureaux.

All ex-members of the Armed Forces, or their dependents or representatives, who have preferred appeals against the decision of the Government of India rejecting their pension claims should communicate their present addresses to the joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence (Pensions Branch), Delhi. Defence (Pensions Branch), Delhi, immediately, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 7.

The disposal of their pensions appeals is being held up for want of information regarding their a hereabouts.

# Eye Hospital

The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, minister for fleath, Government of Irale, paid a visit to Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in Daryaguni, Delhi, on Dec. 22. She spent about an hour there going round the various wards, operation theatres, etc.

The hospital is housed in a spacious building and has a normal strength of 104 beds. The months of March and April in the beginning of the year and October and November towards the end are rush periods when large numbers of people come from rural areas for cataract operation. To meet this emergency, 46 additional beds are provided in verandahs and tents are verandahs and tents are pitched to accommodate another 50, if necessary. There is an Out-Patient Department where a large number of patients are attended to every day.

The treatment of patients is entirely free. They are also fed and given clothes at hospital expense, while those requiring eye-glasses get them without payment. This has put a severe strain on the finances of the hospital, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 5,000 in this year's budget.

The hospital gets an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 from Government and Rs. 1,400 per month from the Delhi Municipality. It also receives donations from philanthropists occasionally. The entire requirement of hospital linen is met free of cost by two mills in Delhi, while some blankets are provided every year by a third.

The Minister was pleased with the arrangements. She said the hospital was doing good work and deserved every help from Government and the public alike.

## EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN

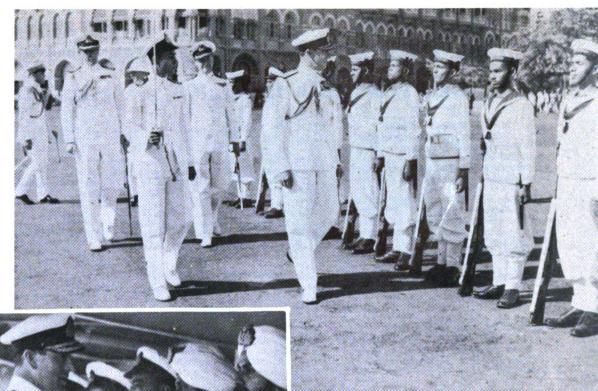
Facilities for employment assistance to women have now been extended by the Ministry of Labour. Women can new be registered at all Employment Exchanges and District Offices besides the Regional Exchanges, where there are special women's sections.

Up to November, 1947, nearly 7,300 women were registered, of whom over 1,750 were found work in large variety of occupations such as typists, stenographers, clerks and telephone operators.

During the last six months between 300 and 400 employers have notified demands specifically for women workers. As a rule, however, women are considered equally with men for all vacancies notified except when they are for male workers cnlv.

Over 860 women are at present being trained in the technical and vocational training centres set up by the Labour Ministry. The trades taught include stenography, typing, hair-dress ng, commercial and clerical work, tailoring, telegraphy and teleplone operating, interior decoration, domestic science and labour welfare.

H. E. Lord Mount-batten, Governor-General of India, accompanied by H. E. Sir John Colville, the then Governor of Bombay returned calls on the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, and Flag Officer Commanding R. I. N. on H. M. S. "Norfolk" during his recent visit to Bombay. (Right) Lord Mount-batten inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by the R. I. N. at the Gateway of India





# Lord Mountbatten in Bombay

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(Above) Officers of H. M. I. S. "Kistna" being presented to Lord Mount batten (Right) His Excellency inspecting a Guard of Honour of 3/5 Royal Gurkha Rifles at the Gateway of India

## R. I. N. OFFICERS AND MEN TO BE TRAINED IN U. K.

M. I. Sloops "Kistna" and "Cauvery" are leaving shortly for the United Kingdom to transport about 300 officers and men of the R.I.N. who have been detailed to undergo training in the United Kingdom.

The majority of these officers and men will undergo training at Portsmouth and the remainder will go to Plymouth and Chatham. Some of these officers and ratings will do cruiser training and the others, training in Special Branches.

#### Training Courses

The courses vary in length. Some are only for four weeks and others for so long as nine months. More efficers and men will have to be sent later to complete the cruiser complement for H. M. S. "Achilles," which the Government of India is acquiring from the Admiralty.

Already there are 90 officers and men who have done training in a cruiser, or are doing it, or are standing by H.M.S. "Achilles". which will have a complement of 800. A number of the men now proceeding to the U.K. will be attached to the R. N. ships. When a sufficient number of officers and men have been trained in cruiser work they will man

H. M. S. "Achilles" and bring it to India

The class of Destroyers, which the Government of India are buying from H. M. G. is still under consideration.

Air Commodore Mehr Singh, D.S.O., has taken over command of No. 1 Operational Group of the Royal Indian Air Force located at Palam aerodrome (New Delhi).

The Air Officer Commanding the new R. I. A. F. Operational Group who is the first R. I. A. F. officer to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order gained this distinction while commadning an R. I. A. F. Fighter Squadron on the Burma Front during the battles of the Arakan when he personally completed 82 operational sorties in just under three months.

Air Commodore Mehr Singh was in personal charge of air operations in Kashmir when the raiders started infiltrating into the State committing arson, loot and murder. As Air Officer Commanding the Operational Group, all air operations of the Royal Indian Air Force are in his charge, including the present operations in Kashmir.

## RADAR FACILITIES IN R.I.A.F.

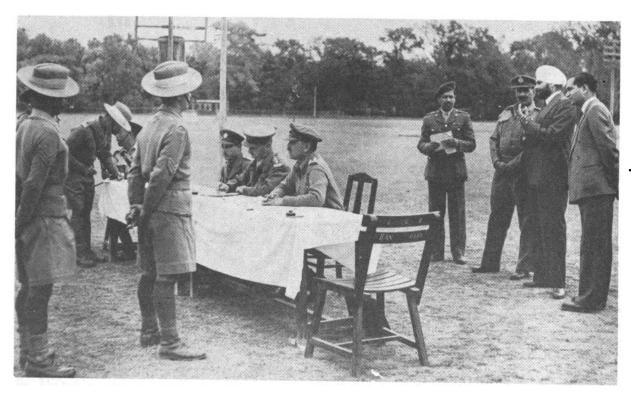
Royal Indian Air Force has an elaborate scheme for the development of Radar. Already Radar beacons are fitted on all R. I. A. F. airfields as a navigational aid to Service and radar-fitted civil aircraft. Other Radar facilities, such as blind landing aids are to be fitted in the near future. Radar method of detecting storms and finding upper air wind velocity are also in operation and are of considerable help to the Meteorological Branch of the Air Force.

The latest type of Radar equipment to train fighter pilots in the art of interception of enemy aircraft has been installed in one of the R. I. A. F. airfields. More such stations will be opened soon.

## **Bomber Squadrons**

Radar also provides facilities for bombing through clouds absolutely blindly. This method was considerably used by R. A. F. over Germany during the closing months of the war. R.I.A. F. Bomber squadrons will be fitted with the latest type of blind bombing Radar.

The authorities are planning for Radar coverage of the long coast line of India so as to detect enemy aircraft and surface vessels in case of enemy attack. In peacetime, this facility can help in the navigation of ships and aircraft.



A referendum was held at the 6th Gurkha Regimental Training Centre (one of the two centres earmarked for H. M. G. according to the tripartite agreement between the Governments of Nepal,' India and the United Kingdom) to enable Gurkha officers and men to opt for service in the Indian Army or British Army. The referendum was held under the supervision of a Nepalese. a British and au Indian officer. Picture shows Sardar Baldev Singh (second from right)

Defence Minister, watching a Gurkha Jemadar filling in the form

# UTILISATION OF LAC IN VARNISH AND PAINT INDUSTRIES

## Results of Recent Investigations

RECENT investigations on lac have succeeded in opening out new and extensive scope for the utilisation of that product in varnish and paint industries.

The usefulness of lac, which has been traditionally employed in the varnish industry, can be greatly augmented, if the nardness and gloss of lac is combined with the film-forming and plasticizing properties of oils. The practicability of formulating lac-lineed oil compositions with a view to obtaining varnishes satisfying the exacting demands of modern industry, has been the subject of extensive research over a number of years.

A satisfactory formulation has been achieved as a result of investigations carried out at the Indian Lac Research Institute, the details of which have been published in a recent issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research. Drying on glycerides with which has is compatible, have been prepared and their properties studied.

## Insulating Properties

Tranted linseed oil is a slimy semisolid completely soluble in alcohol, and a satisfactory spirit varnish giving a transparent isomim can be secured by cooking the oil giveeride with line at 185°-180° C. for 15 minutes. Excellent results have been obtained when 150 parts of dewaxed lac and 150 parts of the oil giveeride are descrived in 200 cc. of methylated spirit. The film, on baking at 30°-35° for two nours, possesses excellent insulating properties.

The washed and dried glyceride

mixture may be chemically combined with iac by cooking in the ratio of 100 parts of glyceride to 60 parts of lac at 250°C. for half an hour, and thinning the product with white spirit or turpentine. A clear baking insulating varnish is thereby obtained. By varying the cooking conditions, air-drying varnishes, too, can be secured. Shellac-oil paints can be made by combining the air-drying product with suitable pigments.

#### Carborundum Production

A high temperature resistance furnace has been designed and constructed in the department of Chemical Technology, University of Bombay, and employed in experimental investigations on carborundum production. The details relating to the construction and operation of the lurnace have been described in the September number of the Journal of Sectentific and Industrial Research.

Using this furnace, the optimum conditions for the economic production of carporundum, starting from quartz sand, coke, common salt and saw dust, have been worked out. The particle size of sand is impurtant in securing the optimum yield of the final product. Best results are obtained when the size range is -10, -1-40, which is also the size range of the coke employed. The optimum conversion into silicon carbide is secured in 12 hours at 2,500°C.

Among the other articles appearing in the Journal are: a world standard for screw, threads, Sunspot activity during the current cycle and petroleum resources of India. The editorial discusses the problem of scientific manpower in India.

## Committee to Reorganise Alipore Test: House

TWO committees, one for reorganising the work of Alipore Test House, Calcutta, and the other for expanding the scope and activities of the Mathematical Instruments Office, Calcutta, have been appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of Indiatry and Supply.

The Government of India, it is understood, have appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. B. C. Roy, to examine the existing organisation and the possibilities of expansion of the Government Test House, Alipore. Dr. K. S. Krishnan, Dr. B. C. Guha of the Calcutta University and Mr. K.N. Sharma, Director of Inspection, Directorate-General of Industry and Supply, have been invited to serve on the Committee.

The Government of India have also appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. G. R. Paranjpe to review

the organisation of the Mathematical Instruments Office, Calcutta. The [terms of reference include:

- (i) the formulation of concrete plans, both short-term and long-term for the development of the manufacture of scientific instruments and photographic, electronic and electro-acoustic equipments;
- (ii) an examination of the possibility of using the Mathematical Instruments Office as a training centre for instrument makers, mechanics, etc; and
- (iii) a review of the terms and conditions of service of the employees there.

Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose of the Calcutta University and Mr. H. P. Bhaumik, retired Post-Master-General, have been invited to serve on the Committee.

# BIGGER AND BETTER AIRPORTS FOR INDIA

India, across which the world's sky routes pass, will soon have bigger and better airports.

A sum of approximately Rs. 2 crores for the improvement of twelve aerodromes up to international standards was agreed to by the Standing Finance Committee when it met recently in New Delhi. The aerodromes are in Delhi, (aloutta, Bombay, Mardas, Allahabad, Gays, Lucknow, Nagput, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwai and Vizagapatam.

The runways and hangars of India's major airports when completed would meet the requirements of larger and heavier aircrait now in use by operating sirlines. Aeronautical communication service will also be improved in accordance with the plans for the development of aviation.

The need for larger hangars and stronger runways arose with the increasing use of heavier aircraft by airlines. Some progress has already been made in the erection of steel hangars in bombey and Delhi.

Government's plans now include the erection of such hangars in Calcutta and Madras also, strengthening of runways, construction of residential quarters, installation of obstruction lights and the purchase of radio communication equipment and vehicles from Disposals.

The work will be speeded up by the Civil Aviation Wing of the C. P. W. D., who will buy and use mechanised plant and equipment, such as bulldozers, pump sets, tractors and diesel engines for construction purposes. A portion of the pre-fabricated parts of hangars and roofing material will be available from the surplus assets of the Defence Ministry.

- In pursuance of agreement, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Dec. 30, reached between the Dominions of Inc.s and Pakistan as a result of the Secretariat-level Conference of the Inter-Dominion representatives in New Delhi on December 18, 19 and 20, persons dearing restrictation of licensed arms and ammunition taken away from them in Pakistan should adopt the following procedure:
- (a) Persons who hold receipts for licensed arms and ammunition taken away from them should apply to the Provincial Governments calceined. The two Dominion Governments have issued instructions to Provincial Governments to have such arms and ammunition restored.
- (b) Persons who do not hold such receipts should apply to the Director. Information Bureau, Ministry of Keher and Rehabilitation, 'P' Block, Kaisins Road, New Delhi. In such cases, it has been agreed that the Dominion Governments would furnish lists of cases to each other and all such cases would be promptly investigated.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JANUARY 15, 1948

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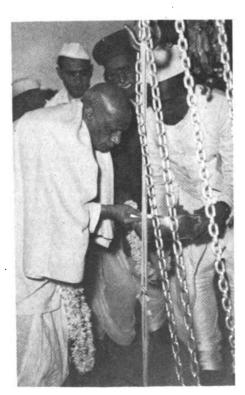
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Sardar Patel in Jaipur





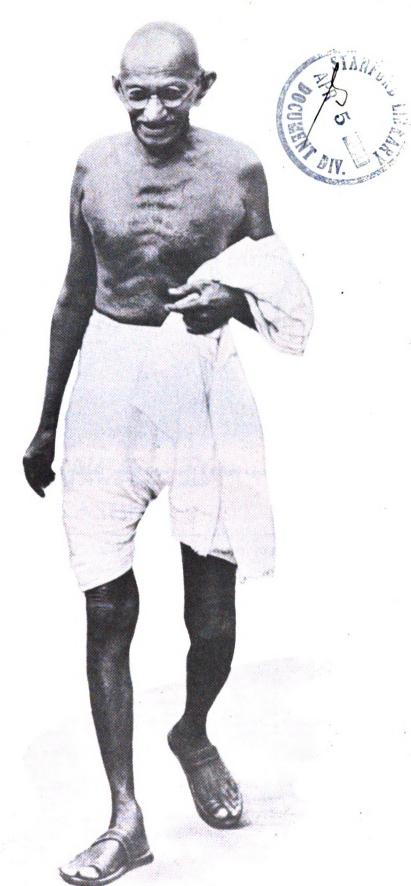
The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhi hai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, visited Jaipur recently. These pictures taken during his visit to the State thew (above, left) Sardar Patel with His Highness the Moharoja of Juizur and (above, right) the Deputy Prime Minister with His Highness arriving at the Maharaja's College, Jaipur, where the latter laid the foundation stone of the new Science Extension.

(Below, left) Sardar Patel laying the foundation stone of a Gujerati School in the State and (helow, right) students of the Banethali Vidzapith presenting a Guard of Honour to the Deputy Prime Minister during his visit to their institution, which is run on national lines.





Complimentary Copy



## MAHATMA GANDHI

Oct. 2, 1869—Jan. 30, 1948

Vol. 22. No. 223

February 1, 1948



Sardar Patel planting a mango tree in Government House, Lucknow, during his recent visit to the city. H. E. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of U. P., is also in the picture

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Burma In	opinion or emphasis.
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## IN MEMORIAM

We pay our respectful homage to the sacred memory of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who died at his prayer meeting on January 30, 1948. He served the Motherland and humanity for half a century and led India to freedom.

## INDIA'S REFERENCE TO U. N. O.

## MEMORANDUM ON KASHMIR

The following is the text of the Government of India's Memorandum on Kashmir submitted to the Security Council at Lake Success:—

1. Under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, any member may bring any situation, whose continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, to the attention of the Security Council. Such a situation now exists between India and Pakistan owing to the aid which invaders, consisting of nationals of Pakistan and of tribesmen from the territory immediately adjoining Pakistan on the North-West, are drawing from Pakistan for operations against Jammu and Kashmir, a State which has acceded to the Dominion of India and is part of India.

The circumstances of the accession, the activities of the invaders which led the Government of India to take military action against them and the assistance which the attackers have received and are still receiving from Pakistan are explained later in this memorandum.

The Government of India request the Security Council to call upon Pakistan to put an end immediately to the giving of such assistance which is an act of aggression against India. If Pakistan does not do so, the Government of India may be compelled, in self-defence, to enter Pakistan territory in order to take military action against the invaders. The matter is therefore one of extreme urgency and calls for immediate action by the Security Council for avoiding a breach of international peace.

2. From the middle of Sept. 1947, the Government of India had received reports of infiltration of armed raiders into the western parts of the Jammu Province of the Jammu and Kashmir State; Jammu adjoins West Punjab which is a part of the Dominion of Pakistan. These raiders had done a great deal of damage in that area and taken possession of part of the territory of the State.

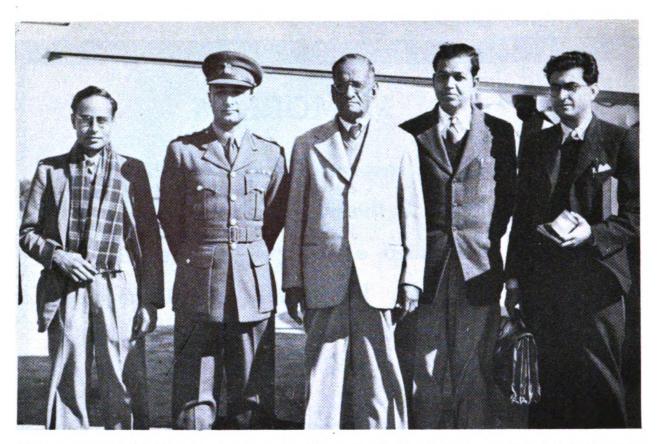
## Raid from Frontier Province

On Oct. 24, the Government of India heard of a major roid from the Frontier Province of the Dominion of Pakistan into the Valley of Kushmir. Some 2,000 or more fully armed and equipped men came in motor transport, crossed over to the territory of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, sacked the town of Muzaffar-

abad, killing many people, and proceeded along the Jhelum Valley Road towards Srinagar, the summer capital of the Jammu and Kashmir State. Intermediate towns and villages were sacked and burnt, and many people killed. These raiders were stopped by Kashmir State troops near Uri, a town some CC miles from Srinagar, for some time, but the invaders got round them and burnt the powerhouse at Mahora, which supplies electricity to the whole of Kashmir.

3. The position, on the morning of Oct. 26 was that these raiders had been held by Kashmir State troops and part of the civil population who had been armed, at a town called Baramula. Peyond Baramula there was no major obstruction up to Srinagar. There was immediate danger of these raiders reaching Srinagar, destroying and sacking the capital and massacring, large numbers of people, both Hindus and Muslims. The state troops were spread out all over the State and most of them were deployed along the western border of Jammu Province. They had been split up into small isolated groups and were incapable of offering effective resistance to the raiders. Most of the State officials had left the threatened area and civil administration had ceased to function. All that stood between Srinagar and the fate which had overtaken places on the route followed by the raiders was the

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The Government of India's Delegation to attend the U. N. Security Council Session on Kashmir left New Delhi on January 7. Picture shows from (L. to R.) Mr. C. Parthesarathy, Secretary to Mr. Gopalaswemi Ayyangar; Col. B. K. Kaul (Military! Attache at the Indian Embessy, Weshington) the Hon'ble Mr. Gopalaswemi Ayyangar and Mr. P. N. Helsar (extreme right) of the E. A. and C. R. Ministry, Members of the Delegation, and Mr. H. V. R. Ieugar (second from right)

Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

determination of the inhabitants of Srinagar, of all communities, practically without arms, to defend themselves. At this time, Srinagar had also a large population of Hindu and Sikh refugees who had fled there from West Punjab, owing to communal disturbances in that area. There was little doubt that the refugees would be massacred if the raiders reached Srinagar.

### Appeal for Military Help

- 4. Immediately after the raids into Jamus and Kashmir State commenced, approaches were informally made to the Government of India for the acceptance of the accession of the State to the Indian Dominion. (It might be explained, in paranthesis that Jaminu and Kashmir form a State whose Ruler, prior to the transfer of power by Britain to the Dominions of India and Pakistan, had been in Treaty relations with the British Crown which controlled its foreign relations and was responsible for its defence. The Trenty relations censed with the transfer of power on Agu. 15 last. and Jammu and Kashmir, like other States, acquired the right to accede to either Dominion.)
- 5. Events moved with great rapidity and the threat to the Valley of Kashmir became grave. On Oct. 20, the Ruler of the State, His Highness Maharaja Sir Hari Singh appealed urgently to the

Government of India for military help. He also requested that the Jammu and Kashmir State should be allowed to accede to the Indian Dominion. An appeal for help was also simultaneously received by the Government of India from the largest popular organisation in Kashmir, the National Conference, heeded by Sheikh Abdullah. The Conference further strongly supported the request for the State's accession to the Indian Dominion. The Government of India were, thus, approached not only officially by the State authorities, but also on behalf of the people of Kashmir, both for military aid and for the accession of the State to India.

6. The grave threat to the life and property of innocent people in the Kashmir Valley and the security of the State of Janiniu and Kashmir that had developed as a result of the invasion of the Valley demanded immediate decisions by the Government of India on both requests. It was imperative, on account of the emergency, that the responsibility for the defence of the Jammu and Kashmir State should be taken over by a Government capable of disolarging it. But, in order to avoid any possible suggestion that India had taken adventage of the State's immediate peril for her own political advantage, the Dominion Government made it clear that, once the soil of the State had been cleared of the invader and normal conditions restored, its people would be free to decide their future by the recognised democratic method of a plebiscite or referendum which, in order to ensure complete impartiality, might be held under international auspices.

- 7. The Government of India felt it their duty to respond to the appeal for armed resistance because:
  - (1) they could not allow a neighbouring and friendly State to be compelled by force to determine either its internal affairs or its external relations;
  - (2) the accession of Jan.mu and Kashmir State to the Dominion of India made India legally responsible for the defence of the State.
- 8. The intervention of the Government of India resulted in saving Srinagar. The raiders were driven back from Baranula to Uri and are neld there by Indian troops. Nearly 19,000 raiders face the Dominion Forces in this area. Since the operations in the Valley of Kashmir started, pressure by the raiders against the Western and South-Western border of the Jammu and Kashmir State has been intensified. Exact figures are not available. It is understood, however, that nearly 15,000 raiders are operating against this part of the State. State troops are besieged in certain areas.



Incursions by the raiders into the State territory involving murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women continues.

The booty is collected and carried over to the tribal areas to serve as an inducement to the further recruitment of tribesmen to the ranks of the raiders. In addition to those actively participating in the raids, a large number of tribesmen and others, estimated at 100,000, have been collected in different places in the districts of West Punjab bordering the Jamuu and Kashmir State and many of them are receiving military training under Pakistan nationals including officers of the Pakistan army. They are looked after in Pakistan territory, fed, clothed, armed and otherwise equipped, and transported to the territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State with the help, direct and indirect of Pakistan officials, both military and civil.

9. As already stated, raiders who entered the Kashmir Valley in October came mainly from the Tribal Areas to the North-West of Pakistan, and, in order to reach Kashmir, passed through Pakistan territory. The raids along the south-west border of the State, which had preceded the invasion of the valley proper, had actually been conducted from Pakistan territory and Pakistan nationals had taken part in them. This process of transit across Pakistan territory and the utilisation of that territory as a base of operations against Jamma and Kashmir State continue.

Recently, military operations against the Western and South-western borders of the State have been intensited and the attackers consist of nationals of Pakistan Wives of senior Indian Armed Forces officers recently visited the Indian Military Hospital at Delhi Cantonment, where the wounded from Jammu and Kashmir are receiving treatment. Picture (above) shows Mrs. F.R.R. Bucher, wife of the Commandur-in-Chief. Indian Army and Mrs. Kulwant Singh, wife of the Commanding Officer, Jakdiv, talking to a patient. (Below) Mrs. Russell, wife of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief? Delhi and East Punjab Command and Mrs. Kalyani Sei, wife of Brig. Sen. photographed in a ward of the Hospital.

#### INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVES

The Government of India's Representatives before the Security Council for consideration of their reference on Kashmir are: The Hon'ble Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister without Portfolio, Mr. M. C. Setalvad, and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Head of the Interim Government of Kashmir.

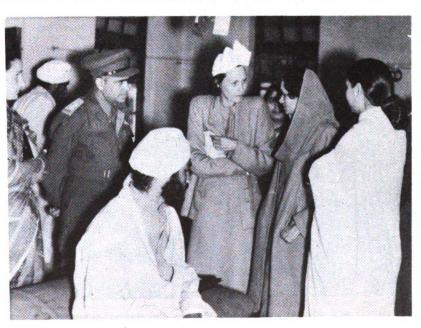
Colonel B. K. Kaul, Military Attache at the Indian Embassy, Washington, and Mr. P. N. Haksar, Bar-at-Law, of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, and Mr. M. K. Vellodi will act as Advisers.

as well as tribesmen. These invaders are armed with modern weapons, including mortars and medium machine-guns, wear the battledress of regular soldiers and, in recent engagements, have fought in regular battle-formation and are using the tactics of modern wartare. Man-pack wireless sets are in regular use and even Mark V.—mines have been employed. For their transport the invaders have all along used motor vehicles. They are undoubtedly being trained and, to some extent, led by regular officers of the Pakisian Army. Their ratious and other supplies are obtained from Pakistan territory.

10. These facts point indisputably to the conclusions:

- (a) that the invaders are allowed transit across Pakistan territory;
- (b) that they are allowed to use Pakistan territory as a base of operations;
- (c) that they include Pakistan nationals;
- (d) that they draw much of their military equipment, transport and supplies (including petrol) from Pakistan; and
- (e) that Pakistan officers are training, guiding and otherwise actively helping them.

There is no source other than Pakistan from which they could obtain such



quantities of modern military equipment training and guidance. More than once the Government of India had asked the Pakistan Government to deny to the invaders facilities which constitute, an act of aggression and hostility against India, but without any response. The last occasion on which this request was made was on Dcc. 22, when the Prime Minister of India handed over personally to the Prime Minister of Pakistan a lotter in which the various forms of and given by Pakistan to the invaders were briefly recounted and the Covernment of Pakistan were asked to put an end to such aid promptly and without reserve. No reply to this letter has yet been received, in spite of a telegraphic reminder sent on Dec 26.

### **Active Aggression**

- 11. It should be clear from the foregoing recital that the Government of Pakistan are unwilling to stop the assistance in material and men which the invaders are receiving from their territory and from their nationals including Pakistan Government personnel, both military and civil. This attitude is not only unnatural but constitutes active aggression against India, of which the State of Jammu and Kashmir forms a part.
- 12. The Government of India have exerted persuasion and exercised patience to bring about a change in the attitude of Pakistan. But they have failed, and are, in consequence, confronted with a situation in which their defence of the Jammu and Kashmir State is hampered and their measures to drive the invadors from the territory of the State are gravely impeded by the support which the raiders derive from Pakistan.

The invaders are still on the soil of Jammu and Kashmir, and the inhabitants of the State are exposed to all the atrocities of which a barbarous foe is

capable. The presence, in large numbers of the invaders in those portions of Pakistan territory which adjoin parts of Indian territory other than the Jamunu and Kashmir State is a menace to the rest of India. I'he Government of India have no option, therefore but to take more effective military action in order to rid Jammu and Kashmir State of the invader. Indefinite continuance of the present operations prolongs the agony of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, is a drain on India's resources and constant throat to the maintenance of peace between India and Pakistan.

13. In order that the objective of expelling the invader from Indian territory and preventing him from launching fresh attacks should be quickly achieved, Indian troops would have to enter Pakistan territory; only thus could the invaders be denied the use of bases and out off from their sources of supplies, and reinforcements in Pakistan.

Since the aid which the invaders are receiving from Pakistan is an act of aggression against India, the Government of India are entitled, in international law, to send their armed forces across Pakistan territory for dealing effectively with the invaders. However, as such action might involve armed conflict with Pakistan, the Government of India, are anxious to proceed according to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, desire to report the situation to the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of article 35 of the Charter. They, therefore, feel justified in requesting the Council to ask the Covernment of Pakistan:

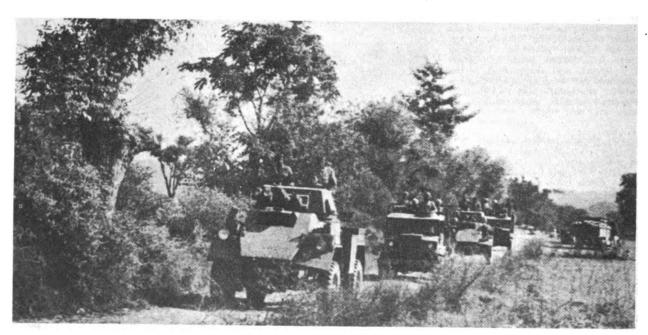
- (1) to prevent Pakistan Government personnel, military and civil, participating in or assisting the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir State;
- (2) to call upon other Pakistan nationals to desist from taking any

part in the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir State;

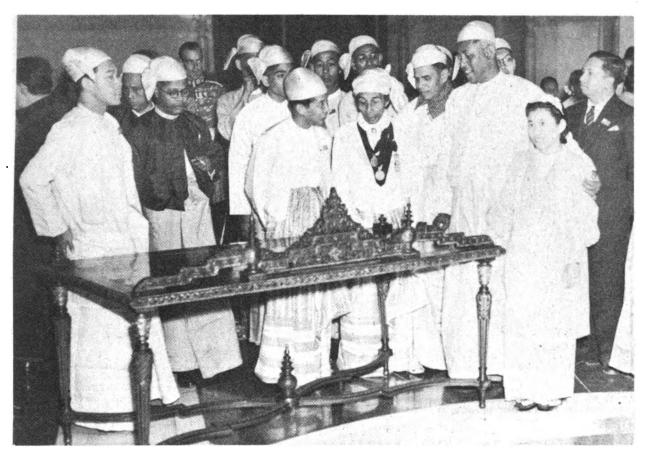
- (3) to demy to the invaders:
  - (a) access to and use of its territory for operations against Kashmir;
  - (b) military and other supplies;
  - (c) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.
- 14. The Government of India would stress the special urgency of the Security Council taking immediate action on their request. They desire to add that the military operations in the invaded area have, in the past few days, been developing so rapidly that they must, in self-defence, reserve to themselves the freedom to take, at any time when it may become necessary, such military action as, they may consider, the situation requires.

#### Common Interests

15. The Government of India deeply regret that a serious crisis should have been reached in their relations with Pakistan. Not only is Pakistan a neighbour, but, in spite of the recent separation, India and Pakistan have many common ties and many common interests. India desires nothing more earnestly than to live with her neighbour State on terms of close and lasting friendship. Peace is to the interest of both States; indeed to the interest of the world. The Government of India's approach to the Security Council is inspired by the sincere hope that, through the prompt action of the Council, peace may be preserved.



Indian armed forces have been operating in Jummu Province against armed bands of men who raided the Province, losting, burning and killing. Picture shows an Indian Army Convoy on the move in Jammu



U Win, Burmese Ambassador to Iadia (at right end of table) and others with the Takhtaposh from Government House, Calcutta, which belonged to King Thebaw and which has been presented to the Government of Burma

# INDIA GREETS INDEPENDENT BURMA

# Event of Great Significance to Asia

-Pandit Nehru

NDIA greeted Independent Burma on January 4. In a missage to Burma the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, expressed on behalf of the Government and the people of India, deep satisfaction at the consummation of Burma's struggle for freedom. Other Members of the Indian Cabinet also conveyed their greetings. These missages were brought out in a "Burma Souvenir" issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

A Burmese Independence Day ceremony was held at Government House at which His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, the Governor-General, presented to Burma the throne once used by the Burmese King Theebaw and takhtaposh which also belonged to the King, as a symbolic gift.

#### Dr. Rajendra Presad represented India at the celebrations in Rangoon and tendered India's felicitations to Free Borma at a special ceremosy.

"India and Burma", Pandit Nehru said in his message: "have been so closely associated in the past that anything that happens in either country affects the other. In

the future I have no doubt that our association will be even closer. Not only our common sentiments demand it but the whole trend of events in the world and in Asia point towards this closer association. A time will, no doubt, come before very long when we may develop in common with other nearby countries machinery for this close coperation".

#### Comradeship in Freedom

"We all realise and genuinely feel," said Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, in his message, "that India's independence is merely a prelude to the independence of other Asian countries, which are still under foreign domination".

He added: "India's ties with Burma have throughout history been close and intimate. For well-nigh a century, India and Burma have shared together the burden of foreign yoke. The part which Indians have played in the economic life of Burma is considerable. We have also throughout extended our heart-felt sympathy to Burma's struggle for independence."

Hoping that as years roll on the bonds of friendship between the two countries may create a sense of contradethip in freedom, "as strongly as they had a common outlook in bondage", Sardar Patel wished Burma "God-speed in the new tasks of reconstruction and rehabilitation which await her".

### Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Message

Dr. Rajendra Prasad extended his congratulations to the Burmese people "on behalf of the Indian National Congress, also of Bihar where the Bodhisattva attained Enlightenment, on behalf of the whole of India, of the Constituent Assembly and finally of myself".

Other messages in the Souvenir include greetings from Sardar Baldev Singh, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sri Jagjivan Ram, Dr. John Matthai, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Dr. Rauf, Indian High Commissioner in Burma, Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, Sir C. V. Raman, Dr. Kalidas Nag, the historian and founder Sceretary of Greater India Society and Prof. B. M. Barua.

The Souvenir includes photographs of Indo-Burma cultural interest, photographs of the Burmese Premier, Thakin Nu, with Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru with the late Gen. U. Aung San.

INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 1.



To celebrate Burma's Independence, a ceremony was held in Government House, New Delhi, on January 4. Here, U Win, the first Burmese Ambassador to India, is presenting his credentials to H. E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India

# BURMESE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

# India Presents Historic Throne

"In presenting this throne and Takhtaposh may I say that they come with the warmest wishes and goodwill of all of us in India, and with them go our fervent hope and firm belief that Burma will enjoy the fruits of peace and freedom in the years to come," observed H. E. Lord Mounthatten, Governor-General of India, while presenting the Mandalay Hlutdaw throne and King Theebaw's Takhtaposh to the people of Burma on the occasion of Burmese Independence Day celebratine, held at Government House, New Delhi, on January 4.

Here is the text of Lord Mountbatten's speech.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,-

This, as you all know, is Burma's Independence Day. I am glad it has followed so soon on our own Independence Day here.

For the last four years I have taken a close and continuous interest in Burmese affairs and so have developed a real affection for the country and its people. With the formation of the South-East Asia Command, I was given full responsibility for the administration of the ever-increasing area of Burma from which we were evicting the Japanese. I was virtually the Military Governor of Burma throughout the campaigns leading to the final liberation of Burmese

territory, and during the first few difficult months of transition from war to peace.

During those twenty-one months there can have been few parts of the country I did not see—from north to south and east to west. I was shocked and grieved at the state I found the country in. The whole of Burma had been a battlefield twice in three years and the devastation every where was unspeakable. In fact, I found Mandalay, that lovely city of the Kings, which had so thrilled me on my first visit in 1922, almost unrecognisable when I entered it again in April 1945.

#### Tribute to General Aung San

Since then the country has made brave strides towards recovery. I have been kept in the Burmese picture by my friend, the Governor, Maj.-Gen. Sir Hubert Rance, who did splendid work as my Chief Civil Affairs Officer for Burma while I was Supreme Allied Commander. I was glad to hear from the Prime Minister of Burma, Thakin Nu on his recent visit, how much beloved Gen. Rance had

I should like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the memory of General Aung San. Here was a young Burmese patriot, whose burning desire, I am sincerely convinced, was at all times

that his country should be free, and this was the reason why he placed himself and his Burmese Patriot Forces under my Command to fight alongside the British and Indian Forces against the Japanese during the final months of the war.

The assistance which he and his Forces gave to our advancing army was most welcome and after the successful liberation of the country he showed statesmanship of a high order. The many meetings I had with him. both in Rangoon and at my Headquarters in Kandy, convinced me that here was a man who would prove a great leader of the people and I hoped that he would be spared to guide the destiny of Burma for many years to come. His dastardly murder was indeed a shocking loss.

#### King Theebaw's Throne

With my close connections with the country, whose name, I have the honour to bear in my title, I was most anxious that this great day should be marked in some special way. I felt that a symbolic gift should be given by India to Burma.

The Mandalay Hlutdaw throne, last used by King Theebaw of Burma when he visited the Hlutdaw, that is the Burmese High Court in Mandalay, is now in the Indian Museum at Calcutta. The throne is a towering structure of teakwood, richly gilt and is a replica of the famous Lion Throne of King Theebaw which used to stand in the great Hall of Audience in the Palace of Mandalay now, alas, burnt to the ground.

When I visited London recently, I consulted the King who was very glad



"As in the past, so in the future, the people of India will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Burma, and whether we have to share good fortune or ill fortune, we shall share it together." This was the cordial assurance given to Independent Burma by Pandit Jawaharlel Nehru, Prime Minister, in his speech in the Durbar Hall, Government House, New Delhi, on January 4, during the ceremony in connection with Burma's Independence Day

to agree to the proposal of the Government of India that this throne should be presented to the people of Burma on the occasion of their independence. The throne itself is too large and imposing a structure to be brought here first; it will have to be dismantled and packed carefully and sent direct to Rangoon.

I am glad to say that I hope it may be possible for me to accept the invitation of the Prime Minister of Burma to visit the country in March in which event I shall look forward to presenting the Throne personally at that time.

But fortunately in Government House, Calcutta, there was at the west end of the throne room asmall Takhtaposh, which also belonged to King Theebaw and was taken from the Palace at Mandalay in the 3rd Burmese War of 1885. This is the Takhtaposh which you now see before you and which I am presenting to the people of Burma through the Burmese Ambassador on behalf of His Majesty and of the Government and People of India, in addition to and in advance of the throne now in Calcutta.

In presenting this throne and Takhtaposh may I say that they come with the
warmest wishes and goodwill of all of us
in India, and with them go our fervent
hope and firm belief that Burma will
enjoy the fruits of peace and freedom
in the years to come.

# GREAT DAY FOR ASIA, SAYS PANDIT NEHRU

"This is a great and solemn day, not only for Burma but for India and for the whole of Asia", said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, welcoming Independent Burma.

Following is the text of his speech:

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On this auspicious day I should like to add, on behalf of the Government and people of India, their greetings to the Republic of the Union of Burma. This is a great and solemn day, not only for Burma, but for India and for the whole of Asia.

We, in India, are particularly affected by it because we have been bound in many ways to Burma for immemorial ages. Long ago in our ancient past our books referred to Burma as Swaran Desha—The Land of Gold. Long ago also—but in a somewhat later age—we sent a message to Burma, the message of the greatest of the sons of India—Gautam Budha—and that message has tied us together during these 2,000 years and more. Apart from many other things, that message was of peace and righteousness and perhaps today that message of peace and righteousness is more needed than anything else.

# Common Partners

We have had these bonds. They have been in the past, political ties and bonds, but the real bond that has existed between India and Burma has been a silken bond of the spirit often of mutual interest, often of common ideals; something that even political changes cannot break. And so today we welcome the advent of the Republic of Burma.

In the past we have travelled together through the valley of the shadow. We have been partakers of joy and sorrow slike and now on the eve of freedom we have had to face many other travails

for freedom and any birth apparently, must be preceded by travail.

Still, out of travail comes the birth, comes freedom and comes good, and I hope that travail of Burma has passed and I hope that the future is going to be one of construction and creation for the common good of the people of Burma. As in the past, so in the future, the people of India will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Burma, and whether we have to share good fortune or ill fortune, we shall share it together.

# AT THE BURMESE EMBASSY

Speaking at the Burmese Embassy on the occasion of Flag-hoisting ceremony on Burma Independence Day, H.E. Lord Mountbatten, Covernor-General of India, said:

I am very glad to have the opporturity of being present here at the new Burmese Embassy on such a very historic occasion and I feel very privileged to have been invited by the Ambassador-designate to say a few words.

The Ambassador-designate, who is shortly to present his credentials, has explained to us all the meaning of the new flag of Burma which proudly floats above my head. And as the ex-Commander of the South-East. Asia Command I probably know as well as anyone here—probably better than most—the full significance of that flag.

During my time as the Military Commander in Burma I made many friends, and for their sake I rejoice to see today the achievement of all they have struggled

# BRANCH OF SACRED "BO" TREE FLOWN TO BURMA

A sapling from the holy" Bo" tree at Budh Gaya was flown to Rangoon on the occasion of the celebration of Burma's independence, on Jan. 4.

As a mark of goodwill and of the ancient cultural ties betweeen the two countries. the Government of India sent Bhikku Jagdish Kasyap of Saranath to Rangoon with the sapling for presentation to the Government of Burma. Bhikku Kasyap left Calcutta for Rangoon by air on Jan. 3, along with Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who represented the Government of 'ndia at the celebration at Rangoon on Jan. 4.

for. I should like to join in the tribute which the Ambassador-designate has paid to the late Gen. U. Aung San and his comrades and I should like, on behalf of the Government and people of India, to extend to the Government and people of Burma their warmest good wishes for the future and their certainty that Burma will prosper.

I am not going to make a speech here since in a few moments I shall be making a speech at Government House, but I cannot close without adding my own warm personal feelings, and personal good wishes to all my friends in Burma.

# SPECIAL CEREMONY IN RANGOON

India's felicitations to free Burms were officially tendered to the Burma Union President at special ceremony at Government House in Rangoon on Jan. 4, when all diplomatic representatives and heads of Missions were introduced to the President.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad congratulated the President and conveyed to him a personal message from the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru and his Government.

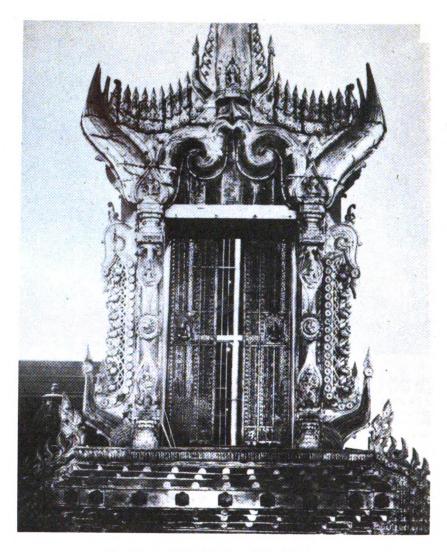
The Burmese Prime Minister, Thakin Nu called on Dr. Rajendra Prasad at his residence on Jan. 5 and was with him for half an hour. A number of receptions had been arranged in honour of Dr. Prasad.

# Dr. Prasad's Farewell Message

Brondcasting from Rangoon Radio, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who represented India at the Burma Independence celebrations, in a farewell message said that the relationship between India and Burma will be a relationship of friendship and co-operation and the two countries will march together in service, not only of them selves but of the world at large.

"Relationship between India and Burma", said Dr. Rajendra Prasad, "is centuries-old. It was started not by way of political or economic relationship. It was a relationship of spirit, and it is to renew the same kind of relationship that I brought with me saplings from Bodhi tree and water from sacred Ganga".

He referred to prolonged struggles



The throne of Theebaw, last King of Burma

after which India and Burma attained their independence and said: India we appreciate the great sacrifices which have been made because we have ourselves gone through something of the same sort". Freedom, which had come, . Freedom, which had come, had brought its own responsibilities, responsibilities of reconstruction work.
"My own feeling is that this work is more difficult than work which we have had to do when we were carrying on the struggle. We have to bring to our service all our resources of imagination, of intelligence and of whole-hearted devotion to duty and work which we can master, and it is in the hope that our country and Burma will be able to do all that that we are sustained in spite of the obstacles and the difficulties that

Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that he was carrying back with him most pleasant memories of his short visit. He had received goodwill, even affection all round. "Burmans have been kind and hospitable, that is their nature, but I have experienced more than that".

Addressing Indians in Burma Dr. Rajendra Prasad said: "They are here in Burma on business, but there are others who are settled here and who have

got no other place to go to". "Many of them", he said, have been cut off from India altogether. But whether one is here on business or one is here permanently without having any other root else where, all Indians must realise their responsibilities and their obligations to Burma.

They must cease to think in terms of themselves alone or of their own country alone. They must try to get assimilated with Burma and to place the interests of Burma in the forefront, even in preference to the interest of India. It is only in this spirit that the kind of cooperation and goodwill that we need can be created, and I hope and trust that whatever differences Indians may have amongst themselves in India, here in Burma, they will all unite in offering this goodwill to Burma.

Moreover, they must also unite for their own benefit and for their own purposes, and I hope that when it falls to my lot to pay a visit again I shall see the people of Burma and the people of India living in Burma, mingling with one another and living as brothers and sisters, having one common purpose, and that purpose is the service and prosperity of Burma."

N INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 1, 1948



Sordar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Shapmukhem Chetty, Finance Minister, addressed a Press Conference on Financial Settlement with Pakistan, in New Delhi on Jan. 12:

# PAYMENT OF CASH BALANCES TO PAKISTAN

# Deputy Prime Minister's Statement

HE following statement was made by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prine Minister of India at a Press Conference in New Belhi on Jan. 12: Friends, I am aire all of you have read the Press statement of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad, the Finance Minister of Pakistan, on the payment of cash balances to the Pakistan Government. The Finance Minister of Pakistan has had a Finance Minister of Pakistan has had a varied career of responsibility as a civil servant, Finance Minister of Hyderabad State, and a participant in "big business." One would not normally expect in his statement the defects of suppressio veri and suggestio falsi. But I regret to observe that not only does his statement abound in these, but in his utter desperation at seeing his financial anticipations wrecked by the actions of his own Government in regard to Kashmir, he has cast discretion and judgment to the winds and descended down to the familiar arts of a bully and a blackmailer.

### Little Regard for Facts

I use these epithets deliberately for to any one reading his statement dispassionately it would be obvious that he has tried to browbeat the Reserve Bank of India into submission by a liberal use of threats and insinuations, has charged the Government of India with had faith in the hope that the charge would gain for him his coveted ransom, and has tried to invoke the assistance of international opinion in the expectation that the threatened exposure before the world would make the Government of India bend in its attitude on this subject. I quite concede that the desperate situation in which he finds himself calls for rather trastic remedies but we are entitled to expect of him a balanced approach to this problem rather than those filibustering tactics,

the failure of which is as certain as daylight. Further, in his overzeal to achieve his object by all manner or means, the Pakistan Finance Minister has, as I would presently show, paid little attention to truth and shown little regard for

Let us first deal with his statement that "none of us had the slightest indication that the Kashmir problem would be dragged in", his accusation of bad faith and similar other statements of an accusatory nature. To deal with those I would give in brief a resume of the course of negotiations. The series of meetings held between the representatives of the Pakistan and Indian Governments in the last week of November were intended to iron out all our differences including the question of Kashmir. The discussions held were not confined to mere partition issues, but covered Kashmir, refugees and other important evacuation matters as well. On the 26th talks on Kashmir were held in an atmosphere of hope, goodwill and cordiality, and were continued simultaneously with the discussions on financial and other questions on subsequent days. On the 27th November, informal and provisional agreement was reached on the two issues of division of cash balances and the sharing of the uncovered debt. The Pakistan representatives were in some haste and tried to hustle us into agreeing to announce those agreements. We resisted it. Indeed, on the 27th evening, I issued a statement to the Press asking them not to speculate on the nature of the talks, but to wait until an authoritative statement was issued after talks had concluded. Here is what I said then :-

"All-out efforts are being made for a settlement on all outstanding matters, but any speculations on the nature of the talks would do more narm than good. All that I can say at present is that discussions are being held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister of Prkistan Government are staying on till Saturday.

A detailed statement will be issued when the talks are concluded. Till then reports about any settlement on any individual item or issue between the two Governments must be regarded as premature and lacking authority."

### Settlement Not Final

The next morning I made it clear in my statement which was read at the meeting at Government House at which both the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister of Pakistan were present, that we would not regard the settlement of these issues as final until agreement had been reached on all the outstanding issues. I made it quite clear then that we would not agree to any payment until the Kashmir affair was settled. Accordingly, no announcement of the agreement was made. In the meantime, Pakistan representatives postponed their departure and talks on Kashmir and other matters were continued with rather varying results on different issues. Working in this somewhat improved atmosphere, we reached a settlement on all other outstanding issues relating on an other outstanding issues relating to partition, and the informal agree-ment was reported to the Partition Council at its meeting on the 1st December, though they were to be reduced to writing later. This was completed on the 2nd December, but it was agreed even then not to make an announcement on the subject until after the Lahore discussions on Kashmir and other outstanding issues had been, as was then hoped, successfully concluded.

This position was further confirmed by the submission made on the 3rd December by both the parties before he Arbitral Tribunal that the prospects of all the references being settled were very good, that a further meeting was to be held on the 8th and 9th at Lahore and the situation would then be clearer. The discussions were resumed at Lahore on the 8th and 9th December. But in the

meantime, it was found that feverish attempts were being made by the Pakistan Government to secure the payment of Rs. 55 crores which it had been agreed to allocate to Pakistan out of the cash balances. We resisted these attempts. Nevertheless, evidently in an attempt to isolate the issue and force our hands and contrary to the understanding reached, the Pakistan High Commissioner on the 7th December gave a Press interview announcing the agreement reached on the financial issues. We, however, stuck to our previous position and reiterated it during the Lahore discussions, though, in deference to Pakistan's insistence on the announcement of the agreement on financial issues, we agreed to make a short statement on the 9th December in the Legislature which was then sitting in Delhi. The Pakistan Finance Minister showed also such indecent haste in rushing to the Press in this matter that he actually gave an interview on the subject on the 7th December itself. Pakistan's game was by then quite clear.

Armed with this understanding on the question of public announcement by us of the agreement on financial issues, their attitude on Kashmir stiffened and the prospect of agreement which seemed so near at Delhi receded. I then felt it necessary in my statement to the Assembly on the 9th December to make it quite clear that the implementation of this agreement was to be as far as possible simultaneous with the settlement of the Kashmir issue. The Pakistan Government did not take any exception to this statement at the time. In the subsequent detailed statement which I made on the 12th in the presence of the Pakistan High Commissioner, I again repeated that the successful implementation of this agreement depended on the continuation of goodwill, spirit of ac-commodation and conciliation on other many vital issues. Quite obviously, Kashmir was one such issue. Pakistan still made no protest. To all approaches for payment of the 55 crores, we returned a negative answer. Then came the final talks on Kashmir issues on the 22nd December. It was then for the first time during these discussions that the Pakistan Prime Minister took exception to our stand that the financial and Kashmir issues stood together as regards implementation and asked for immediate implementation of the payment of Rs. 55 crores. We made it clear to him then and subsequently in our telegram dated the 30th December that we stood by the agreement but that in view of the hostile attitude of the Pakistan Government in regard to Kashmir the payment of the amount would have to be postponed in accordance with our stand throughout the negotiations.

Thus, it is our case that far from our having done anything unfair to Pakistan or in breach of any agreement, it is the Pakistan representatives who were all the time trying to soft-pedal the Kashmir issue in order to secure concessions from us on the financial issues and to manoeuvre us into making an isolated public announcement on the subject without reference to other vital issues between the Governments. We consistently and successfully resisted this despite attempts of the Pakistan High Commissioner and Finance Minister to force our hands, Far

# REFERENDÚM TO BE HELD IN JUNAGADH

In pursuance of the decision that the question of accession of Junagadh, Babariawad, Mangrol, Manavadar, Bantwa and Sardargarh should be decided by the free expression of the wishes of their people, the Government of India will be holding a referendum in these areas in the third week of February, 1948, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of States, on Jan. 15.

Mr. Nagarkar, I. C. S., Judicial Commissioner, Western India and Gujarat States Region, has been appointed to supervise the holding of the referendum.

from there being bad faith on our part, we genuinely and sincerely meant this settlement as part of an overall settlement which would have been conducive to the maintenance of friendly and peaceful relations between the two sister dominions.

It is also our claim that in agreeing to these terms of the financial settlement we were actuated by generous sentiments towards Pakistan and a sincere desire, as I made clear in the Partition Council, "to see Pakistan grow into a pros-perous neighbour". We hoped that Pakistan would reciprocate on other issues which unfortunately still divided us. That the financial settlement was attractive to Pakistan and would be a great asset to Pakistan's economy is clear from the statements issued by the Pakistan High Commissioner and Sir Archibald Rowlands. It is, therefore, quite plain that having secure terms which were essential to hold Pakistan's finances together, the Pakistan Government failed in their obligation to respond to India's gesture on other issues.

#### Pakistan's Debt to India

I would also point out that the Government of India took a more comprehensive view of our obligation to the securing of a just and peaceful settlement than the Pakistan Government. We realised throughout that neighbourly relations between ourselves and Pakistan could be restored and maintained only if the spirit of amity, tolerance and goodwill pervaded throughout the entire field of controversy; the Pakistan Govern-ment obviously intended to take undue advantage of our generous attitude and exhibit these virtues in a narrow, restricted and selfish sphere. The need for a comprehensive view was and still is quite clear. Apart from other factors, India has taken over the entire debt of undivided India and depends on Pakistan's bona fides and goodwill to make equated payment by easy and long-term instalments of its debt to India after a four-year's moratorium period. We cannot, therefore, afford to let conflicts endanger our credit and security and throw into the melting pot some of the vital points in the financial agreement itself. Obviously, therefore, India must provide against strained relations worsening into open breach and, thereby, as I was careful to point out in my statement of

the 12th December, "placing all the good work achieved in jeopardy".

We were, therefore, fully justified in providing against Pakistan's possible continuance of aggressive actions in regard to Kashmir by postponing the implementation of the agreement. We have made it clear to the Pakistan Government more than once that we stand by the agreement which we reached. The agreement does not bind the Government of India to any fixed date for payment and we cannot reasonably be asked to make a payment of cash balances to Pakistan when an armed conflict with its forces is in progress and threatens to assume even a more dangerous character, which would be likely to destroy the whole basis of the financial agreement and would endanger other parts of the agreement, such as arrangements for taking over of debt, division of stores etc.

#### Pakistan's Claim for Rs. 55 Crores

The Pakistan Finance Minister claimd the amount of Rs. 55 crores as belonging to Pakistan. He has apparently overlooked the fact that on the 14th of August 1947 after the Partition Council had decided to allocate the working balance of Rs. 20 crores to the Pakistan Government, the then undivided Government of India issued an order in the following terms to the Reserve Bank:—

"Please transfer twenty half of forty crores from Central closing cash balence on the 14th instant to Pakistan and balence to Indian Dominion as opening balance on the 15th"

A copy of this telegram was endorsed to the Pakistan wing of the then Finance Department, and no objection was, or has been since raised to this accounting. It follows from this that so far as the Bank accounts are concerned, there is no balance of the old undivided Government to be operated upon; the money stands in the name of the Indian Dominion and it is only on the authority of the Indian Dominion that any share can be allocated to the Government of Pakistan. The relevant portion of the Partition Council minutes also runs thus:—

"In addition to the 20 crores already made over to Pakistan 55 crores will be allocated to Pakistan in full and final settlement of its claim for a share of the undivided Government's cash balance and of the cash balance investment account". It is clear, therefore, that nothing belongs to Pakistan until the Government of India transfer the amount to its account.

This clear-cut position makes the Pakistan Finance Minister's outburst against the Reserve Bank appear somewhat hysterical and hectoring. Obviously the Reserve Bank cannot do anything without the specific instructions of the Government of India who are the only competent authority to operate the account. He has accused the Government of India of interfering in the discharge of its duties towards the Pakistan Government and has characterised this alleged interference not only as an unfriendly act, but as an act of aggression. I wish to say in the most

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amphatic terms that this accusation is completely baseless and devoid of any element of truth whatsoever. I understand that the Reserve Bank of India first received the demand for the payment of Rs. 55 crores on the 6th of this month in a memorandum handed over to the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank at Karachi. I also understand that the Governor to whom this memorandum was telegraphed by the Deputy Governor has sent an appropriate reply.

So far as the Government of India are concerned, I could say that when the Reserve Bank mentioned an approach by the Pakistan Government for temporary accommodation from the Bank, the Government of India made it clear to the Bank that it was matter for the Bank alone to decide. Indeed, the Government of India have made every effort to avoid dragging the Reserve Bank into the controversy. The blame for attempting to force the Reserve Bank into taking sides must rest with the Pakistan Finance Minister. Neither the manner nor the nature of the attempt reflects creditably on the honesty of purpose and motives of the Pakistan Government.

### Allegations "Unfounded"

Gentlemen, I think I have said enough to prove how unfounded and insubstantial are the allegations made by the Pakistan Finance Minister against the Government of India. We have also shown how we have held consistently to the position that the settlement of financial issues cannot be isolated from that of other vital issues and has to be implemented simultaneously. There can be no question of our repudiating the agreement reached. We only desire that appropriate atmosphere conditioned by the agreement must be created for its implementation. If the Pakistan Government press for payment of cash balance in advance, it is ovbious that they are motivated by factors wholly opposed to the spirit underlying the agreement. We are thus fully justified in resisting those machinations which, if successful, would vitiate the very basis of the agreement and adversely affect, by facilitating Pakistan's aggressive designs on India, the implementation of other vital parts of the agreement.

# FINANCE MINISTER'S ACCOUNT OF NEGOTIATIONS

The Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Finance Minister, also made a statement at the conference which is as full jws:

With regard to the recent arrangements between India and Pakistan about the outstanding financia! problems between the two Governments, the Finance Minister of Pakistan at a Press Conference held by him at Karachi has made some astounding statements and has accused the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of breach of faith and improper conduct. It is very surprising that a responsible Minister of Pakistan should have thought fit to give expression to such wild statement and sentiments. My purpose today will be to give a plain and unvarnished account of these negotiations leaving it to the world to

judge whether the Government of India has not acted in the most honourable, generous and friendly spirit and to what extent Pakistan has responded to this.

I shall first attempt to give categorical answers to some of the untenable statements made by the Pakistan Finance Minister. Mr. Ghulam Mohammed has stated that "while the Government of India were operating on their share of the cash balances they had asked the Reserve Bank of India not to credit the Pakistan Government with Rs. 55 crores of the cash balances that belonged to the Pakistan Government". He then goes on to say "that these cash balances vest in His Majesty for the purpose of the two Dominions". Having made these two astounding statements he goes on to accuse the Reserve Bank of partiality in having failed in its duty to transfer Rs. 55 crores from cash balance of the Government of India to the credit of the Pakistan Government.

#### No Instructions to Reserve Bank

With regard to the first charge, I can say in the most categorical terms that the Government of India have not given any instructions to the Reserve Bank of India regarding the transfer of any amount from our cash balances to the credit of the Government of Pakistan. The statement of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad has therefore, no relation to fact or truth. There was no occasion for the Reserve Bank to make any reference to the Government of India about the question of cash balance and consequently no occasion for the Government of India to give any instructions in this matter. I understand that the Reserve Bank received the first demand in this matter from the Pakistan Government only on the 6th of this month in a menorandum handed over to the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank at Karachi. I also understand that the Governor to whom this memorandum was telegraphed by the Deputy Governor has sent an appropriate reply. So far as the Government of India are concerned, the only reference that came from the Reserve Bank regarding any transaction between the Bank and the Government of Pakistan was in relation to a request from the Pakistan Government for temporary accommodation from the Bank. The Government of India made it clear to the bank that it was a matter for the Bank alone to decide. I understand that the Reserve Bank has already given Rs. 5 crores as ways and means advance to the Pakistan Government and that the Bank was also going to give a further advance of Rs. 5 crores on this account. From this plain statement of fact, the world can judge the propriety of a responsible Minister of a Government making an unfounded charge against another Government.

With regard to Mr. Ghulam Mohammd's statement that the cash balances vest in His Majesty for the purpose of the two Dominions, I can only express my surprise that an experienced Minister should make such an irresponsible statement without ascertaining the facts. The position regarding cash balances is as follows: Before the partition the cash

# SERAIKELLA AND KHARSAWAN TRIBUNAL TO BE APPOINTED

The Government of India have decided to appoint an impartial Tribunal to report on the question whether the States of Seraikella and Kharsawan, which have been temporarily attached to the Orissa Province, should remain with that Province or should be integrated with Bihar, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of States on Jan. 10.

It is expected that the Tribunal will consist of a senior Judge of a High Court. His name will be announced shortly.

balance of the then Government of India with the Reserve Bank was Rs. 375 crores. On the 14th August 1947, after the Partition Council had decided that a working balance of Rs. 20 crores should be allocated to the Pakistan Government, the then undivided Government of India issued an order to the Reserve Bank allocating the balance between the two Dominions, as men-tioned by the Deputy Prime Minister. We also made it clear that the allocation was provisional and subject to readjustment when the balance to be transferred to Pakistan had been finally decided. A copy of this order was endorsed to the Pakistan wing of the then Finance Department and so far no objection has been raised to this allocation on the date of partition. It follows from this arrangement that there is no balance of the old undivided Government with the Bank. The practical issue is, who is competent to operate upon the Cash Balance. It is plain that after transferring 20 crores to Pakistan as Pakistan's opening Cash Balance on 15th August 1947, the remainder of the cash balance of the undivided Government of India was credited as the opening cash balance of the Dominion of India, and the only party competent to operate upon that cash balance is the Dominion of India and it is not open to the Reserve Bank of India to deal with that balance otherwise than in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India.

The Finance Minister of Pakistan seems to be under the impression that the Reserve Bank has failed in its duty i not transferring Rs. 55 crores out or our cash balance to the credit of the Government of Pakistan on the basis of a settlement supposed to have been arrived at between the two Governments on this matter. Assuming that the settlement between the two Governments is a final and unconditional settlement how is the Reserve Bank to take legal notice of such a settlement? If two clients of a Bank come to an agreement amongst themselves regarding their financial transactions, is the Bank under such circumstances to take notice of the agreement of its own accord and make adjustments in the accounts of its clients without any positive instruction from the client affected by such transfers? Even a novice in financial matters will not expect a Bank to act in such an irregular and illegal manner. The Government of India has certain cash balances with the Reserve Bank and it

is the Government of India alone and no other authority that can issue instructions to the Reserve Bank about the operation of these balances.

The whole matter to my mind is so ridiculously simple that any further explanation or elaboration is unnecessary. The Reserve Bank would be acting in an illegal manner if it transferred any part of our cash balances to anybody's credit without a definite instruction from us.

Let me now take this opportunity of explaining the exact legal and constitutional position of the Keserve Bank of The Reserve Bank is an inde-India. pendent Corporation created by an Act of the Indian legislature and is bound only by the Act constituting it. Its relations to the present Government of India are governed by the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act. The only modification that has been made in this matter is contained in section 15 (i) of the Pakistan (Monetary system and Reserve Bank) Order 1947. The wording of this section is as follows: "The Reserve Bank Act shall cease to be part of the law of Pakistan and the status of the Bank in Pakistan shall be that of a corporation existing only by virtue of the law of India and capable of suing and being sued as such in Pakistan; and accordingly effect shall be given to the said Act by courts in Pakistan only in so far as under the rules and principles of law determining the cases in which law other than Pakistan law is to be applied in Pakistan, the proper law to be applied is the law of India While the Reserve Bank is no doubt acting in its banking side as the common bankers for the two Dominions, the legal and constitutional relation of the Bank with the Pakistan Government is not by any means the same as the Bank's relation with the Government of India. It is, of course, no part of the policy of the Indian Government to interfere in any way with the relations of the Bank with Pakistan so long as the Bank acts in accordance with the provisions of the law governing the activities of the Bank. I can say categorically that in fact there has been no interterence.

#### **Tentative Conclusions**

I hope the statement both of law and fact that I have made will make it clear that the Finance Minister of Pakistan is not sure of the legal position and very wrong in his statement of facts. I shull now say a few words in connection with his charge that the Government of India have been guilty of a breach of taith in not implementing the terms of the tinancial settlement recently arrived at. My Hon'ble colleague the Deputy Prime Minister who was directly concerned with these negotiations as the representative of India on the Partition Council has already given you a detailed account of the negotiations. So far as I am concerned there was a meeting of the representatives of the two Dominions on the 27th November, 1947, in which I took part. These discussions related to the allocation of the cash balances, the sharing of the uncovered debt, and other financial arrangements outstanding

between the two Dominions. I found that there was a genuine desire on both sides to settle these matters without the necessity of protracted proceedings before the Arbitral Tribunal. Within a few hours, we reached certain tentative conclusions regarding the allocation of the cash balances and the sharing of the uncovered debt. On the following day, namely, the 28th November 1947 there was a meeting at Government House at which H. E. the Governor-General and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were present. At this meeting a note by Sardar Patel was read out on these negotiations. In this statement it was stated specifically that "the object of our present discussions is to iron out all our differences. We should not therefore regard the settlement on these two issues as final until a settlement is reached on all the outstanding partition and other matters. No announcement should therefore be made until such an overall settlement is reached. I referred to matters other than partition matters. I did so advisedly".

The meeting naturally took note of Sardar Patel's caveat and it was with the full knowledge of this statement that the negotiations were resumed. By the 1st of December agreement on all the major financial issues was reached and the agreed conclusions were reported at a meeting of the Partition Council which was held on that day. The Partition Council decided that an agreed record should be prepared by Mr. H. M. Patel and Mr. Mohammad Ali, and treated as part of the proceedings of the Council. The agreed note of conclusion was finalised on the 2nd December. In the meantime discussions on Kashmir and evacuee property continued at the Ministerial level.

#### Statement before Arbitral Tribunal

On the 3rd December, 1947, the Arbitral Tribunal met and the representatives of Pakistan and India made a statement that the prospects of all the references being settled were very good and that a further meeting of the Partition Council was to be held on the 8th and 9th December 1947 at Lahore and that thereafter the situation would be clearer. I would invite you to make a special note of the language used by the representatives of the two Governments before the Arbitral Tribunal. They said that "the prospects of all the references being settled were very good". If the details regarding the financial matters were really settled in a final form on the 2nd December, why should the representatives of the two Governments not have stated that the matters have been settled finally? Far from saying that, they have stated that the prospects of settlement were very good. It is obvious from this statement that it was understood by both the Governments that the decisions reached the previous day were only tentative and that something more remained to be done to give them finality. What really held up a final announcement of this settlement was the Kashmir issue on which agreement had not yet been reached. The Kashmir issue was set down for discussion at the Lahore meeting.

The discussions on Kashmir were resumed at Lahore and it looked as if

an agreement might still be reached, a view which I notice was then shared by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan also. On the 9th December Sardar Patel briefly mentioned the result of these negotiations on the floor of the Indian Parliament. He made it clear that these agreements did not stand alone. He said: "I know there is considerable anxiety in the House and outside about the main question that gives us trouble, that is the question of Kashmir. That question is not before the Partition Committee and it is no part of this reference, but the manner and the method and the time by which these will be executed will be decided later. I can only announce this today that we are all anxious that if it is possible all issues should be settled, including that of Kashmir, so far as possible simultaneously. Every effort will be made to that end. If it is not successful, we shall act in a manner which is to the best interest of the Dominion of India".

#### Vital Issues

On the 12th December Sardar Patel mane a fulier statement on the financial settlement on the floor of the House. He again emphasised: "The successful implementation of these conclusions obviously depends on the continuation of the spirit of accommodation and conclusion on both sides. Discord and estrangement on any vital issue—we have many vital issues yet to settle—is bound to place the good work which we have achieved in jeopardy". It should be noted that the l'akistan High Commissioner was present in the gailery of the House when this statement was made by Sardar Patel.

On the 13th December there was another meeting of the Arbitral Tribunal and the representatives of both the Dominions mentioned before the Iribunal that all references from the Centre to the Tribunal had been settled and that notices of withdrawal would be handed in due course. It should again be noted that the Pakistan High Commissioner was present when this statement was made before the Arbitral Tribunal. If really the Pakistan Government objected to the linking up of the financial issues with that of Kashmir, why did they make this statement before the Arbitral Tribunal on the 13th December when they knew that Sarda: Patel in both his statement on the subject had made it clear on the floor of the Parliament that the implementation of the financial settlement will depend on the amicable settlement of other issues including that of Kashmir. The only inference that can be made in the light of this sequence of events is that the Pakistan Government knew from the very outset of the negotiations that the Indian Government would implement any financial agreement only if there was a satisfactory settlement on the Kashmir and other issues. It was with the full knowledge of this unambiguous attitude of the Indian Government that the representatives of the Pakistan Government made a statement before the Arbitral Tribunal on the 13th December, 1947. In the light of what I have stated, the world can judge what value should be given to the statement of the Finance



Minister of Pakistan that "none of us had the slightest indication that the Kashmir problem would be dragged in. If this agreement depended on Kashmir we would not have signed it."

It is not necessary for me to dwell upon the subsequent correspondence that has passed between the two Prime Ministers on this matter. The Finance Minister of Pakistan has accused us of bad faith and has stated that the Government of India want to achieve their end of economically strangling Pakistan. If we had the slightest intention of economically strangling Pakistan we would not have been so generous in the matter of the financial generous in the matter of the financial settlement. Our generosity in this respect has been appreciated by a journal of the standing of the ECONOMIST of London. In its issue of 3rd January, 1948, the ECONOMIST has observed that "India showed a very generous lead in the result financial" lead in the recent financial negotiations and it was no doubt expected that Pakistan would reciprocate over jute. But that reciprocity is evidently not forthcoming". The Pakistan High Commissioner himself in an interview to to the STATESMAN dated the 7th December, 1947 has expressed satisfaction at the financial settlement reached between the inancial settlement reached between the two Dominions. Asked what Pakistan's main gains were, he said "Cash balances and time. Pakistan's share of the cash balance was reasonable, he explained. "It would help us to settle down. It was bound to have a psychological effect which would reastore confidence. Pakistan had also restore confidence. Pakistan had also gained time as the liabilities were to be paid in annual instalments over a period of 50 years". That was the immediate reaction of the Pakistan High Commissioner to the terms that we had so generously agreed to. Commenting on the settlement Sir Archibald Rowlands, the Financial Adviser to the Pakistan Government, said: "With the cash balances agreed on in Delhi alone the country could manage for an indefinite time".

It would appear in the light of subsequent events that our generosity has been il! placed. The accusation of political blackmail which Mr. Ghulam Mohammad has levelled against us is perhaps only a cheap way of gaining sympathy for Pakistan. Notwithstanding all these provocations our position is absolutely clear. There is no question on our part of repudiation of the agreements which have been reached between the two Dominions. As we have already made it clear from the very outset, these agreements are a part of a wider settlement and we shall implement the agreement as soon as a settlement is made on the other issues. Meanwhile we will not be deterred from what we consider to be the right path by any campaign of hectoring, bullying and scandalising on the part of responsible Ministers of a neighbouring country.

Released A. I. R. O. s and I. E. C. Os are eligible for the grant of a new type of Short Service Commission in the Indian Army for one year, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 27. Full particulars and application forms may be obtained from Army Headquarters, India, Adjutant General's Branch, (A. G. ORG. 2(a), New Delhi.

# INDIA'S SPONTANEOUS GESTURE OF GOODWILL

# Indo-Pakistan Financial Agreement to be Implemented Forthwith

THE Government of India have fully clarified their position in regard to the financial settlement arrived at between them and the Government of Pakistan, says a Press Communique issued by the Prime Minister's Secretariat on Jan. 15. They have declared that they abide by that settlement, but that the implementation of it, in ragard to the cash balances, must be considered as a part of an overall settlement of outstanding questions in issue between India and Pakistan.

They regret that the Finance Minister of the Pakistan Government should have advanced arguments which are unsupported by facts and which they cannot accept. The factual position has been clearly stated in the statements issued by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister of the Government of India. The facts and arguments contained in these statements represent the deliberate and unanimous opinion of the Cabinet. They regret that the Finance Minister of the Pakistan Government should have again challenged these incontrovertible facts, which justify fully the position taken up by the Government of India both on legal and other grounds.

#### Mahatma Gandhi's Fast

The Government have, however, shared the worldwide anxiety over the fast undertaken by Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation. In common with him they have anxiously searched for ways and means to remove ill-will, prejudice and suspicion, which have poisoned the relations of India and Pakistan.

Impelled by the earnest desire to help in every way open to them in the object which Gandhiji has at heart, the Government have sought for some tangible and striking contribution to the movement for ending the physical suffering of the Nation's soul and to turn the nation's mind from the present distemper, bitterness and suspicion to constructive and creative effort. The Government are anxious to remove as far as possible, without detriment to the national good, every case, which leads to friction between India and Pakistan.

In view of the appeal made by Gandhiji to the nation, the Government have decided to remove the one cause of suspicion and friction between the two States which, consistently with national honour and interest, it is in their power to remove.

They make this spontaneous gesture in the earnest hope that it will be appreciated in the spirit in which it is made and that it will help in producing an atmosphere of goodwill for which Gandhiji is suffering crucifixion of the flesh and thereby lead this great servant of the nation to end his fast and add still further to his unparalleled services to India.

The Government have decided to implement immediately the financial agreement with Pakistan in regard to the cash balances. The amount due to Pakistan on the basis of this agreement, i.e., Rupees fifty-five crores, minus the expenditure incurred by the Government of India since the 15th August on Pakistan account, will therefore, be paid to the Government of Pakistan.

This decision is the Government's contribution, to the best of their ability, to the non-violent and noble effort made by Gandhiji, in accordance with the glorious traditions of this great country, for peace and goodwill.

# PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, has issued the following statement.

The Government's decision in regard to the payment of the cash balances to Pakistan has been taken after the most careful thought and after consultation with Gandhiji. I should like to make it clear that this does not mean any change in our unanimous view about the strength and validity of the Government's position as set out in various statements made by distinguished colleagues of mine. Nor do we accept the facts or arguments advanced in the latest statement of the Finance Minister of Pakistan.

We have come to this decision in the hope that this generous gesture, in accord with India's high ideals and Gendhiji's not le standards, will convince the world of our earnest desire for peace the goodwill. We eanestly trust also that this will go a long way towards producing a situation which will induce Gandhiji to break his fast. That fast of course had nothing to do with this particular matter, and we have thought of it because of our desire to help in every way in easing the present tension.

Six months ago we witnessed a miracle in Calcutta where ill-will changed overnight into goodwill through the alchemy of a similar fast. The alchemist, who worked this change, was described by

(Continued on Page 149)



Formal talk, on Sterling Balances between the Government of India and the United Kingdom Government opened in a Conference in New Delhi on January 9. Sir Jeremy Raisman, Leader of U. K. Delegation is second from left and Mr. V. Narahari Rao, Leader of the Government of India's Delegation, is second from right



Sir Jeremy Raisman (left) photographed with Mr. V. Narahari Rao, on his arrival at the Willingdon Aerodrome on January 8

# **NEW DELHI TALKS ON STERLING** BALANCES

■ALKS on Sterling Balances, between Delegations representing the Government of India and the the United Kingdom Government opened in New Delhi on Jan. 9.

India was represented by Mr. V. Narahari Rao, Leader of the Delegation, Mr. B. K. Nehru, and Mr. Keith C. Roy. Mr. D. Cayley of the Reserve Bank of India served as adviser to the Delega-

Members of the U. K. Delegation. were: Sir Jeremy Raisman (Leader)

Mr. P. S. Beale of the Bank of England. Mr. A. W. France of H. M. G. Treasury, Mr. L. B. Walsh Atkins of the Commonwealth Relations Office, Mr. P. Harris and Mr. B. C. O. Murphy.

The purpose of the Conference was to negotiate a further interim agreement relating to the amount to be released by H. M. G. from India's accumulated sterling resources for a further period of 6 months from Jan. 1, 1948.

The previous agreement, which was signed in London on Aug. 14, 1947, by Mr.

V. Narhari Rao for India and Sir William Eady for H. M. G., made available to India £35 million for expenditure in any currency area up to Dec. 31, 1947. In addition a further £30 million of multilaterally convertible currency was placed at the disposal of India as a working balance.

The remainder of the sterling assets of the Reserve Bank estimated on Aug. 14, 1947, at f. 1,160 million was placed in a separate account and ccula only be operated on for agreed transactions.

# N ATIONAL SAVINGS FORTNIGHT , Finance Minister's Message

The Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, issued the following message on Jan. 13, in connection with the National Savings Fortnight, which began in Delhi on Jan. 8:

"I am glad the Delhi Province is holding its National Savings Fortnight for fourth successive year. It is, however, the first fortnight which is being held since India became free and independent, and I entertain the hope that this year the response by every one, big and small, to the appeal of the organisers will be many times greater than it has been in the past. I would like to emphasise that saving to lend to Government is not only for the benefit of the individual, but it subserves national interests also.

In my opinion there is no better way of showing our appreciation of our recently-won freedom than by inculcating the habit of thrift on a national scale. Government have under consideration a complete reorganisation of the National Savings Movement to fit in with the new status and responsibilities of the country and its people. An announcement will be made shortly to this effect, but, in the meantime, I have every hope that you will co-operate with the Government and invest at least twice as much as you did last year".



H. E. Dr. Chia-Luen Lo, Chinese Ambassador in India, shaking hands with H. E. Lady Mountbatten, after investing her with the Decoration of the Brilliant Star. The ceremony took place at the Chinese Embassy, New Delhi, on January 7.

Pandit Nehru is seen sitting at right

# CHINESE DECORATION FOR LADY MOUNTBATTEN

CEREMONY was held at the Chinese Embassy at Lytton Road, New Delhi, on Jan 7, when His Excellency Dr Chia-Luen Lo, the Chinese Ambassador, presented on behalf of the Chinese Government, the Decoration of the Brilliant Star to Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Among those present were the Governor-General, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, other Ministers of the Government of India, Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions, Staff Officers of Government House. A reception in honour of Lady Mountbatten followed the ceremony.

In his speech, the Chinese Ambassador paid a tribute to Lady Mountbatten for the services she had rendered to sick and wounded Chinese soldiers in Burma and Yunnan Province.

He said:

No occasion has ever before made me happier than this when on behalf of my Government I am presenting the distinguished Chinese Order of the Brilliant Star to a most distinguished lady with such a brilliant career of her own. Words in praise of Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma seem quite superfluous when her charming personality eloquently speaks for her.

She is so noble and yet so affable, so tender-minded and yet so hard-working, so debonair and yet so vigilant. She carries in her the best traditions of British aristocracy and adapts them to the functions of modern democracy.

On this occasion it behaves me to tell briefly her services in connection with China as part of her contributions to the allied cause during the war years, which could only be successfully rendered with her abundant energy, remarkable courage and unswerving devotion. China is particularly grateful to her, for she was so kindly concerned with and so generously gave help to the sick and wounded among the rank and file of the victorious 1st and oth Chinese Armies then operating under Lord Mountbatten's illustrious command in the North-east Burina theatre, and the Chinese Expeditionary Force operating in the Province of Yunnan, which finally succeeded in clearing that province of the most obstinate invadors. Penetrating into all the topographically hazardous and climatically unhealthy regions, from Burma up to Paoshan and Tali in China, Her Excellency visited in person the medical units of the Chinese, British, Indian, and American Forces. Not only wounded soldiers but also sick refugees were the beneficiaries of her care and attention. All of us can imagine that to those in

distress in the desolated war areas Her Excellency's visit was an angelic appearance and Her Excellency's cheering and inspiring work was grace abounding.

Her Excellency and His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, in 1945, flew over the Hump, amidst the thick war clouds, to Chungking, where they cultivated very genuine friendships with Chinese leaders and people alike. She is respected, admired, and, may I have His Excellency's permission to say, loved by all her friends near and far.

In recognition of her noble humanitarian work in wartime, the Government of the Republic of China has conferred the Order of the Brilliant Star upon the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, and today it is my honour and privilege to present this distinguished Decoration to Her Excellency, who, I am happy to recall, has very recently been created a Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire.

Her Excellency Lady Mountbatten said in reply:

Your Excellencies, Mr. Prime Minister and Friends:—

I am so very grateful, Your Excellency, for your kind and far too generous remarks, and may I say how deeply honoured I do feel at the high distinction which you have just so kindly conferred on me on behalf of the Government of China. It was the greatest privilege for me, Your Excellency, to be associated

with the care of the wounded and sick, the men of the gallant 1st and 6th Chinese Armies operating in Burma and those of the Expeditionary Forces in China who linked up and joined hands on the Burma China front. And it was a privilege to have been able to do what I could to help in their care, to visit I could to see also the refugees and to assist in any way that I could.

I would, Your Excellency, like to pay the highest tribute to the courage, fortitude and patience of the mon and women and the children in China with whom I had the privilege to come in contact: It is a tribute also, I know my husband has always paid, to the gallantry of the Chinese soldier; the soldier who is a Chinese soldier; the soldier who is a magnificent fighter given proper training and proper equipment. So, Your Excellency, may I ask you to convey to His Excellency the President, Generalisaimo Chiang Kai-shek, whom we had the great privilege and honour of meeting and staying with in China. my deep sense of the great honour which has been done to me by the award of this very great distinction. I would like to mention distinction. I would like to mention that when we were in China we were accompanied by the head of my husband's Chinese Staff, General Feng Yee, and my husband was kind enough to let him remain with me on these visits, and I would like to say how immensely grateful I was to him for his unfailing help in every possible way. So thank you, Your Excellency, once again for this great honour and may I say that there is no one at whose hands I would rather have received it than from Your Excellency, because since your arrival in India you have won the admiration, and may I say the affection, of each one of us.

# LADY MOUNTBATTEN IN GWALIOR

Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, accompanied by the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Hamid Shah, Health Minister, Qpl. Dr. Shanker Lal. Gargya, Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Bhagwat Sahai, Principal and Superintendent, visited the Jayarogya Hospital, Gajra Raja Medical College and Nurses' Home at Gwalior on Dec. 30.

Her Excellency visited all the Wards and Departments, including the Maternity and Tuberculosis Wings, and expressed her admiration for the excellent administration, the high standard of accommodation, equipment and work undertaken.

Later Her Excellency visited the Shishu Mandir, the Padma Vidyalaya and the Kamla Raja Girls' College, accompanied by Her Highness, the Maharani Scindia of Gwalior, who is personally and actively associated with these three institutions and has played a leading part in the promotion of girls' education in the State.

Her Excellency watched a short entertainment given by the pupils and students and congratulated them all on excellent performance.

# STATES ARE INTERLOCKED WITH PROVINCES

# Lord Mountbatten's Speech at Bikaner

NEED not dilate here on the importance of the position which the Indian States have always occupied in the life of India. They cannot be treated separately from the rest of India for the States are completely interlocked with the Provinces, with whose inhabitants the people of the States inevitably form an overall entity", said H. E. Lord Mountabtten, Governor-General of India, in his speech at Bikaner on Jan. 15.

Lord Mountbatten said:

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity of speaking on this occasion, not only because I want to thank His Highness at once for the very kind way he has spoken of my wife and myself, but because I have long wanted to pay a tribute to that worthy successor of a great father, the present Ruler of Bikaner.

I am speaking in rather different circumstances from those which I had envisaged in the first instance, and I cannot open this speech without a reference to Mahatma Gandhi and the fast which he is now undertaking in Delhi. I am sure we all appreciate and deeply sympathise with the high motives which have led him to undertake this fast and we much hope that it will be successful in its object at as early a date as possible.

The problem of how to transfer power from British to Indian hands divided itself very obviously into two separate problems. The first was how to transfer power in British India and the second was how to fit the Indian States into the resulting pattern.

I need not dilate here on the importance of the position which the Indian States have always occupied in the life of India. They cannot be treated separately from the rest of India for the States are completely interlocked with the Province, with whose inhabitants the people of the States inevitably form an overall entity.

#### Federation Scheme

This basic fact has clearly been realised by the Rulers themselves, for in the past they were always ready to co-operate with the Government of India in common plans, and policies. It was the object of the Federation Scheme contained in that remarkable Government of India Act of 1935, to replace this somewhat haphazard co-operation by a legal structure of unity in essential matters. I knew that this federal plan of 1935 was popular neither with the States nor the political parties; but personally I cannot help feeling that it was a great misfortune that circumstances did not permit of that plan being put into operation before

the outbreak of war in 1939. Had this been possible, a suitable political structure would have been in existence in India during the difficult years of the war, and it is very possible that the events in the country in recent years might have proceeded on entirely different lines. I have no doubt that this will be the verdict of history.

Only two years elapsed between the defeat of Japan on Aug. 15, 1945, and the transfer of power on Aug. 15, 1947, but in those two years events moved at an ever-increasing pace. Almost the first official interview I had on my arrival last March was with the Maharaja of Bikaner; and the wise co-operative and helpful attitude he then displayed gave me a new confidence that the problem of fitting the States into the future free India was capable of a quick and satisfactory solution.

# Princes' Part

His Highness was the first Ruler who realised the part which the Princes could play in the future by sending representatives to the Constituent Assembly to help frame the new constitution of India. Likewise His Highness was the first Ruler to support my proposals for obtaining the accession of the State to their neighbouring Dominions.

It must be remembered that on the day of transfer of power the tie that previously held the States in British India was removed; for that tie had depended on the paramountcy of the British Crown. On that day I gave up two entirely separate functions, namely that of Viceroy and that of Crown Representative. In the first capacity I dealt with British India; in the second, with the States, and it was the fact that both these offices were always held by one and the same man that had really linked the States with British India. With the disappearance of both these offices, India was in imminent danger of fragmentation. Fortunately both the political leaders of British India and the Rulers of the States in general recognised that their common security and welfare depended upon the stablishment of a strong modern India, to whom the States could accede.

The fact that I was compelled to transfer power to two separate Dominions did not invalidate this principle. Following on negotiations in July, some 550 out of the 565 Indian States acceded to the Dominion of India on the transfer of power. The remaining States (except for Hyderabad with whou, a separate standstill agreement was concluded) acceded to Pakistan.

In negotiations like these, their success turns very largely upon the quality and nature of the example and advice which is given; the statesmanship and patrio-

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tism displayed by the Maharaja of Bikaner in giving a lead in announcing his accession to the Dominion of India, without a moment of doubt or suspicion, cannot therefore be praised too highly.

My Government have been particularly appreciative of His Highness's statesmanlike actions, and I am more than delighted that His Majesty the King, in view of these actions as well as the past record of His Highness was pleased to make him a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. You can imagine what a pleasure it has been to me to have been the one privileged to invest His Highness with the Insignia of this Order.

# Tribute to Maharaja

It was not on the question of accession alone that the true quality of His Highness's statesmanship has been revealed. The attainment of independence by India was followed by dark days when even normally sane and healthy minds lost their poise. From the Punjab, where the trouble started the conflagration threatened to spread all over the country. The immediate task was to localise the danger and to keep from contamination the parts of India which were not yet affected. I know that I am voicing the feelings of my Government when I say how very grateful we are for His Highness's assistance and example in restraining mob violence. When the mass migrations started, colossal convoys of refugees had to pass through Bikaner, and it is a tribute to the strength and efficiency of the State's administration that these convoys passed through in safety with adequate water and food. I am very glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging His Highness's magnificent contribution and assistance in the repatriation of these refugees.

But good administration does not lie alone in the adoption of wise and inspired policies in moments of crisis. It consists also in good and sound day-to-day government in all things which affect the daily life of the people. It has given me great pleasure to hear of the many steps which have been taken in Bikaner to stimulate agriculture and afforestation and to obtain for the State the benefits of modern technical methods. Bikaner, understand, is a participant in the Bhakra dam project and expects to derive considerable advantage from its completion. I have no doubt that the adoption of progressive measures in matters like this is as important as the modernisation of government according to democratic principles, for in the last resort, in the conditions of the modern world, no State can expect to stand alone and survive which has not in itself sufficient resources, material and moral, to assure to its people the essential conditions of modern civilised existence.

His Highness has also taken a keen interest in constitutional reforms in his State and here again he was one of the first to announce his intentions. It is clear that progess in this direction cannot be regulated by any set standard. What should be aimed at is to evolve a scheme suitable to the particular State and in conformity with the wishes of the people. I understand that the constitutional reforms initiated by His Highness fulfil this test and I wish them all success,

because in the contentment of the people lies the security of the State and its Ruler.

As the late Supreme Allied Commander South-East Asia, it will be a particular pleasure to me to see the State Forces on parade tomorrow morning. His Highness has referred to the Bikaner Bijey Battery which served under my command on the Burma front, and I should like to pay a tribute here to the high standards they achieved and the credit which they brought to His Highness and the State.

I should also like to express my gratitude to His Highness for placing Bikaner House in Delhi at the disposal, through the Government of India, of the South-East Asia Command. It was used as a mess for senior allied officers of the rank of Brigadier and above of my Rear-Headquarters.

As His Highness has reminded you in his speech, he and I have been lifelong friends, for we first met when his father was visiting my family 40 years ago, when he was five and I was seven. We met again at the Coronation of King George V, in 1911, and ten years later we served together on the staff of the Prince of Wales during His Royal Highnesa's visit to India. It was then that I paid my first visit, more than 26 years ago, to Bikaner; a visit which I am sorry to say there was no opportunity to repeat until 1945.

Finally, may I once more express the deep appreciation of my wife and myself for the kind way in which His Highness has referred to us, and to thank him for the magnificent welcome and the splendid hospitality which he has given to my family here.

# Warning Against Sending Letters Through Air Passengers

It has come to the notice of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, that there is a growing practice on the part of the public to send letters from one place to another through passengers travelling by air, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate General, Posts and Telegraphs, on Jan. 3.

It is notified that Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act confers on the Indian Post Office the exclusive privilege of conveying letters (which includes post cards); also that subject to the exceptions specified below, no person is allowed to send letters except through the Post Office, or to carry letters for the purpose of delivering them at destination. Any person who sends or carries letters in contravention of this Section renders himself liable to prosecution under Sec. 58 of the Indian Post Office Act. The exceptions referred to above are:

(1) letters sent by a private friend in his way, journey or travel to be delivered by him to the addresse without any hire, reward or other profit or advantage for receiving, carrying or delivering them, and

(4) letters solely concerning the affairs of the sender and receiver thereof, sent by messenger on purpose.

The public are warned that they should not do anything which will infringe Sec. 4 of the Indian Post Office Act.

# New Tele-Communication Link With Assam

Assam is now in direct telegraphic and telephonic link with the rest of India. Formerly all telegrams and trunk telephone calls to Assam used to pass via Parbatipur and Lalmonirhat which, with the partition of Bengal ceased to be parts of India.

Immediately after August 15, 1947, the Dominion Cabinet in Delhi sanctioned the erection of a new tele-communication link at a cost of Rs. 25,00,000 from Patna to Gauhati through Bihar, West Bengal, and Northwest Assam, covering a distance of 625 miles. The project which received very high priority in the list of Communication Ministry's expansion schemes was taken up in hand in the second week of October last. The first half of the link connecting Patna with Siliguri which incidentally brings Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in direct touch with Calcutta was completed on December 31, within 75 days from the date of commencement of work.

### New Lines

According to a high official in charge of the project, the work involved the laying of 4,000 yards of underwater cable across the Ganges in addition to running new lines. The speedy materialisation of the project was due to the devoted service of over 1,000 workers some of whom had to work hours together in waist-deep water in flooded areas of Northern Bihar. Besides transhipment of 300 wagons across the Ganges, Railways had to run three special trains from Jubbulpore to move 1,60,000 maunds of engineering stores required, mostly by curcuitous routes in order to avoid transportation through Pakistan.

The most up-to-date tele-communication methods are being adopted by Indian engineers in charge of this project in establishing this link which when completed may offer 18 telegraph and five speech channels for simultaneous operation.

# PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

(Continued from Page 145)

our Governor-General as the one-man boundary force which succeeded when the boundary force of 50,000 men in West Punjab did not succeed in keeping the peace. This unarmed knight of non-violence is functioning again. May the same alchemy work again in India and elsewhere.

We have sought to remove one major cause of dispute and argument between India and Pakistan and we hope that other problems will also be resolved. But let it be remembered that the people of Kashmir are suffering from a brutal and unprovoked invasion and we have pledged ourselves to help them to gain their freedom. To that pledge we shall hold and we shall do our outmost to redeem it. We seek their freedom not for any gain to us but to prevent the ravishing of a fair country and a peaceful people.



India is making an ali-out effort to become self-sufficient in her foodgrain requirements with the aid of large-scale mechanisation. Picture shows a tractor and heavy plough in operation in the Gonga Khadar tract in U.P.

# RECLAMATION OF 50,000 ACRES WASTE LAND

# **Another Tractor Unit in Action**

N pursuance of the U. P. Government's plan to reclaim waste land in the Province, a unit of heavy tractors went into action in the Nainital tarai region on Jan. 4 to reclaim by May this year 10,000 acres of waste land, which will be grown with food crops. This scheme is part of the five-year plan of the U. P. Government to reclaim 50,000 acres in the tarai region.

Tractors supplied and serviced by the Central Tractor Organisation were set in motion by Mr. N. A. Sherwani, Agriculture Minister of U. P. Government. The Central Ministry of Agriculture was represented by Mr. D. R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner, Government of India and Mr. J. Connors, Chief Engineer, Central Tractor Organisation, Mr. A. N. Jha, Agricultural Secretary and a number of officials of the U. P. Government were also present.

The fertility of this area has alluerd people, through the centuries, to settle on the land and the region has known a glorious past with flourishing populations and powerful kingdoms, as is clear from the extensive ruins found round about. Evidence of this is also available in the memoirs of the renowned Chinese traveller, Huen Tsang, who visited India in the 6th century.

For a variety of reasons, amongst which may be counted the influenza

epidemic of 1918, responsible for many deaths and a series of dacoities over a period of years on the one hand, and the unhealthiness of the tract and the depredations of wild animals on the



The heavy plough upturns virgin soil, which for centuries has grown wild grasses and wild date palm

other, there has been a steady decline in population and cultivation.

Malignant malaria, the greatest scourge of the tarat terrain, is to be checked and eventually eliminated. An ant. malaria unit has been established in charge of an ex-Army officer with experience of malar a control in Assam and Burma. There will be extensive DDT operations and subsoil drainage by the construction of artesian wells. As a result of measures already adopted, no case of malaria has been reported since September last.

### Colonisation Scheme

The Minstry of Agriculture, Government of India, is not only digging up the land by mechanical ploughs, but, at the request of the U. P. Government, who lack equipment and trained personnel, it has undertaken to cultivate 10,000 acres on the basis of no profit, no loss. This cultivation will enable the settlers on the land to have the benefit of the first crop. The crops to be sown in this area will be on the advice of the U. P. Government. It is considered likely that in June next, the land will be sown with a "smother crop" and a portion will be put under maize which will be harvested by October, 1948. The land will then be grown with rabi grains and a part of it will be under sugarcane early in 1949. It is estimated that 80,000 maunds of rabi grains will be harvested in 1949.

The present plan envisages a system of co-operative farming so that co-operative enterprise may develop into "joint farm management". No subletting or fragmentation will be allowed. The reclaimed area is to be divided into four farms of 1,500 acres each, to be colonised by exservicemen or refugees. Details regarding the settlement of refugees are under discussion with the Central Government. For each colonist settled, the Government of India have undertaken to pay a subsidy of Rs. 500 and a similar amount will be paid by Provincial Government. The U. P. Government, it is learnt, will provide every possible facility to the new settlers in the initial stages of the scheme, such as free fencing, the use of tractors, drainage, roads, hospitals, domestic water supply and short-term loans.

#### Prospects of Oil

"Once the ravages of malaria are effectively controlled", said an official of the U. P. Government, "this land, fertile with the accumulated deposit of centuries of grass and foliage, should become a veritable gold mine. This scheme will not only be the means by which the U. P. will reach soff-sufficiency in food, but we will also be able to help the refugees from Pakisten. We have plans to upgrade cattle and also start various industries in the area such as sugar, jute and starch".

Optimistically he concluded: "It should not be surprising if we strike oil, for in this region are numerous fossil palms, and wherever these are found, there is a regular oil belt".

# FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH ON FOOD CROPS

THREE DAY session of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Advisory Board, held under the chairmanship of Sir Datar Singh concluded in New Delhi on Jan. 7.

For protecting crops and animals and the utilisation of their products for increased food production, the Board recommended the following subjects for enacting legislation by the Central and Provincial Governments: land improvement, conservation of villege manurial resources, prevention of wastage of town refuse, compulsory castration of unfit and useless bulls, compulsory consolidation of holdings, prohibition of division and fragmentation of holdings beyond a minimum standard unit, the declaration and protection of fish breeding grounds as sanctuaries, compulsory utilisation of all suitable enclosed areas of fresh water for pisciculture, and the prevention and control of crop pests and diseases.

The Board agreed to the establishment of a Central Potato Research Institute with substations in representative regions in India underthe Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The estimated cost is likely to be Rs. 22,00,000.

The scheme of the Wheat R ist Control Committee, which is expected to cost Rs. 10,00,000 was also approved.

The Board agreed to a programme of research for the production of food crops during the next five years. The programme includes the development of hybrid strains in maize, the eradication of weeds in various crops, the production of more root crops, the production of indigenous insecticides and fungicides for the destruction of crop pests and diseases, and further research on pulses and smaller millets.

#### Soil Conservation

The Board agreed to implement, in consultation with Provincial Governments, the recommendations of the Report of Drs. Shuhart and Stewart on soil conservation in India.

In consultation with the Central Government, a high power committee is to be appointed to review the work of the Indian Agricultural Council and to make recommendations for future work, as soon as possible.

# Enlargement of Federal Court's Jurisdiction

THE Federal Court (Enlargement of Jurisdiction) Act passed by the Dominion Legislature during its autumn session in 1947, is one of the four enactments which have been assented to by the Governor-General.

This Act, which came into force on Feb. 1, 1948, provides for the enlargement of the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court in civil cases. Its object, briefly, is to prevent the direct passage of appeals from a High Court to the Privy Council, and thus making it compulsory that civil appeals arising from the judgment or decree of a High Court shall, in the first instance, go to the Federal Court.

# **Criminal Matters**

Regarding criminal matters, as explained by the Honble Dr. Ambedkar, Law Minister, in the Legislature, the Act does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council. Criminal matters can still be entertained by the Privy Council from judgments of High Courts.

Again, it does not abolish appeals to the Privy Council from the Federal Court as also appeals from the courts of the Judicial Commissioners of Ajmere-Merwara and Coorg. Three other enactments which have also received the assent of the Governor-General are: the Repealing and Amendment Act, 1947, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1947, enabling certain powers to be conferred upon officers of the Armed Forces in disturbed areas, and the Armed Forces (Emergency Duties) Ameadment Act, 1947.

# FAMOUS METEOROLOGIST VISITS R. L A. F.

Dr. Sverre Pettersen, the well-known meteorologist of international repute from Norway who recently arrived in India at the invitation of the Science Congress visited No. 3 Wing R. I. A.F. at Palam on Jap. 15 and was shown round the Meteorological Section, the Navigation Briefing Section and the Radar Unit.

Dr. Sverre Petterssnen, who was accompanied by Dr. S. K. Bannerjee, Director-General of Observatories, and other officers from Air Headquarters (India) was impressed with the working of these Sections.





# PANDIT NEHRU IN CALCUTTA

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, visited Calcutta recently.

These pictures taken during his visit show (above, left) Pandit Nehru photographed with H.E. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, who received him at the airport, and (above, right) the Prime Minister inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by the 5th Urban Infantry and the Bengal Armed Police at the Dum Dum airport, and (below) Pandit Nehru addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. Mr. H. D. Cumberbatch (third from left) President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Dr. P. C. Ghosh (third from right) ex-Premier of West Bengal, can also be seen in the picture.





Pandit Nehru, addressing the fourteenth session of the Central Advisory Board of Education in New Delhi on January 13

# THREE-YEAR DRIVE FOR LITERACY

# Central Advisory Board's Recommendations

THE Central Advisory Board of Education adopted on January 16 the interim report the Adult Education Committee appointed on the opening day of its Session which recommends the launching of a three-year programme for literacy and general education. The report says that both literacy and general education should proceed simultaneously but during the next three years greater emphasis should be laid on the latter aspect of adult education with a view to enable every Indian to take part in the New Order. Efforts should also he made, the report says, to raise the percentage of literacy to 50 at least. The report further recommends that all the resources and personnel of the country should be mobilised for the attainment of these objectives and suggests employment of whole-time workers, part-time workers and volunteers. The report says that part-time workers should be village school teachers, Post-masters and other civil servants who may be given a small honourarium for their services and voluntary workers should be recruited from amongst students and staff of schools and colleges; Government employees, district officials etc. It also recommends that all owners of mills and factories should provide for the education of their workers and their families and the Government should make it compulsory for all its employees to attain literacy within a period of three years and it should give them facilities for this purpose. Adult education should also be compulsorily prowided for all prisoners in jails.

As regards provision of funds for this purpose, the report recommends that Provincial Governments and the Central Government should both provide funds at the minimum rate of I anna per person to be educated. As the means of imparting adult education the report suggests that use should be made of modern media of mass communication as for example, Radio Films, the open air theatres, etc. Material for those media, says the report, should prepared by the Central Government in consultation and

co-operation with the Provincial Governments. The report suggests the setting up of a special department for the preparation of the necessary material expeditiously.

The report further recommends the setting up of special agencies under Departments of Education which will be responsible for the organization of Adult Education and says that the general policy and programme should be decided in consultation with the Advisory Bodies consisting mainly of non-officials. It adds that in the programme of Adult Education due emphasis should be given to further Education of literates, through clubs, discussion groups, Peoples's Colleges, summer schools and other similar agencies.

#### Medium of Instruction

There was a lengthy debate in the earlier meeting of the Board as to what should be the medium of instruction and examination in Indian Universities. The Hon'ble Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, remarked that there was a lot to be said in favour of having one common Indian language as the medium of Instruction in all the Universities. This will cement national unity as English had done in the past. He was of the opinion that provincial languages like Bengali, Maharatti and Tamil will progress at the same time. These languages were rich and bound to dayslan but the rich and bound to develop but the common Indian language was required to replace English for inter-Provincial contacts and pro-motion of cultural unity. Maulana Azad however felt that we should move with caution in this vitally important matter and the status quo may be maintained for five years and meanwhile the question may be thoroughly examined by an expert committee.

The Hon'ble Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply who also took part in the debate

said the question was bristling with difficulties. Politically the ideal was one language through all stages of education. Educationally we must see what is in the interest of the students. Provincial languages, he felt, must be encouraged if mass education was to flourish. He mentioned that if the medium of instruction was suddenly changed at the University stage, it may hinder educational development. He agreed with Maulana Axad that the question must be examined by experts from all aspects and no precipitate steps should be taken.

### Refugee Students and Teachers

The Board finally recommended that the status quo may be maintained for five years and a committee be nominated by the Chairman. The Committee will be asked to report on what should be the medium of instruction and examination in higher education, the place of the official Indian and regional languages in higher education, the place of English in the curriculum and machinery required and means to implement the change over to the official Indian language or the regional language. The Board also passed a resolution urging the adoption of a uniform scientific terminology in India and the retention of international terms in use at present.

Offers of help in the rehabilitation of displaced students and teachers from Pakistan areas were made by representatives of all Provinces and Universities present. The representative of East Punjab was assured that all Universities and Provinces were anxious to assist these refugee students and teachers in every way. The Board resolved that full facilities should be given to these students whose studies have been interrupted by unforeseen happenings over the creation of which no one in this country had any control. The Board felt that neighbouring Provinces should admit those students who had completed courses of studies, condone the shortage of lectures, waive restrictions regarding domicile and migration certificates and give the students all other possible concessions.

# ROOFED ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL DISPLACED PERSONS BY APRIL

# Two-Crore Scheme For Extension of 25 Towns in East Punjab

DISPLACED persons at present under canvas in East Punjab will have roofed accommodation before April. This is expected to be achieved by constructing semi-permanent accommodation at selected sites in existing towns, by repair of damaged and burnt houses and refitting of houses vacated by Muslims in order to enable them to take in larger numbers, and by requisitioning groups of buildings.

A two-crore scheme has been sanctioned for the immediate construction of semi-permanent accommodation for 200,000 in 25 towns of East Punjab for which development schemes have already been approved. Location of these structures will also fit in with industrial plans for the province. Over 7,000 acres of land is available for suburban and supplementary town development. The new Capital, for which alternative sites have been inspected, is also expected to absorb a large number of displaced persons.

Simultaneously, a dispersal scheme aiming at the movement by the end of February of at least 250,000 displaced persons at present in camps in Ambala Division has been launched. Repair of damaged houses in villages not yet settled particularly those near the towns, is being undertaken by the Urban Rehabilitation Circle of P. W. D. District authorities have already been asked to make a survey, and block sums are being placed at their disposal for repairs.

In Delhi, the Improvement Trust has suggested certain areas for residential, industrial and business premises for displaced persons. The development of three or four sattleite towns in Delhi province is under consideration.

#### Progress of Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation plans, both for rural and urban areas, have made further progress with the setting up of the Joint Rehabilitation Board and reorganisation of the Rehabilitation Directorate of the East Punjab Government. The Board has been set up to maintain the closest liaison between the East Punjab Government and the Centre. It meets every fortnight under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, and the members include Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister without portfolio, the Premier and Home Minister of the East Punjab Government and the Heads of Relief and Rehabilitation Departments in the Central and Provincial Governments.

Those who resettle on land are being given loans for buying seeds and bullocks and for the repair of houses and wells. So far as the provision of foods for rural resettlers and fodder for their bullocks until the harvesting of next crop is concerned, Government will give free grants, the cost of which will be shared between the Central Government

and the Government of the Province or State concerned. This scheme will include village artisans, like carpenters and blacksmiths, and it has been decided that financial assistance will be given in kind, as far as possible, and in instalments.

For urban rehabilitation, a scheme for granting loans not exceeding Rs. 500 to those who wish to settle in a particular town or place in the economy of which they are likely to be absorbed permanently has been sanctioned. The scheme covers resettlement of traders, shopkeepers, artisans, persons wishing to start their own workshops and cottage industries, doctors (including vaids, hakims and homeopaths) and lawyers. The advance may be utilised for the purchase of tools of trade, equipment, stock-in-trade, raw material, books, etc.

In East Punjab, already nearly 250,600 agricultural families have been settled on 26,20,000 acres of land vacated by Muslims. The East Punjab Government have sanctioned food grants in villages at the rate of Rs. 3-8-0 per adult and Rs. 2 per child of 12 years or less. Takkavi loans, amounting to Rs. 1,57,50,000 for the purchase of seeds, bullocks, fodder and repair of houses and wells are being distributed to refugee settlers. To help the restoration of village economy, rehabilitation loans to rural artisans and village servants are also being sanctioned. Arrangements are being made to train non-agriculturist workers in refugee camps for settlement in villages.

It has also been decided to organise 50 cotton spinning and weaving centres and five wool spinning centres in order to supplement income from land and at the same time to help in the production

of cloth and blankets.

For about 50,000 agriculturist families of West Punjab and 30,000 from Bahawalpur and Sind land will have to be found either in East Punjab States or in other provinces. In Patiala State 120,000 refugees have been settled and another 12,000 families are expected to be absorbed. In Jind, 1,169 families have so far been settled but there is still land for 13,000 families. In Nabha, 12,000 families have been settled. In Kapurthala State, 10,000 families have been settled and there is room for another 3,000.

Outside the Punjab, many provinces and States have offered to absorb agricultural refugees in their rural economy. Large areas of land have been vacated by Muslims in Bharstpur and Alwar. The States of Indore and Gwalior wish to open new tracts for cultivation. There is also opportunity of resettlement on cultivable and reclaimable land in Andamans. In the U. P. the Ganges, Khadar and Nainital Tarai scehmes, when completed, will provide large tracts of reclaimed land which will be available for refugees. These two schemes together are expected to provide land for nearly 5,000 families.

While East Punjab is expected to resettle men from West Punjab, those who have been uprocted from N.-W.F.P. Sind and Baluchistan and Bahawalpur State are expected to be resettled in Provinces and State outside. Up to the end of December 1947, 13 trains carrying 30,865 refugees had gone from Kurukahetra.



Lady Mountbatten photographed in an open air class run by the Baldev Nagar Refugee Camp, Ambala, which Her Excellency visited recently

The total number of refugees registered in Employment Exchanges up to December 15 was 53,221 of whom 8,167 have been placed in employment. The Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which registers the names of Government employees who opted for service in the Indian Union, had registered up to December 7 about 2,300 employees from N.-W. F. P. Baluchistan and Sind. Out of these about 1,300 have already been nominated to specific vacancies and the names of 700 more are being circulated to various Ministries to find out if they can be absorbed. Instructions have been issued to all Ministries to notify all vacancies, in the first instance, to the Transfer Bureau and if the latter cannot submit names the vacancies are to be notified to the Employment Exchanges. The exchanges have been asked to give preference to refugees from Pakistan, including employees of the Indian States within the geographical limits of Pakistan.

Provincial Governments have generally agreed to waive domicile restrictions in the case of experienced Hindu and Sikh refugee officials and thus it is expected many of them will be placed in suitable jobs. The Government of Assam have asked for technical men. The Government of Bombay are attempting to absorb in service refugees from Sind, including a large number of teachers. The Government of Madras have agreed to consider cases of technical men with special qualifications for posts where knowledge of a provincial language is not essential.

### Special Employment Exchange

For highly qualified persons among refugees who are unemployed a special employment exchange is proposed to be set up. Instructions have also been issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply to give preference to refugee contractors while placing contracts. Provincial Governments and the Ministries of the Government of India have been asked to consider sympathetically the requests of displaced lawyers for employment in judicial and administrative posts and on refugee work. The Ministry of Education has circulated to all Provincial Governments particulars of displaced teachers for consideration for appointments in various government and aided institutions in their respective provinces. Statistics are being collected to see how far displaced teachers can be absorbed in the East Punjab and Centrally-Administered Areas, where it is necessary to approach other governments for reservation of certain number of posts for them so that they might be absorbed in their expansion schemes.

Training of skilled and semi-skilled persons has been given high priority in the programme of rehabilitation. In the existing training centres arrangements have been made for training 4,000 men. New technical and vocational centres have also been opened at Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and East Punjab where nearly 2,000 to 2,500 refugees will be admitted. It is proposed to increase the capacity of the centres to 10,000. It is also hoped to provide training to nearly 5,000 apprentices in textile mills and railway



Lady Mountbatten talking to refugee women in the Ambala Camp.

workshops and other large government and private establishments. The period of training will be about 6 months and each trainee will be given an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem in lieu of board and lodging.

The Ministry of Relief and rehabilitation has now sanctioned a cottage industries and training centre in the refugee camp at Kurukshetra with a view to providing training and remunerative employment to refugees in industries, crafts and arts such as woodwork, emithy, fitter-shop, machine-shop, foundry-shop, welding, tin and copper smithy, weaving, knitting and hosiery, soap making, tailoring, dairy, confectionary, poultry, leather, embroidery, pottery, basketery, toy making, printing, etc. The scheme will cost approximately Rs. 5 lakhs for capital equipment.

Training of 115 displaced girls and women has been arranged at the exservice women's training centre in New Delhi. This will include training in spinning and weaving, calico-printing, tailoring and dress-making, typing, stenography, commercial and clerical work. After March 31 the centre will be able to admit 300 displaced girls and women for training and a number of trades, and occupations will be added.

An Industrial Centre has also been started in New Delhi for refugee women and children. This provides employment to women in sewing and knitting, etc.

Loans to students for training abroad are being granted on the recommendation of the Government of India's diplomatic representatives to whem the students have been asked to make application. So far 45 applications for loans have been

received from U. K. and 24 from the U.S.A.

Since organized evacuation concluded and the Military Evacuation Organization was wound up, the inflow of refugees from West Punjab and N. W. F. P. has very much decreased. Efforts are now confined to clear non-Muslims from pockets all over West Punjab and N. W. F. P. The number of non-Muslims thus stranded is estimated to be 50,000 to 60,000.

Evacuees are brought from pockets to rail heads and from there they cross over to India in refugee trains.

The total number of non-Muslims cleared from peckets from Dec. 19 to Jan. 3rd was 2,587.

# Rescue of Abducted Women

In addition, the efforts of the military authorities still operating in Pakistan are directed to the rescue of abducted women and forcibly converted non-Muslims. Mixed parties of police and military assisted by women social workers are to operate in Western Pakistan. This work has not made much headway as there has been some disagreement between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan on the actual mechanics of the operation.

The total number of non-Muslims who crossed over to India from West Punjab and N. W. F. P. by rail, by road, on foot or by air up to Jan. 3, 1948, was 40,58,307. No Military Evacuation Organization is operating in Baluchisten, Sind and Bahawalpur State. However, evacuation

has been proceeding from these areas by air, by rail and by sea. According to latest information, 394,000 non-Muslims have already left Sind and Baluchistan for India. Including Bahawalpur State, the total number of non-Muslims who the total number of non-Muslims who have come over to India is 550,000. The recent disturbances in Sind have led to increasing exodus of non-Muslims from that province. Arrangements are in hand for their reception and dispersal for relief.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has provided, 37,948 large tents of military pattern for temporary shelter to refugees in camps in East Punjab, Delhi and Kurukshetra. In addition, 150,000 biovuac tents have been sent to East Punjab Camps. The supply of woollen covers and clothing has continued. Upto December 26, the total number of Razais made available for distribution to indigent refugees was 8,55,910 including 83,000 for Kurukshetra 8,000 for Delhi and the rest for East Punjab. The number of blankets supplied was 3,40,457, nearly 165,000 to Kuru-kshetra and 175,000 to East Punjab, 7.000 jackets and 100,000 jursies, besides 125,000 lbs. of knitting wool, have also been made available. The supply of 39,50,000 yards of various kinds of cloth and ready-made garments, numbering about 20,000,000, have also been obtained for distribution in refugee camps.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS** 0 F UNIDENTIFIED CHILDREN

certain οf Photographs unidentified children attached and in camps in Amritsar have been received from the Red Cross Search Service Bureau in Amritsar. These will be on view at the Kingsway Camp (Outram Lines), Kalkaji Camp and in the Headquarters Office of the Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service frem January 7, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 7.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have so far received over 25,000 enquiries from persons whose kith and kin have not been traced since they came from West Pakistan. The Ministry had set up an Enquiries and Searching Service in conjunction with the Indian Red Cross Society to deal with this problem. About 500 unattached persons were enabled to contact their relatives through this organisation, which helps to establish contact between missing persons and their relatives.

The Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service has now arranged to place on view photographs of unattached and unidentified children, in the first instance, in different camps in Delhi. Refugees whose children are still missing should contact the following officers:...

1. Searching Officer (Outram Lines,

Kingsway Camp).
2. Searching Officer, Kalkaji Lines,

Okhla. 3. Officer-In-charge, Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service, 'P' Block, Room No. 58, Raisina Road, Service, New Delhi.

# Pandit Nehru's Appeal

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, has issued the following appeal in connection with the -recovery of abducted wemen:

Among the many problems that we have to face, one of the most urgent is the recovery of girls and women who have been abducted. We must strain every nerve to help these unfortunate women to go back to their homes. Their friends and relatives should welcome them back and give them all comforts and solace after their harrowing experiences.

I am told that sometimes there is an unwillingness on the part of their relatives to accept the girls back in their homes. This is a most objectionable and wrong attitude for any one to take up and any social custom that supports this attitude must be condemned;

These girls require our loving and tender care and their relatives should be proud to take them back and give them every help. So far as the Government is concerned they consider themselves responsible for these girls and they do everything in their power to give them every kind of help and relief. I hope that our people and the Government will cooperate in this vital work.

The Honbl'e Dr. Syama Dr. Mukerjee's Mukerjee, M for Industry Minister and Appeal Supply, has issued the following appeal:

The major task of evacuation of Hindus and Sikhs from Western Pakistan is virtually complete, but there are still thousands of unfortunate women who have to be recovered and rehabilitated with honour in our society. The partition of the country led to the upswell of heastly passion and these women were torn from their homes and violently tossed about hither and thither. They have been victims of circumstances beyond their control and have suffered utmost physical and mental agony.

It would betray a gross lack of social consciousness on our part if we do not rise equal to the occasion and welcome them all with warmth and alacrity back to our society with the fulness of all rights, privileges and honour. shame or stigma should attach to them. If there is any shame, it is entirely ours, because we failed to afford full protection to our womenfolk.

It is the primary duty of the people and Government to help in the task of recovering abducted Hindu and Sikh women and receive them back into our society without any reservation what-soever. This is the Spirit of our true dharma and I am confident all sections of the community will worthily respond

· Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru has issued the Mrs. Ramesh following appeal: wari Nehru

The partition of India unfortunately aroused satanic tendencies amongst our people. Perhaps never in human history did men sink so low as our people did immediately after partition. to say, the gory events in India after partition make one difficult to believe that man was made in the image of God. It is difficult to explain the barbarities perpetrated by our men on innocent wo-men, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, alike. Thousands of women and girls who fell a prey to the savagery of abductors, remain still untraceable. Who knows where they are and what is their lot? Even the gh an all-out effort is being made in both the Dominions to rescue these helpless women, success is rathermeagre.

What adds poignancy to the situation is the foolish and callous attitude of cur people and society who are said to be reluctant to welcome back those un-lucky sisters to their original place of honour. In their upardonable ignorance some of their kinemen and relations have come to regard these victims of fate and fury of man as degraded and fight shy of accepting them back in their midst.

I condemn this inhuman outlook most strongly, whether in individuals or in our society. No Hindu Shastra warrants—that such innceint wemen who suffered because our people proved too weak to defend their life and honour housest the strongly such as the strongly weak to defend their life and honour housest the strongly such as the str should be despised. If anybody is to be condemned for the present plight of our abducted women, it is Hindu society as a whole and not these innocent women. In spite of the harrowing experiences they have undergone, they remain as pure as ever. May I request my brothers to rise above silly notions and superstitions and welcome those abducted women back with open arms. Therein lies our Dharma and salavation of our society.

Chowdhry Krishna Gopal Dutt, M. L.A.

Chowdhry Krishna Gopal fare and Board, has Dutt

Secretary, General Central Refugee Wel-fare and Vigilance issued the following state-

"No other single issue has contributed more to the rapidly deteriorating relations between the two sister Dominions of India and Pakistan than the abduction of a large number of women by ruffians in both the Dominions.

"Noble and corageous are those who are engaged in the most difficult and hazardous task of rescuing these unfortunate sisters in both the Dominions.

These brave social workers are undoubtedly tackling a most fundamental problem and they deserve the wholehearted help and co-operation of every decent man and woman in both the Dominions.

On the success of their mission depends the issue of peace and war between the two dominions. If sanity could dawn on the frenzied people on both sides and they could see the shame and brutality involving in forcibly keeping Hindu or Muslim women as hostage, the tense atmosphere that now prevails between the two Dominions will ease to a considerable extent. Such a course will have more far-reaching effects than any military operations or any verdict that the U. N. O. Security Council may give.

I, therefore, earnestly appeal to every devotee of peace in the two Dominions to strengthen the hands of these brave social workers. The co-operation of the Government and the people of Western Pakistan where conditions are still very difficult and discouraging, is particularly essential in this humantarian task".

Goswami Ganesh Dutt, President, Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha, has issued the following statement:

I am a little surprised and distressed too to know that our Hindu and Sikh brothers are not willing to accept their abducted sisters who have been recovered from Pakistan. Instances are many where such women have been accepted by society in the past.

This is the opinion of the All India Sanatan Dharma Sabha of the Benares Hindu University. Giving their unqualified and absolute support to this view are our Hindu leaders like Mahamahopadhyay Pandit Kali Prasadji Principal "Prachya Maha Vidyalaya" of the Hindu University, Pandit Vishwa Nathji Shastri, Vedacharya, Shri Pandit Gaya Prasadji, Jyotishyacharya and others.

I should remind you that even our Jagat Guru Shri Shankaracharya gave the same opinion and advice about acceptance of recovered abducted women during the Noakhali killings.

# DOUBLE-SHIFT CLASSES FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, have arranged double-shift classes for refugee students for Intermediate Arts and Science, together with the Medical Group, B. A. Pass and Honours and M. A., in the Hindu College, Delhi.

Arrangement for women students is also contemplated at the Indraprastha College for women.

# FINANCIAL AID TO REFUGEE STUDENTS

SCHEME for the grant of financial assistance to refugee non-Muslim students and trainees from Western Pakistan who have arrived in any Province or State within the Indian Union has been prepared by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

The Government of India consider the problem of education and training of the younger generation urgent and are anxious that refugee students and trainecs wishing to pursue their studies or training should not be prevented from doing so for lack of funds.

Accordingly, the Migistry of Relief and Rehabilitation in a circular letter have asked all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners to take steps to introduce immediately this scheme within their jurisdictions. The States are also being similarly addressed. Provincial and State Governments have been advised to give wide publicity to the scheme amongst refugee population and invite applications, and to communicate it to the heads of all recognised colleges and institutions.

Under the scheme, financial assistance for technical and collegiate education will take the form of loans. For students in IX and X Classes of schools a free grant and certain other concessions may be given.

# Applications for Loans

Applications for grant of loans under the scheme are to be submitted by the student and/or his guardian through the Head of the Institution concerned, who is expected to verify the facts as far as possible and forward them to the sanctioning authority (normally the Director of Public Instruction of the Province) together with his recommendations. The Head of the Institution is also competent to sanction an amount not exceeding Rs. 20-y in order to avoid distress:

In the case of school students, the Government of India have decided upon the following concessions to students in the 9th and 10th classes:—

- (i) They should be given free seats and no fees should be charged from them:
- (ii) they should be exempted from the payment of examination fees; and
- (iii) a grant up to a maximum of Rs. 78 may be made to each student for books, apparatus and stationery.

The Provincial Governments will take suitable steps to ensure that these concessions are given only to those students whose parents or guardians are without sufficient funds. Applications for the above concessions will be received by the Headmaster of the school concerned.

The details of the loans scheme and its terms and conditions are given below:--

(i) Loans will be given only for studies and/or training in a recognized institution or college.

- (ii) Loans are for completion of studies which the student was already pursuing and not for any further or higher education or training. Exceptions may be made in the following casess:—
- (a) Students who are studying in the Intermediate may be taken to the end of the degree course provided they pass Intermediate in the second division or above.
- (b) Specially meritorious students and all those who graduate in the First division may be assisted for a post-graduate course.
- (c) Meritorious students who pass the Matriculation Examination in the First Division and who wish to continue studies further may be assisted.
- (d) Students who have passed the Intermediate Examination (Medical, may be assisted to continue their medical course.

The loan shall be given in such instalments, monthly or otherwise, as may be considered fit for each individual case, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Head of the Institute.

The loan instalment to any student or trainee will stop immediately on his failing to pass a recognized periodical examination, not being school or college weekly test.

The loan amount when sanctioned, will be paid through the Head of the Institution where the student is studying or is to continue his/her studies.

The student as well as the parent or guardian or the surety shall sign an undertaking to repay the loan whether in lump sum or by instalments on rehabilitation of either of them. For this purpose a half-yearly review shall be carried out of the financial position of his parent or guardian. The advance will be completely repayable within four years from the date of payment of the last instalment. No interest will be charged during a period of one year from the date of payment of the last instalment. Thereafter interest at the rate of 2 per cent. will be charged.

Government will have prior lien on the services of the students financed under this scheme.

Applications for loans should give the following particulars:--

- (a) Full name, age and address of the student.
- (b) Full name and address of the parent or guardian in Indian Dominion as well as previous address in Pakistan.
- (c) The course of studies undertaken, name of the Institute where studies were

undertaken and examinations already passed.

- (d) Minimum period required for completion of such studies.
- (e) Fees, etc., payable to the Institution and when due (Items should be given separately wherever possible) \*\*...\*, tuition fees, deposits for laboratory or library, games fees, examination fees etc.
- (f) Minimum allowances required for books, instruments, lodging, boarding and outfit etc., each item to be given separately.
- (g) Any security or surety that the student or his parent or guardian is able up to put for repayment of loan, if granted.
- (h) The manner in which the loan is desired to be repaid.
- (i) Any particulars regarding the parents or guardians of the student or traineo, that the applicant is in a position to furnish. These particulars should state properties, and assets, social standing of the parents or guardian or surety.
- (j) If the student or his guardian has registered as a refugee, under any enactment that may be in force in the area, the registration number should be quoted.

The Government of India have agreed to meet all bonafide losses on the working of the Loans Schome if so desired by the Provincial and State Governments. The Central Government will also reimburse to Provinces and States, expenditure on account of the concessions to school students if so desired.

# PROGRESS OF EVACUATION REVIEWED

The Standing Committee of the Constituent Assembly for the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation met in New Delhi on Jan. 12, 13 and 14 and reviewed the progress of evacuation and the measures taken for the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons. The Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation presided.

The members of the Committee include Mrs. Sucheta Kriplani, Bakshi Sir Tek Chand, Mr. Khurshed Lal, Jaspat Rai Kapur, Mr. Shibban Lal Sexena, Ch. Ranbir Singh, Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar and Shri Besanta Kumar Das. Mr. H. C. Mohindroo, Under Secretary in the Ministry, is the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Secretary, Mr. Dantyagi, Joint Secretary, Mr. Brij Narayan, Joint Secretary (Finance), Mr. N. C. Shrivastava, Deputy Secretary and Mr. B. G. Rao, Deputy Secretary, attended the meeting on behalf of the Ministry.

# DISPLACED PERSONS: SCHEME FOR GRANT OF LOANS

SCHEME for grant of loans to displaced persons belonging to urban areas in West Pakistan who have arrived in the Indian Union has been evolved by the Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 5.

This scheme which provides for grant of advances not exceeding Rs. 500 in each case will apply only to those displaced persons who intend to settle down in a particular town or place in the economy of which they are likely to be absorbed permanently.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have already addressed letters to all Provincial Governments, the Chief Commissioners of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg, Panth Piploda and the Ministry of States, explaining the significance and scope of the scheme, together with instructions to implement it forth with in their respective areas. The Government of India will be prepared to meet bona fide losses incurred on the working of the scheme if the Province/State so desire.

# **Advisory Committee**

The Government of India realise the urgency of the problem of early settlement of refugees and desire that all help should be given to the refugees in their settlement. The scheme, therefore, is being put into operation immediately in the Centrally Administered Areas.

In the case of Delhi area under the Chief Commissioner, the Scheme will be administered with the help of an Advisory Committee, consisting of three nonofficial members under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner or other responsible officer, duly authorised by the Chief Commissioner. The Advisory Committee will consist of :—

- 1. Dr. Ratan Lal Sharda.
- 2. Mrs. Savitri Ram Dularelal Bhargava and
- 3. Sardar Mohan Singh.

Applications will be invited immediately for the grant of loans. The details of the scheme are as below.—

- (1) The object of the scheme is to help the resettlement of traders, shopkeepers, artisans, persons wishing to start their own workshops or cottage industries, doctors (including Vaids, Hakims and Homeopaths) and lawyers. The advance may be utilised for the purchase of tools of trade, equipment, stock in trade, rawmaterial, books, etc.
- (2) Advance will be paid by the district authorities of the district in which the person decides to settle finally.
- (3) The amount of advance will be determined according to individual requirements but will not exceed Rs. 500 in any case.

- (4) Persons, who wish to apply for the advance, should produce proof of their having been registered as refugees and sign an affidavit to the effect that they have not previously received similar advance under this scheme from any other source.
- (5) The authority sanctioning the advance will ensure that it is utilised for the purpose for which it is granted, and will also keep a watch on the person's resettlement.
- (6) Advance will be free of interest for the first year, but interest will be charged at 3 per cent. for subsequent years.
- (7) No recovery will be made in the first year. Instalments for repayment will be fixed by the sanctioning authority in each case, subject to the condition that the advance should be completely repaid within four years from the date it is given.
- (8) Payment will be subject to an undertaking to repay. Two sureties will be taken. If default is made in the repayment of any instalment, the whole advance will become recoverable as arrear of land revenue.

# REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED CONTRACTORS

Displaced contractors can now apply for enlistment as approved contractors with some of the Indian States.

The Government of India's request to enlist refugee contractors has met with a favourable response from various States.

Rajgarh Darbar and certain small States in Orissa and Chhattisgarh States Agency desire that refugee contractors should send their applications to the Regional Commissioner for States, Sambalpur, for enlistment.

Bikaner invites applications from contractors stating the nature of work and the commodities or articles which they generally tender for. The contractors should also state whether they will be in a position to supply labour, skilled as well as unskilled, for building purposes as extensive works are expected to be undertaken in the State in the next five years.

In the case of Baroda and Rewa the contractors are required to apply to the State Chief Engineer with necessary particulars.

Among other States who are prepared to invite applications for enlistment are Kapurthala, Nabha, Benares, Alipore and Datia.

# RELIEF AND REHABILITATION BOARD MEETS IN DELHI

# Mr. Neogy's Inaugural Address

NAUGURATING the first meeting of the recently constituted Relief and Rehabilitation Board for the Delhi province, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, said that all efforts should be made to provide shelter and rehabilitation to refugees who had come to Delhi. New cottage and other industries should be organised, employment opportunities created by the exodus of Muslims should be utilised and training and education programme expanded. In fact, it should be their ambition to arrange for the reception and rehabilitation of refugees that it should be an example for the rest of the ccuntry.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Minister welcoming the members of the Board and that their advice on the various rehabilitation schemes for the refugees in the province would be of great value to the local administration. He suggested that they should make a survey of the occupations that were vacated by the Muslims. Measures to fill in those occupations and trades should be adopted and other occupations which might be of value to the province of Delhi should be encouraged. There might be some occupations which would require some sort of training but there were others which could be easily adopted. For example, he said, there was a great shortage of transport in Delhi. There were very few tongas available, making it nifficult for people to go about.

#### Industrial Expansion

Apart from these occupations which had been vacated by Muslims, the Minister pointed out that they had to think in terms of industrial expansion of Delhi. Some of the trade which was concentrated at Amritsar and other towns of Punjab might shift to Delhi and they must be prepared to accommodate expansion of commerce and trade in this province. Moreover, possibilities of industrial expansion must be surveyed. It would not be advisable to expand Delhi or set up towns near Delhi if we were not in a position to find employment for the people who would live in those areas. In this context suitability of Delhi for special types of industries should be borne in mind. The Minister hoped that the Board would give its earnest attention to these problems and evolve schemes for speedy execution.

There was also, the Minister continued, considerable scope for educational facilities in the city of Delhi and in new towns that might be developed near Delhi.

The Board considered immediate steps for accommodation of refugees who were at present without shelter in Delhi. Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, said that provision of accommodation had to be tackled on short-term and

long-term bass. There was also the immediate problem of providing shelter to those who were without a roof. For that purpose they must utilise all vacant houses and other accommodation and, if necessary, tents. In the short-term programme, the construction of semi-permanent hutments might be included. The long-term lans, lowever, depended on the complete and standard development projects and standard development schemes of the Improvement Trust.

# Appeal for Co-operation

Mr. Kr'palani hoped that the problem of finding roofed accommodation for those refugees who were without shelter would be dealt with in the next ten days and everybody will be provided for. In this work he appealed for the cooperation of the social workers and the Delhi public without whose active assistance it would not be possible to carry out the plan in hand.

Continuing, Mr. Kripalani emphasised that providing housing to refugees was

not the complete answer to rehabilitation. It was the preliminary step and they must take steps to reconstruct the economy of the Delhi province or expand its economy in order to be able to absorb the large number of people who had come in.

After some general discussion the meeting concluded.

The Board will now meet every fortnight under the Chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi province.

The members of the Board include the Deputy Commissioner, Development Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Chairman, Provincial Transport Authority, Director of Health Services, Director of Industries, Director, Civil Supplies, Chairman Improvement Trust, Superintending Engineer, Architect to the Government of India, Superintendent of Education, Custodian of Evacuce Property, Director of Employment Exchange and Resettlement, Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, Mr. Deshbandu Gupta and Dr. Zakir Hussain.

The meeting on Jan. 14, was attended, among others, by Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Secretary, Mr. Dantyagi, Joint Secretary and Mr. Brij Narayan, Joint Secretary (Finance) of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

# EMPLOYMENT IN CENTRAL SERVICES Government Decide Question of Priority

THE Covernment of India have laid down their policy in regard to the question of priority to be given to various categories of persons for employment in the Central Services, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on Jan. 10.

The following decisions have been reached: —

- (1) Employees of the Central Government, who were serving in Pakistan Areas and have opted for India, and cannot be absorbed within the Department in which they were originally employed and employees of the Central Government whose appointments were abolished consequent on the constitutional changes, r.u. employees of the office of the Governor-General's Secretariat and the Political Department including the Residencies, will have the first claim on vacancies available in the Central Services. Such persons are registered by the Transfer Bureau in the Ministry of Home Affairs and nominated against vacancies reported to the Bureau by the various Ministries.
- (2) After nominating persons belonging to category (1), the Transfer Bureau will nominate employees of the Provincial Governments of the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Sind, who are also registered in the Bureau.
- (3) Vacancies which cannot be filled as in (1) and (2) mentioned above, are to be reported to the nearest Employment

Exchange. In recommending candidates for employment against such vacancies, Employment Exchanges will give preference to refugees from Pakistan, including employees of Indian States, in the geographical limits of Pakistan who are refugees in India.

Many applications for employment are being received in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. It will be noticed that according to the policy leid down above, it is not open to this Ministry to make recruitment, except through the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Employment Exchanges.

All refugees seeking employment are, therefore, advised to register themselves at the Transfer Bureau or the Employment Exchanges as the case may be. No action will be taken on individual applications for employment received in the Ministry of Relicf and Rehabilitation.

# ESTATES OF DECEASED MILITARY OFFICERS

The disposal of the estates of deceased military officers has been held up for want of information regarding the present whereabouts of their next of kin who have migrated from Pakistan to India. said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 28. They should communicate their present addresses to the Ministry of Defence (Estate Section), New Delhi, immediately.

# FACILITIES FOR PENSIONERS PAID FROM Refugee Holders of **DEFENCE ESTIMATES**

**▼ ING'S Commissioned Indian Officer** and Indian Commissioned Officer pensioners and civilian pensioners paid from the Defence Estimates and their widows and dependents, who have migrated from Pakistan to India. or from the Jammu and Kashmir State to other parts of the Indian Dominion, owing to the recent disturbances, will take the following action to facilitate payment of pensions, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence on

Those pensioners, who are in possession of their Pension Certificates, will apply. in writing, to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), Old Indian Military Hospital Lines, Allahabad, by registered post, giving their rank or designation, name, unit or service (in the case of family pension, rank or designation and the name of unit or service of the de-ceased), name of bank, or treasury from which they last drew their pension and from where they now desire to draw it, the date up to and for which the pension was last drawn, the rate of pension which was in issue and their present address.

# **Identification Certificate**

The applications should be supported by the Pension Certificate and a Certificate of Identification, signed by a gazetted officer, containing identification marks of the pensioner, three specimen signatures and an undertaking to agree to adjustments of the advances of pension haing made against the pension to be being made against the pension to be drawn later, after the proper transfer has been effected.

They will also forward to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions) Allahabad, separate applications for transfer of their pension to Banks or Treasuries in India, for effecting the transfer of their pension accounts from Pakistan or Jammu and Kashmir State.

Those who have lost the Pension Certificate should produce satisfactory evidence about the bona fide of their claim, supported by an indemnity bond from the claimant with an acceptable surety from a gazetted officer of the Government of India or a written guarantee from a recognized bank. Payment of pension exceeding Rs. 100 per mensen will be made only through recognised banks.

# **MILITARY PENSIONERS** FROM PAKISTAN

Indian military pensioners who have migrated from Pakistan can have their pensions paid to them from any of the recognised post offices or civil treasuries in India, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence, on Jan. 2.

The procedure to be adopted by them has already been announced in the Press Note dated Nov. 7, 1947. In order to avoid frequent changes in pension paying centres, they should, as far as possible, select that station where, or near which, they intend to settle down permanently. If, however, they have to change their place of residence subsequently, as a measure of rehabilitation, they can be permitted to change their pension paying centre also, for which they should apply to the Pension Dishursing Officer concerned, giving specific reasons for seeking the transfer and full particulars about their pensions.

Those Indian military pensioners who were drawing their pensions in India but lost their Pension Certificates as a result of recent disturbances of floods, can have fresh Pension Certificates reissued to them provided they apply in writing, giving precise reasons for the loss and full particulars of their pensions, to the Pension Disbursing concerned.

In cases where the loss or damage to the Pension Certificate is due to sheer carelessness or neglect on the part of the pensioner, a sum of Re. I will be charged as renewal fee.

# **IOINT REHABILITATION BOARD**

The third meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board set up to meintain liaison between the West Punjab Government and the Government of India, took place in New Delhi, on Jan. 8.

The function of the Board is to review the progress of the relief and rehabilitation schemes already in operation and to discuss and approve new schemes. The Board held its first meeting in Delhi in the middle of Dec. followed by another meeting recently held at Ambala. At its last meeting the Board discussed, among other things, the progress made in the dispersal of refugees and in their rehabilitation both in urban and rural areas.

The meeting on Jan. 8 was held under the chairmanship of Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. Among those who attended the meeting were Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, the Premier and Sardar Swaran Singh, the Hone Minister of East Punjab, Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Mr. P. N. Relief and Rehabilitation, Mr. P. N. Thapar, Financial Commissioner, Retugees, East Punjab Government, Mr. Tarlok Singh, Director-General of Rehabilitation, East Punjab Government and Mr. C. N. Chandra, Additional Secretary of the Government of India, stationed at Jullundur, and Secretary-Member of the Board.

# Insurance Policies

ITH a view to ameliorating the difficulties of refugee holders of insurance policies, the Government of India had addressed letters to Insurers doing life insurance business and Provident Societies, requesting that such refugees should be given generous treatment, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on Dec. 31.

A favourable response to this request has been received by the Government of India from the Insurers and Provident Societies.

In its letter to the Insurers, the Government of India explained how some refugees, who have been holding policies of life assurance with the Insurance Companies and Provident Societies in India and Pakistan, were unable to pay their premiums in time. It was re-quested that in view of the changed circumstances, the recent communal riots, end also in view of the large exodus of population each side resulting in dislocation of normal life of the policy-holders, the companies should accord generous treatment to the refugee policy-holders.

It was also requested that such policyholders should be given the benefit of having the surrender value adjusted in each policy towards the payment of outstanding premiums, if any, interest being calculated on overdue premiums at the lowest practicable rates.

In cases, where owing to inadequate surrender value, the policy had lapsed, the company should be prepared, on application, to revive the policy at the previous rates of premium for full sums assured without medical examination or with an appreciably easier one.

# LICENSED ARMS TO BE RESTORED

At the Inter-Dominion Conference which was held at Lahore on Sept. 14, 1947, it was agreed that persons crossing from India to Pakistan and vice versa should be allowed to take their licensed arms with them; and orders to this effect were issued. It has been brought to the notice of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan that these orders are not being fully implemented. Cases have been reported of licensed arms having been taken away, at the frontiers, sometimes even without receipts being

The two Governments wish to draw attention to their previous agreement on this subject, and have agreed to direct all officials concerned to ensure that their orders are in future implemented and to see, in cases where arms and ammunition have been confiscated contrary to inter-Dominion agreement, that steps are taken to restore them to their rightful owners.

# TACCAVI LOANS FOR REFUGEES Help to Ex-Service Refugee RESETTLING ON LAND MedicalOfficers

# Centre to Assist Provinces and States

THE Government of India are sending out displaced persons to various provinces and States for resettlement on land. It is realised that the displaced persons resettling on land may need assistance in various ways. They may need seed and bullocks or agricultural implements. In some cases they may need food and fodder for a period and assistance to build or repair houses.

Provincial Governments have been advised to help refugees resettling on land by advancing to them taccavi loans. Each provincial government will determine the extent of the help required.

In view of the magnitude of the task involved and to avoid delay in resettlement, the Government of India have made it clear that requests from provincial governments for loans of reasonable amounts will be sympathetically considered.

In addition to granting taccavi loans, refugees may have to be fed in the villages till the time of the next crop and for this purpose an absolute free grant may have to be made to them. The Government of India will be prepared to share this free grant with the Provincial Governments.

In a circular letter to all Provincial Governments and the Ministry of State, the Government of India have made the following suggestions:—

(a) For security of repayment, loans may be given as far as possible to groups of persons who bind themselves jointly and severally.

(b) Resettlement may be facilitated if persons coming from the same village are resettled in close proximity to one another. It is a sarranged, and the men are made jointly responsible, the risk of failure to repay will be minimised.

- (c) In order to check misuse, assistance may be given in kind to the extent possible and the assets may be hypothecated to Government.
- (d) The assistance, whether in cash or kind, may be given in instalments as required.
- (e) In considering resettlement of agriculturists the village artisans may not be overlooked. Like the agriculturists they may need assistance to set up their trades and repayable loans may be granted to willing artisans like carpenters and blackemitts.

The Government of India have also stressed that the provincial governments should give such other instructions as may ensure that the assistance is used to the best advantage and that the displaced persons are resettled as speedily as possible.

As Provincial Governments will derive substantial benefit in the shape of receipts from land revenue and in other ways, the provincial governments may reasonably be expected to bear the losses which may ultimately be incurred on the working of the scheme. If the Provincial Covernments desire, however, the Government of India would be prepared to consider sharing the losses on a reasonable basis.

# War Service Licentiates are admitted to the Lake Medical College, Calcutta, and are granted financial concessions in the shape of exemption from the payment of tuition and examination fees and cost of books and are also granted a maintenance allowance, says a Press Note. Fifty per cent. of the cost of these financial concessions is borne by the Government of India and 50 per cent. by the Provinces, States or the candidates themselves.

With a view to helping ex-service refugee medical licentiates, the Government of India have now selected eight ex-service refugee Medical Licentiates belonging to Sind, the N. W. F. P., Baluchistan and West Punjab for admission to the Lake Medical College, Calcutta, for the term commencing from December. In view of the circumstances arising out of the partition of the country, it has been decided that these candidates will be treated as Government of India candidates, who will bear the entire cost on their training.

Candidates now studying at the Lake Medical College, Calcutta, who were originally sponsored by Baluchistan and N. W. F. P. Governments and who have now expressed their desire to resettle in India, will be also given financial assistance by the Government of India.

# Registration of Refugee Claims In Provinces And States

Provincial Governments have made arrangements for refugees to register their claims for property left or lost in Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 15.

It adds: In the United Provinces, the Deputy Commissioner, Refugees, has been appointed as the Provincial Registrar of Claims. The District Magistrate in each District will be the District Registrar of Claims.

### In Bombay

In Bombay, the Refugee Officer and the District Collector have been authorised to register the claims of the refugees.

In Madras, the Special Deputy Collector for Madras City and the Collectors of the Districts have been authorised to register claims. They will forward the claims to the Special Officer and

Protector of Emigrants, who will consolidate and submit the claims to the Government of India.

The Central Provinces Government have issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners to get sworn declarations in duplicate from each claimant.

In Orissa, it is proposed to authorise Collectors of Districts to register claims.

In Bihar, Sub-Divisional Officers have been appointed as Registrar of Claims.

In Assam, the Assistant Director, Resettlement and Employment Exchange has been appointed as the Registrar of claims.

In Ajmer, claims will be registered by the Deputy Director of Relief and Rehabilitation.

# STANDARDISATION OF WAGES IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The question of standardisation of wages, bonus and dearness allowances, was discussed by the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles during its session in New Delhi, on Jan. 12.

The Committee considered various aspects of the problem such as the desirability of standardising basic wages throughout the country; whether a uniform set of basic wages should be adopted throughout the country or different sets of basic wages for different centres or areas; on what basic minima should the basic wages be worked out; the introduction of time-scales in basic wages; the necessity for standardising occupational nomenclature; whether dearness allowancer should be calculated in a simple and uniform manner, as suggested by the Central Pay Commission or whether they should be linked up with the local cost-of-living indices; how the allowances should be rationalised; whether a part of the dearness allowances should be absorbed in the basic wages; and the evolution of a formula for the payment of bonus.

After an examination of the different view points a Sub-Committee was appointed to prepare a draft resolution.

# DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S RESOURCES

# New Task Before Scientists

To be the tool of a foreign imperialism, and its two great tasks now are to develop Indian scientific talent to its utmost capacity so that it can make a worthy contribution to humanity's pool of scientific thought and knowledge, and to develop India's resources so that the lot of the common man in this country may be improved," said Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, F.R. S., presiding over an annual gathering of the National Institute of Sciences of India at Patna on January 1.

He continued: "No one will contend that today she has the technical personnel she needs for this task. Again, India will have to develop her science and industry for defence purposes, if she is to maintain her freedom and to pursue an independent foreign policy, or to pull her weight in defence arrangements in a Commonwealth or a system of alliances. Under foreign tutelage her scientific workers were not permitted to peep into the secrets of the War Office. But henceforward it is going to be the responsibility of Indian science to see that the Indian defence organisations do not suffer for want of scientific knowledge and scientific personnel".

#### **Need for Common Terms**

Discussing the problem of a common language of science for India as a whole, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar pointed out: "Our universities and learned bodies and education departments have to give immediate attention to the task of producing a supply of scientific text-hooks and scientific journals in Indian languages. The task I should think is one which would require the office of a central co-ordinating agency. The chief hitch at present would be the want of ready-made scientific terminology. This is a problem that requires very careful thought and much expert and erudite labour and it must not be decided in a hurry.

"The Education Ministry of the Government of India some time ago set up a committee to go into this question; and so also did the National Institute of Sciences. The Committee set up by the Institute seems to favour, when it informally met, the retention of English for the time being, as a vehicle of thought for advanced scientific knowledge, and the retention of the English technical and scientific terms in scientific writing in Indian languages. Scientific writing in India may have to be done in a number of languages, but it will be stupendous waste of labour in each of these set about coining its own scientific terms-such an enterprise might cost as much labour as did the Tower of Babel and for science in India its results might be no more propitious than those commonly associated with that monument. At the moment all I can say is that we must not lose sight of our objectives and these are:

(a) Indian scientific workers must be able to draw upon the world prol of scientific knowledge, and in repayment of this debt their own scientific work must be available as a contribution to this pool in a language which is not too difficult to learn and may have to be English.

(b) For the free exchange or scientific knowledge among the various centres in India a uniformity of scientific terminology is essential. It is hoped that the Fellows of the Institute would give the country a real lead in these matters."

#### Industrial Liaison Committee

Speaking on the need for practical utilisation of results of research conducted in various fields in India, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar referred to the manner in which organisations specially established for its promotion are functioning in countries like Britain, Canada and U. S. A. He described in particular the machinery and method of work of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industria! Chemistry in U. S. A.

Continuing he said, "All these methods and more will have to be adopted by us in India to make science really effective and understandable to masses. Realizing the importance of this aspect the Government of India set up an Industrial Research Utilisation Committee in 1941, a year after the creation of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Since April last this Committee has been replaced by an Industrial Liaison Committee whose functions remain the same as those of the Utilization Committee. The success of similar utilisation methods will show even to the lay Indian public the great advantages of scientific research".

Giving an example of the success of utilisation methods he added, "To take one concrete case only, it is estimated that vegetable oil lubricants valued at Rs. 5 crores were produced by the oil companies from the processes worked out by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Council did not derive any direct monetary benefit from this process but if the oil companies made a net 10 per cent. profit on these, they paid taxes on Rs. 50 lakhs profit and if this figure is worked out it will come to quite a substantial amount.

"In addition to this some 50,000 tons of shipping space with its sea freight and handling charges was saved and if this is calculated, the savings will amount to a handsome figure. Similarly, anti-gas cloth valued at over Rs. 1 crore was manufactured from the Council's formula. Here again the Council did not derive any direct monetary benefit but the indirect benefits to the country's



Sir S. S. Bhatnagar

economy will be found to be considerable".

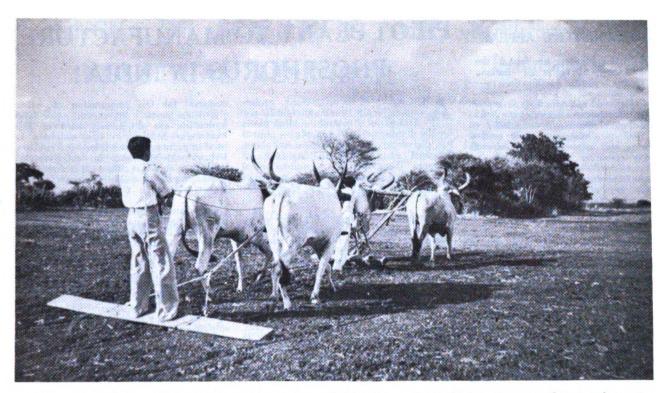
Early in the address Sir S. S. Bhatnagar referred to the great interest taken by the Prime Minister of India in scientific research. He had agreed, he said, to be the President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Scientific Consultative Committee. Secondly, he had been elected a Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India.

#### Agricultural Research

Speaking on the Central Government's activities relating to research, he said: "The Central Government maintains a number of institutes for training and research in agricultural sciences, animal husbandry, veterinary sciences, dairy, forestry and fisheries. The Government have sanctioned schemes for the expansion of facilities for research and training in these institutions.

"The Scientific and Technical Manpower Committee have 'recommended that the time has come when a coordination of agricultural education and training might be accepted through the creation of an All India Agricultural Council. The proposal is now under the consideration of the Government. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute is expanding facilities for training and research in all the major branches of agricultural sciences. The greatest necessity is felt that facilities for training and research in the basic agricultural sciences are provided for our young men at the highest level so that it becomes less necessary to send young men abroad excepting for specialised training in specific subjects and gaining up-to-date experience of technique and ideas abroad. This was the main purpose for which the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. was founded. I am glad to say that it is expanding now on these lines.

"During the last year the Agricultural Department gave serious consideration to the importance of measures of control



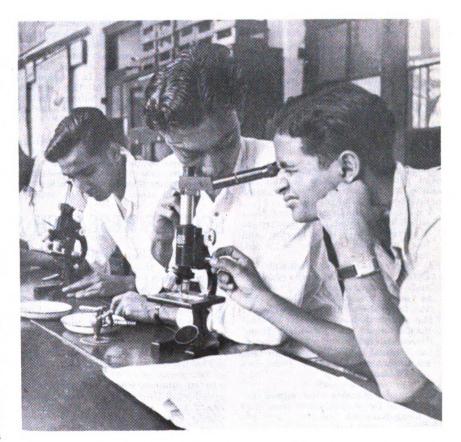
Students in an agricultural college in Deccan are given practical training on land. Picture shows a student learning sowing with the help of a seek drill which deposits the seed in the furrow at regular distances

of wheat against rust. The serious damage to the wheat crop last year which meant a loss of more than a million tons of wheat drew the attention of the Government to the subject. A scheme of research based on the note prepared by the staff of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute—this note has been published in Science and Culture—was sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with a view to effectively controlling rust problem. Very important work has already been done and the new scheme aims at strengthening the existing work and expanding further on all India basis the research work on the subject.

### **National Laboratories**

"Another matter which should receive the attention of all of us is the question of increased production from land. Two reports concerning soil productivity and soil conservation have been prepared and are under consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

"For some years, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has been making efforts to bring into being a number of national laboratories. The National Chemical Laboratories at Poona, the National Physical Laboratory at Delhi and the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur have already been planned and the work of construction has already started. The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute at Calcutta and the Fuel Research Station at Dhanbad are also busy in completing their building operations. The technological block of the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute is already working. When these labora-



Students are also given theoretical training in laboratories. Here, some of them are examining soil bacteria through the microscope

#### PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL

THE Prime Minister has issued the following appeal to all Indians having scientific quelifications:—

The Government of India have at present under consideration the report of the Scientific Manpower Committee appointed in April, 1947, to advise on the hest method of utilising and augmenting the scientific manpower resources of the country. A basic recommendation of the Committee, which the Government have accepted, is that immediate steps should be taken to prepare a roster of scientific talent that is now available. The necessity of such a roster is obvious.

The National Institute of Sciences had previously made an attempt to prepore such a roster but they were not able to make much headway. The Government of India have entrusted the work to the same agency working under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

I appeal to all persons in India, possessing degrees or diplomas in Science, to send complete information about themselves such as aye, permanent and present addresses, their scientific qualifications, research and industrial experience, their present occupation, the nature of the research work, if any, they are engaged upon, etc. This information should be sent to the Secretary to the National Institute of Sciences, India, University Buildinys, Delhi. I hope this information will be supplied soon and a complete roster prepared urgently.

tories are ready—they have been unfortunately very much delayed for reasons over which we had no control—they will constitute some of the finest laboratories in the world. Meanwhile the research work in these various fields has also been started at these centres in hired or improvised buildings.

#### **New Schemes**

"Amongst the new schemes of expansion sanctioned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research may be mentioned the following:—

"A nucleus of Building Research Unit which has started functioning at Roorkee with a skeleton stall and has published results of some interest.

"A Road Research Institute at
Delhi is being actively planned
and attempts are being made
to secure a plot of land for

to secure a plot of land for the Institute on the Muttra Road. "The Council has agreed to the establishment of a Central Drug Research Institute.

"The Council has also agreed to the establishment of a Food Technological Laboratory.

"The Finance Ministry has agreed to provide funds for the effective planning of the Drug Research Institute and the Food Technological Laboratory.

"The Council welcomes the establishment of the Indian Standards Institution. We are particularly happy as this is a child of the Council which sponsored its early establishment".

# PILOT PLANT TO MANUFACTURE PHOSPHORUS IN INDIA

8 a result of investigations undertaken by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, a pilot plant for the manfacture of 1 ton of phosphorus per day from rock phosphate has been designed at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, A non-technical note on the results of this work is published in a recent issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The annual consumption of red phosphorus in India was about 150 tons during the pre-war years. The present-day requirements of Indian match and non-ferrous metallurgical industries is estimated to be about 200-250 tons.

Most of the requisite equipment for the proposed pilot plant can be fabricated in India, while the raw materials are readily available. The capital expenditure of such a plant would be about Rs. 3 lakhs, while the building and working capital will cost about Rs. 2 lakhs. The cost per pound of amorphous red phosphorus produced is estimated at 10 as. 7 p. The note gives detailed data regarding the pilot plant and its construction, raw materials needed, estimates and cost sheet.

#### Celestite Find

Another article in the Journal reveals that Celestite (strontium sulphate), one of the chief minerals employed in the production of strontium salts, occurs in the cretaceous rocks of Trichinopoly district in South India. It is estimated that one million tons of this mineral occurs in this area and another half a million tons are reported to exist in Mianwali disrict in the Punjab.

Among the strontium salts employed for technical and other purposes, strontium carbonate is by far the most important. Besides its use in several industrial processes, particularly in the production of high-grade steel, it forms the starting

material for the preparation of other strontium salts. Strontium oxide and hydroxide are extensively used in the beet-sugar industry; the sulphate is used in paints and as a filler—for rubber; the chloride is used in refrigerators. Strontium salts are also used in fireworks, flares, signals, military rackets and tracer bullets.

Optimum conditions for the manufacture of strontium carbonate from Celestite have been determined in the laboratories of the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay. The economics of the process have been examined and the possibilities of utilising the abundant raw materials, as also of recovering the bye-products are discussed in detail. A point of social interest is the use of natural soda (Khar) as such for the conversion of strontium sulphate to strontium carbonate, which will bring down the cost of manufacture considerably. A conversion of 98.2 per cent is claimed by the process.

# Gluconic Acid

The problem of economic disposal of molasses has long attracted the attention of the industrial chemist. The direct conversion of uncrystallizable sugar from molasses, which averages up to 50 per cent. into valuable fermentation products is one of the methods suggested for the purpose. The production of gluconic acid by fermenting molasses after suitable pretreatment by a strain of Aspergillus niver has been discussed in another article appearing in the Journal. A yield of 80 to 84 per cent. on the basis of available glucose in molasses has been obtained by the process described.

Other articles of interest appearing in this issue of the Journal are the present position of soil survey in India and some aspects of the economics of sulphuric acid manufactre. The editorial deals with chemical engineering education in India.

# SCIENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP ABROAD

One Science Research Scholarship will be awarded this year, by the Royal Commissioners for the London Exhibition of 1851, to students from Indian Universities or institutions having post-graduate departments of Science, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on Jan. 3.

The scholarship, which is of the value of £350 per annum and tenable for a period of two years, is intended to enable the selected student, who has already completed a full University course and whose record gives evidence of capacity for original scientific investigation, to devote himself to post-graduate research in some branch of pure or applied Science at any institution abroad approved by the Commissioners.

Subjects of the Dominion of India and Indian States, below the age of 26

years on May 1, 1948 will be eligible for this scholarship. Applications from students, whether residing in India or abroad have to be recommended by the authorities of a University or an Institution and are to be made to Provincial Governments and Local Administrations through the Universities and Institutions concerned, who would forward them so as to reach the Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, not later than Mar. 10, 1948.

#### MARRIAGE BUREAU

Registration of male applicants with the Marriage Bureau in the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has been closed, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 17.

# COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND Manufacture of Scientific INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

WITH offect from January 1, 1948, the Governing Body of the Grand Company of the Grand Compan of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research was reconstituted as under for the period ending March 31, 1950, said a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, on Dec. 31.

### (I) Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

1. The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (President); (2). The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji (Vice-President); Syama Prasad Mookerji (Vice-President);

2. Mr. S. A. Venkataraman (Ministry of Industry and Supply);

4. Mr. P. C. Bhattacharya, (Ministry of Finance);

5. Professor M. N. Saha, Calcutta;

6. Sir J. C. Ghosh, New Delhi;

7. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, New Delhi;

8. Sir Ram, New Delhi;

9. Professor S. N. Bose, Culcutta;

10. Mr. G. L. Mehta. Bose, Calcutta: 10. Mr. G. L. Mehta, Bombay; 11. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad; 12. Sir A. L. Mudaliar, Madras; 13. Dr. S. S. Joshi, Benares; 14. Mr. Frank Anthony, New Delhi; 15. Sir V. N. Chandavarkar, Bombay; 16. The Hon'ble Sri H. Sitarama Reddy, Madras: 17. Dr. K. A. Hamied, M.A.,

Ph. D.; 18. Mr. G. D. Birla, New Delhi; 19. The Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, New Delhi; 20. Principal Niranjan Singh, Simla; 21. Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Bombay; 22. Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Bombay.

#### (II) Board of Scientific and Industrial Research

1. The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, (President); 2. The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, (Vice-President); 3. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, New Delhi; 4. Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, New Delhi; 5. Dr. B. C. Roy, Calcutta; 6. Mr. D. N. Sen, Calcutta; 7. Sir K. S. Krishnan, New Delhi; 8. Dr. Jivraj Mehta, New Delhi; 9. Dr. K. L. Moudgill, Trivandrum; 10. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Calcutta; 11. Sir J. C. Ghosh, New Delhi; 12. Professor M. S. Thacker, Bangalore; 13. Professor Birbal Sahni, Lucknow; 14. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad; 15. Prof. M. N. Saha, Calcutta; 16. Sir Shri Ram, New Delhi; 17. Dr. K. A. Hamied, Bombay; 18. Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Bombay; 19. Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Bombay; 20. Scientific Adviser to G. H. Q.; 21. Sir C. V. Raman, Bangalore; 22. Mr. D. N. Wadia, New Delhi; 23. Dr. J. N. Mukherjee, New Delhi.

# OLD AGE PROVISION FOR COAL MINERS

COMPULSORY Provident Fund scheme, which will ensure provision for old age to about 2,50,000 coal miners in India, is soon to be brought into force by the Government of India. The provision of Provident Fund to colliery workers was recommended in April, 1947, by the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Dispute) appointed by the Central Government.

The scheme, it is intended, should apply to all workers in collieries who are below the age of 55 and whose basic monthly salary is not over Rs. 300. Each worker will contribute roughly I anna in the rupee of his basic wage and the employer will pay an equal contribution if the worker has not been irregular.

#### Central Fund

According to the scheme, there will be a Central Fund for all collieries, with power to open Regional Offices. This will make it possible for the worker to continue participation in the scheme even when he changes employment from one colliery to another. It is proposed that the Central Fund should have a Board of Management and an Executive Committee on which the Central Government and the employers' and workers' organisations will be represented.

A worker who joins the fund will be entitled to get back the full sum at his credit when he retires after the age of 55 or when permanently invalided. If he dies, it will be paid to his nominees or to his heirs. The object of the Fund is to provide for the worker in his old age or for his heirs and dependents in case of his death.

The contributions will be collected through a system of special stamps pasted on cards. This system is expected to facilitate accounting and bring about a reduction in the cost of administration.

The payment of wages Act 1936, which ensures regular payment of all remuneration to workers and regulates deductions and fines by employers, was applied to coal mines from Jan. 15, 1948. Subsection 4 of Section 8 of the Act, relating to fines was not, however, applied, the question being under consideration by the Government, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Labour on Jan. 5.

A notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India, dated Jan. 3, 1948.

His Highness the Maharaja of Joul 1 tr has donated a sum of Rs. 10,000 to the Benevolent Fund of the Elementary Flying Training School, Royal Indian Air Force. In a letter acknowledging this handsome donation, Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Air Marshal Commanding the R. I. A. F., has conveyed to the Marharaja the appreciation of the R. I. A. F.

# Instruments in India

The promotion of the manufacture of scientific instruments in India is the object of a Special Committee appointed by the Central Government which started functioning in Calcutta from Jan. 12.

The Committee, of which Paranjpe is Chairman, will review the work of the Mathematical Instruments Office, Calcutta, with a view to reorganising its work and expanding its scope.

Among its terms of reference are:

- (i) the formulation of concrete plans, both short-term and long-term, for the development of the manufacture of scientific instruments and photographic, electronic and electro-acoustic equipment;
- (ii) an examination of the possibility using the Mathematical Instruments Office as a training centre for instruments makers, mechanics, etc; and
- (iii) a review of the terms and conditions of service of the employees there.

The Ministry of Industry and Supply are meanwhile appealing to the manufacturers of the mathematical instruments in India, and the trade in general to offer the Committee every kind of cooperation. They are particularly invited to communicate to the Chairman of the Committee their viess on the terms of reference stated above.

# **CONCILIATION BOARD'S** RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of India have decided that the recommendations of the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Dispute) regarding leave, promotions, medical laciligeneral nature should also be implemented in the coal fields of the C. P. and Berar and Orissa in so far as they are applicable and to the extent the present position falls short of them, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour on Jan. 6.

Although the recommendations of the Board were applicable only to Bengal and Berar, the Government had recognised that appropriate action would be necessary elsewhere. Accordingly, a Fact Finding Committee was appointed for the coalfields in the C. P. and Berar and Orissa to deal with the more important recommendations relating to the grant of monetary benefits and concessions which require special consideration in the light of varying local conditions. The Committee's report and the Government's decision granting similar benefits to the C. P. and Orissa miners were published in October 1947.

The Government of India hope that colliery owners, who have not so far implemented any of these recommendations, will do so without further avoidable



# NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

# Dr. Jivraj Mehta Outlines Proposals for Immediate Future

for the objective of a national health programme should be to provide the individual with adequate curative and preventive medical facilities not in relation to his capacity to pay for such facilities but also in relation to the requirements of his physical and mental condition," observed Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, in the course of his Convocation address at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay, on Jan. 5.

"In establishing an efficient health organisation", he continued, "preventive and curative measures should be properly integrated and domiciliary and institutional services provided for the people should work in the closest possible co-operation. Our health programme should lay emphasis not only on disease and on methods of dealing with it, but it should also concern itself with the promotion of positive health".

The implementation of the Bhore Committee's recommendations, Dr. Mehta said, would involve an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 crores in a period of 10 years. Though the financial resources of India at the present moment would not permit this expenditure for some time, we could not sit idle. The altered conditions demanded a reconsideration of the whole situation to enable the carrying out of necessary measures for medical relief and public health to meet conditions brought to the notice of the country in the Bhore Committee's report.

Dr. Mehta, therefore, put forward a four-fold health programme which should make provision tor:

(a) training of medical and ancillary personnel;

(b) expansion of existing health services; (c) the promotion of medical research, and

(d) education of the people to preserve their own health through the practice of personal and communal hygiene.

### Training of Personnel

Dealing with the training of medical and anculary personnel, Dr. Mehta said that there was need for laying greater emphasis on the training of non-medical workers. These could, with adequate supervision by doctors, be made to perform a wide variety of curative and preventive duties in a well-organised health programme. Preventive incculation, sterilisation of water supplies, elimination of flies, mosquitoes and other insect pests were all measures which could be undertaken by persons with relatively small periods of training. This was all the more necessary because the cost of their training was relatively less than that required for medical education.

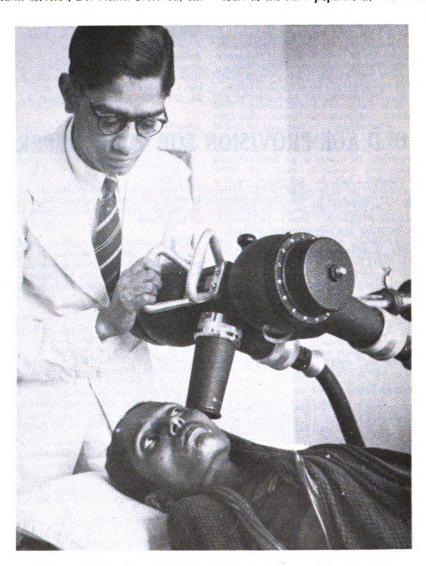
With regard to medical education, it was desirable to raise the number of

colleges, but the more urgent need was to raise the admissions to individual colleges, which could be done by providing a double shift of classes for laboratory subjects. For the clinical instruction of the additional students, Dr. Mehta suggested the idea of utilising the existing hospitals in cities, where medical colleges exist, which were not so far utilised at present. Such an arrangement would facilitate quicker outturn of doctors per year at a relatively cheaper cost than by a further increase in the number of medical colleges in the country.

In attempting to expand the existing health services, Dr. Mehta observed, one of the steps necessary was the "coalescing of the Medical and Public Health Departments in the provinces into a single organisation so that the fullest possible measure of co-operation between the two branches of health administration may be secured. Without such cooperation it is not possible to develop reasonably good services in many fields for example, maternity and child welfar work, control of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and venered diseases and supervision of health of school children".

Dr. Mehta suggested for the consideration of the Provincial Governments that an organisation be set up to carry expert medical advice to the remoter areas in a district which would be the unit of health administration. A mobile team consisting of a well-qualified physician, a surgeon, a gynaecologist and obstetrician, and ophthalmologist, an aural surgeon and a clinical pathologist should be organised for service in two adjoining districts in the first instance, its range of jurisdiction being reduced later to a single district.

This scheme will have the merit of bringing expert medical relief near the doors of the rural population, which form



A doctor of the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bombay, centering the X-ray beam on to a patient



Anti-Malaria operations: A doctor of the Malaria Institute of India examines the spleen of a village school boy

such an overwhelming part of the inhabitants of the country. Such a mobile team could visit selected centres in the districts where temporary hospitals, say, tents provided for the purpose, could be housed, and these mobile hospitals could be shifted from centre to centre in the districts every few weeks, so us to bring specialised medical relief to remote village areas, as far as possible.

#### Hospital Structures

"In view of acute shortage of steel and cement, so essential for construction of permanent hospital structures, we should concentrate on constructing 30-bcdded Primary Health Centres or small Dispensary Hospitals, about 2,500 of which would be needed for the whole country to meet the short-term programme recommended by the Bhore Committee, in different parts of the country, and such centres, including the houses for the medical, nursing and other staff, should be constructed of sun-dried bricks rendered with mud plaster like the other village buildings in the north of the country and in the other parts of the country such structures may mainly consist of ballies, bam-boos and clastic, with tiled sor thatched roof.

It is readily understandable that we cannot obtain a hygienic finish in such buildings, but where this is required, as in the case of operation theatres and treatment rooms, burnt bricks may be utilised and stone pavement for flooring. wherever stone may be easily available. Thus, if Primary Health Centres could be constructed our of local materials available in rural areas, and if the assistance of the village-people is sought in constructing them, the cost of construction would be considerably reduced and the recommendations of the Bhore Committee for extended medical relief more speedily put into effect than is otherwise possible". Such structures would last 10 to 15 years by which time, Dr. Mehta hoped, it might be possible to put the long-term programme

of the Bhore Committee recommendations into effect.

Dr. Mehta expressed the opinion that the services of practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine could be utilised for a wide variety of functions, particularly in the preventive field, with adequate training given to them either as part of their curriculum or, at a later stage, before admission to public service.

Dealing with the problem of medical research, Dr. Mehta proposed whether a small cess on drugs and medical appliances entering the country from abroad could not be imposed statutorily in order to provide an annual source of income for the Indian Research Fund Association, the premier organisation for the promotion of medical research in the country. He also suggested that apart from the Central Government, Provinces should also contribute their share to the cause of medical research.

### **Health Education**

Health education, Dr. Mehta observed, was a subject of great importance. It could not, in his opinion, be divorced from general education, which included the training which the individual began to acquire at home from the early period of his life as well as the training he received at his school and in later life. The health education programme should be so extensive as to influence the individual through every stage of his life. Even so, infancy and childhood were the periods during which the individual's main habits were formed and the health education programme should concentrate on the teaching of the parents, particularly the mother, to impart proper training to their children as well as on the teachers who could influence materially the formation of habits in children at an impressionable age. He felt that health education could produce its most lasting effects if it were grafted on to general education both for children and adults.

# Radio-Photo Service Station

THE RADIO photo Service Station, which transmits photographs and drawings, balance-sheets and documents to the U. K. and the U. S. A. has now been shifted from Kirkee to Bombay.

The service which started in 1943, mainly for use by Government, was thrown open to the public at the end of the war. In addition to Press photographs, the service is used regularly for sending the monthly balance-sheets of some companies also.

The rates for transmission to the U. K. are different for Government, Commercial and Press matter, while there is a uniform rate for transmission to the U. S. A. They are:

# (1) Press Matter

Rs. 40-8-0 (up to 150 sq. cm.); Rs. 54 (151 to 250 sq. cm.); Rs. 67-8-0 (251 to 350 sq. cm.); Rs. 81 (351 to 450 sq. cm.) and Rs. 94-8-0 (451 to 475 sq. cm.)

### (2) Commercial Matter

Rs. 67-8-0; Rs. 87-12-0; Rs. 108; Rs. 128-4-0 and 148-8-0 respectively and

### (3) Government Matter

Rs. 33-12-0; Rs. 43-14-0; Rs. 54; Rs. 64-2-0 and Rs. 74-4-0 respectively.

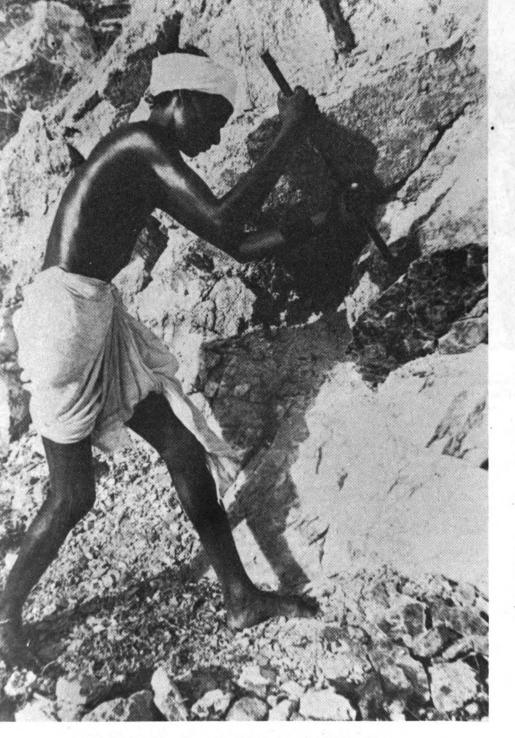
The rates to the U.S.A. are Rs. 67-8-0 up to 150 sq. cm. and Rs. 33-12-0 for every additional 100 sq. cm. or part thereof.

# Technique of Transmission

Any picture, in fact, any matter in black and white, can be translated into electric waves and sent as far as the radio waves go. During transmission, a microscopic spot of light is made to traverse the picture of document, line by line, by a spiral movement. The light reflected on the spot on the picture is concentrated on a photo-electric cell which translates light and shade into proportionate amounts of current and thus functions like a microphone in broadcasting.

The released current is handled as in a broadcasting station with the difference that the received current, instead of working a loudspeaker, is used to control the brightness of a spot of light like the one at the sending end. This spot of varying intensity traverses a sheet of photographic paper whose movement exactly synchronises with that at the sending end. The photographic paper is then handled like any ordinary negative to reproduce the pictures or documents.

Further information regarding the service can be had from the General Traffic Manager, Government of India Overseas Communications Service, Central Telegraph Office, Bombay.



of the Welfare Commissioner (Chairmen) appointed by the Central Government, the Mica Controller, Bihar, the Commissioner of Labour, Bihar, a member of the Bihar Legislature, three representatives each of mica mine-owners and mining workers in Bihar and a lady representative in case there is no woman on the Committee representing workers. The Advisory Committee for Madras will likewise consist of the Collector of Nellore (Chairman) the President of the Nellore District Board, a member of the Madras Legislature, two representatives each of mica mine-owners and mining workers in Madras and a lady representative. The headquarters of these Committees will be fixed by the respective Provincial Governments.

#### Finance Sub-Committee

The main functions of these Committees will be to advise the Central Government on schemes of welfare activities for mica miners and to consider the annual budget of the Mica Miners Welfare Fund as prepared by the Executive of the Committee. There will be a Finance Sub-Committee to assist the Advisory Committee in framing schemes of expenditure.

The Central Government are appointing Rai Bahadur B. N. Singh, Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner, Dhanbad, as the Welfare Commissioner in respect of the activities of this Fund in Bihar.

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(Left) A young Mica miner easing out a book' of mica. (Below) The cutting of mica to the required shape is done mostly by women and children.

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# WELFARE OF MICA MINERS

BRIGHTER prospects are now open to over 60,000 mica miners of India, whose deplorable conditions were revealed in the Rege Committee's report published two years ago. Work for their welfare will be initiated shortly with the formation of Advisory Committees in Bihar and Madras, which have now been announced by the Central Government.

These Committees are set up under the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act under which a 2½ per cent al valorem cass is being levied on exports for mica from India since April 1946. The angual yield of the cess is estimated at about Rs. 9,00,000.

The composition of the Committees and their functions are described in the Rules made under the Act which are published in the Gazettes of India dated January, 10, 1948. According to these Rules, the Bihar Committee will consist





The Industrial Committee on Cotton Textiles met in New Delti on January 12 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister. A view of the Committee in session

# BETTERMENT OF WORKERS' CONDITIONS

# Labour Minister's Address to Industrial Committee

THE need of increasing production and of bettering the conditions of the working classes was stressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, in his speech at the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Textiles which concluded its session in New Dalhi on Jan. 14.

The Labour Minister announced that the Government proposed to take such action as it thought necessary on the various items considered by the Committee although no unanimous resolution could be reached.

### Standard of Living

Mr. Jagjivan Ram observed that the condition of the working classes in India was far from satisfactory, not only in the textile industry but in other industries as well. He pointed out that the standard of living in India was low in comparison with other countries and that it should be the effort of both the employers and the employees -if necessary with Government help-to try to raise it. He hoped that the joint efforts of all concerned would be directed towards this end and appealed to both employers and workers to spare no efforts in increasing production as it was only way to raise the standard of living of all the people.

The Labour Minister stated that in conformity with the practice obtaining

there had been discussions in the plenary sessions and at the Committee stages and all the viewpoints of the different sections of workers and employers had been heard. As a new innovation, however, it was attempted this time to have some resolutions. He was not sorry that they had not been able to reach a few unanimous resolutions because that was not going to handicap Government in any way. The employers, the workers and Provincial Governments all had their say and their view points noted by the Government. He did not want to enumerate the various actions that the Central Government would take but they would follow in one course either by executive action or legislation, as the case may be.

# Training Facilities for Workers

The Committee agreed in principle to the revision of training facilities for workers in the industry during its second session on Jan. 13. It is understood that a detailed scheme would be prepared soon by the Ministry of Labour in consultation with employers and workers.

Steps for increasing the production of cloth and yarn were also examined. They included the feasibility of working three shifts wherever possible and the practicability of working a 9-hour shift

and the connected problems such as housing, change-over, overtime wage rates and rationalisation. After an exhaustive discussion the Drafting Sub-Committee was asked to prepare a resolution acceptable to all the parties concerned.

The question of instituting Provident Fund was also left to the Drafting Committee after some discussion.

# COAL TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Government of India are setting up, it is understood, a Coal Transport Advisory Committee under the chairman-ship of Sir S. N. Roy.

The Committee, which will have its headquarters in Calcutta, will meet every week to review coal movement during the week preceding and prepare a tentative programme for the next week.

Clearing of transport bottleneck in the colliery area of Bihar and Bengal, which it is the object of this Committee to effect, it is expected, marks the first positive step towards solving the problem of coal shortage, which affects the entire problem of production in the country.

Besides the Chairman, there will be twelve other members of the Committee, including the Coal Commissioner to the Government of India, General Managers of the E. I. R. and the B. N. R. and representatives of shipping companies, colliery owners and labour.

#### **ECONOMIC PARLIAMENT OF ASIA**

## Scope and Functions of ECAFE

Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at a Press conference in New Delhi on January 10, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Executive Secretary of the Commission, said that ECAFE was established by the Economic and Social Council in March, 1947, for the purpose of promoting reconstruction and development, for raising the level of economic activity, and for strengthening the economic relations of the countries included in its scope both between themselves and between them and the rest of the world.

It held its first meeting at Shanghai in June, 1947, and the second session was convened at Boguio, the summer capital of the Philippine Republic, on Nov. 24, and lasted two full weeks. At this session, which was opened by President Manuel Roxas of the Philippine Republic who in a stirring speech pleaded for more active assistance on the part of U. S. A. and the United Nations to Asian countries in their task of reconstruction, many important decisions were taken and resolutions passed of vital interest to Asian economy.

Endorsing the conclusions of a survey of essential short-term reconstruction needs prepared by the Secretariat that the immediate task was the reconstruction of agriculture and transport so as to relieve the critical shortages of food everywhere, the Commission advised the Food and Agricultural Orgnisation (F. A. O.) to formulate immediately a Food Programme for the countries of this region for the year 1948 and 1949, taking full note of the action in the technical and financial sphere needed to expend food supply and wherever possible to increase the export of food and raw materials.

#### Industrial Development

For this purpose the F. A. O. has been asked to set up a Working Party of experts to visit the deficit areas and make recommendations. A Food and Agricultural Committee for this region has been recommended to be set up jointly with E.C.A.F.E. and arrangements are afoot for the Secretariat of the F.A.). to work closely with that of E.C.A.F.E.

Continuing, Dr. Lakanathan said: I have been empowered as Executive Secretary to convene a conference of officials engaged in the agricultural reconstruction of the countries of this region with a view to the adoption of methods whereby their agricultural and food plans may be speedily put through.

The Commission recognised that an increase in the standard of living of the peoples of this region cannot be brought about except through rapid industrialisation and more balanced economy and hence has adopted a bold and far-reaching resolution on industrial development. It has directed the Secretariat to prepare before the next

session a report on industrial development with the assistance of a Working Party of four experts to be selected from among a panel of names to be nominated by the Government of the region. This Working Party has been advised to study the plans of countries in their relation to economic progress as a whole, to examine their technical and financial needs, to confer through the Executive Secretary with Governments and specialised agencies like the Internatinal Bank which are in a position to render assistance, to co-ordinate these plans wherever necessary and feasible and present their concrete proposals for implementation.

I am glad that the Prime Minister of India has agreed to nominate an expert for this Working Party despite some inconvenience, and for it is hoped that this body will assemble early in February to decide its place of action.

#### Inter-Asian Trade

The countries of Asia owing to their past political relations had not made full use of the opportunities for closer trade relations among themselves. It is the Commission's desire to facilitate the operation of normal economic and geographical factors, and towards that end has recommended the setting up of a working section under the Secretariate actively to promote trade relations in this region.

This Working Section will seek to encourage the establishment of trade promotion departments in countries where none exists yet, to find out that commodities, if any, in excess of domestic requirements are unable to move out for want of foreign exchange elsewhere and what commodities urgently required are difficult to secure for want of foreign exchange facilities, and to remove the bottlenecks to trade. On the basis of experience gained by its work in the next four months, a more permanent trade promotion machinery will be set up by the Commission at its next session.

Of more than ordinary interest and significance to economic development is a resolution adopted at the Boguio session for the setting up of a working section for the promotion of exchanges of trainees among the countries of the region and for assistance in the matter of securing expert personnel both from abroad and from within the region. Already several countries, including India, have agreed to the principle of regional co-operation in this field by placing available training facilities open to the nationals, of other countries in the region. It is hoped also that some countries will pool their requirements for experts and arrange to get them on a sharing basis. Considerable results are expected out of action in this field and it is probable that trainees under this scheme will start their education in July.

The Indian Delegation at Boguio was responsible for the adoption by the Commission of a resolution of immediate real value to E.C.A.F.E. countries which are importers of foodgrains. Recognising that the high prices charged for food and other agricultural imports stand in the way of reconstruction and development by eating away most of the available foreign exchange resources, the Commission had made an appeal to the food exporting countries and F.A.O. to reduce the prices to a more reasonable level. I have already communicated th's resolution to the countries concerned and it is my hope that at the meeting towards the end of January initiated by F.A.O. where food prices will be discussed action will follow.

#### Economie Parliament

The Commission has no executive powers nor are its resolutions and decisions binding upon the governments. No action can be taken in respect of any matter without the concurrence of the country concerned. Nevertheless there is no doubt that the decisions of the Commission, because they are freely arrived at by representatives of the Governments that meet at conference, have a very good chance of being implemented. Boards of Allocations may also be set upon a volunteer basis.

The commission is, I believe, of great historical significance. For the first time Asian countries, hitherto having remained apart, may now come together at Governmental level to discuss their common problems of action and thus develop the habit of regional co-operation. It is not too much to say that E.C.A.F. E. is something like an economic Parliament of Asia.

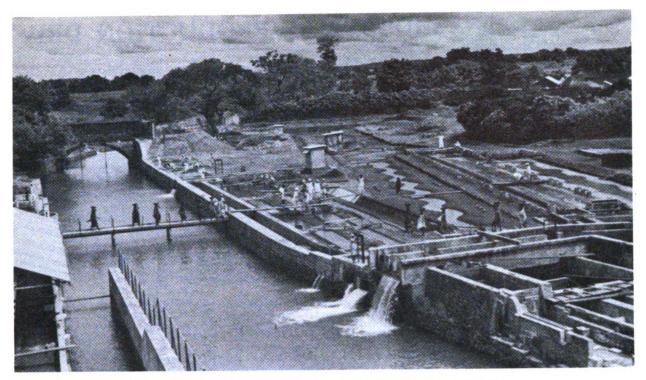
The presence of countries like the U. S. A. and U.S.S.R. is to be welcomed because of their role in the economic development of ECAFE countries and in raising standards of living. The U. S. A. Delegation have been taking an active interest in the work of the Commission and when the programmes for agricultural and industrial development are worked cut, it may be expected that the U. S. A. will express its support in a very concrete form and in a big way.

#### Meeting in India

The Secretariat is at present having its offices at Shanghai and works under the Executive Secretary. It has a budget of about 600,000 dollars for this year, which will be added to if necessary. Its permanent headquarters will be where the U. N. O. sets up its regional offices in Asia. Until then it will be temporarily located in some country in Asia, the determination of which will be made at the next meeting in May which, on the invitation of the Government of India, will be in India, most probably Ootacamand. All preparatory stages will then have been completed and the session in India will be the beginning of positive action.

The function of the Commission, besides its own direct work, is to stimulate action on the part of the governments

(Continued on Page 177)



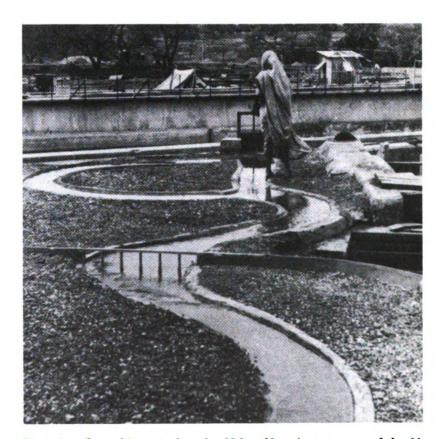
A view of the River Model Experiment Station at Khadakwasla, near Poona

## Important Investigations At Poona Waterways Station

NUMBER of important investigations carried out at the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona, during 1946 with the aid of models are described in the latest Annual Report published by the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona. The object of these experiments was to train tidal and non-tidal rivers at important bridges and masonry structures, preventing scour downstreams of anicuts or weirs; controlling sand entering canals etc. Advice was also given by the Station in many cases without models.

Inquiries from various quarters of India are increasing, as a result of increased confidence in the work done by this Station following the correct and successful diagnosis and effective remedies suggested by the Station and the material savings accruing therefrom. Some of the important problems dealt with by the Station during 1946 are described below.

During the floods of 1945, serious damage to the downstream sloping protection of the Central Sluices of the Mahanadi Anicut at Cuttack occurred and threatened to encroach upon the pucca pavenent and flexible apron. The local officers had proposed to repair the damaged floor with laterite blocks embedded in cement concrete. The site was inspected by the Director and



By cutting off one of its meanders, the Malaprabha river, represented by this model, shortened itself by one mile. The increased speed of the river flow caused by the cut off shown here threatened to destroy the railway bridge by erosion, but the danger was eliminated by cutting back the right bank of the river upstream as a result of experiments carried out in this medel

he considered the measures proposed to be taken by the local officers only of a palliative nature; instead he suggested a series of three bafte walls, one helow the other, to dissipate the excess energy released due to the high water level upstream of the Central Sluices and very low water level downstream. The model experiments subsequently carried out confirmed the diagnosis of the case and the solution suggested by the Director. The work has been carried out and the Central Sluices are now immune from the recurring damage.

The Luni river debouches from hills near Ajmer and collecting water on the way from various distributaries, flows westwards till it reaches Gole, a railway station on the Jodhpur-Hyderabad line, where it turns southwards and flows straight to meet the Arabian Sea. When the bridge was constructed over the Luni, a concave guide bank was provided on the left bank to guide the water through the bridge. In the 1939 high floods the guide breached and another breach also occurred in the railway bank. Again, during the flood of 1941—the maximum recorded since 1917—large breaches recurred in the guide bund and about 600 feet length of the railway embankment was severely damaged, heavy dumage was also caused to the ? end piers on the left bank, one of which collapsed alto-

The tendency of these Jodhpur rivers is to widen their beds rather than deepen, due to large quantities of sand washed down and the torrential nature of the floods.

#### **Additional Spans**

Various remedial measures were tested in the model and the most promising recommended. Additional spans and new guide banks, upstreams and downstream of the bridge, based on the latest ideas, will, it is expected, considerably improve the present unsatisfactory flow conditions at the bridge and lessen the action along both the banks.

In 1943, the Sutlej after passing through the Empress Bridge dangerously approached the Station Yard. The Director of the Station was called for advice and he suggested a long repelling groyne to keep the river away from the Yard. This groyne was constructed before the 1940 dood season and acted entirely satisfactorily until it breached because it was not sufficiently protected, as it should have been. The case was, therefore, referred to the Station, which undertook to carry out model experiments on behalf of the N. W. Railway.

The movements of the river since 1902 were closely studied and model experiments were carried out at the Station. A long spur just downstream of the breached spur has been recommended. This could either be a spur built of trees or impermeable spur built in stone. It is expected that this spur, duly protected, will prevent erosion of the left bank and will create favourable conditions further upstream for a cut-off channel to occur and short-circuit the Yard. When this happens, the Station

(Continued in Column 3)

## he considered the measures proposed to be taken by the local officers only of a INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DRIVE

## Dr. Mookerjee's Address

THE setting up of an All-India Industrial Advisory Council is likely to mark the second stage of an all out drive by the Central Government to increase industrial production eccording to the Hon'ble Dr. Shyamz Prasad Mooker, ee, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, who met members of the various Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta on Pec. 31. The lirst step in this direction has been the holding of a tripartite conference of Industry, Labour and States in Delhi earlier last month, which has unanimously recommended three years' truce between employees and employers.

#### " Production Week"

The proposed Council, Dr. Mookerjee said, would be composed of representatives of main industries. It would meet periodically to review production position in the country and suggest ways and means to implement the recommendations of the said industrial conference. Similar advisory bodies could also be formed on Provincial basis to deal with problems

relating to industries in their areas, he added.

In order to encourage increased production, Dr. Mookerjee felt that a "Production Week" might be observed in January all over India. While industrialists should accommodate all legitimate claims of labour, it was time, the Hon'ble Minister pointed out, that the latter should also be imbibed with a new spirit in keeping with the changed conditions in the country. Now that alien rule was over and Peoples' Government was in power, any action by labour which might hamper production would be a hetrayal of national interest and would ultimately mean their own ruinction too. "Produce or Perish" should be the slogan of the day, Dr. Mooker, ee emphasised.

Later the Hon'ble Minister received a few deputations of paper manufacturers, non-ferrous metals and chemicals manufacturers' associations which placed their viewpoints regarding their respective industries before him.

#### NAUTICAL COLLEGE FOR INDIA

NDIA, like most other maritime countries, will have a Nautical College for the higher training of merchant shipping officers if the Government accepts this recommendation of the Morchant Navy Officers' Training Committee. The Committee has submitted an interim Report, which is under the Government's consideration.

At present the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship, "Dufferin", gives a three-year course of training to cadets before they go to sea. But after acquiring the sea experience necessary to make them eligible to take examinations, conducted by Government, for a Mate's or Master's Certificate, they have to prepare on their own for these examinations; and it has been found that as a result an unduly high percentage of candidates fail.

#### Training Facilities

In order to avoid this, the Committee stresses the importance of the establishment of a Nautical College, preferably in Bombay, to offer training facilities to candidates who wish to qualify for various certificates of competency in navigation and nautical engineering. It is felt that a three to six months course in such an institution should suffice for most of the candidates after their practical training at sea. Apart from Navigation, subjects taught in the college would include mathematics, astronomy, meteorology and law as applied to shipping.

The standard set for the Mate's and Master's examinations in India is on a par with that for similar tests conducted in Britain, and Indian certificates are of world-wide validity. In nautical engineering, the examinations held in India are of the First Class Engineer's standard. Thus a candidate need go abroad only to compete for the Extra Master's Certificate or the Extra First Class Engineer's Certificate.

The nature of the training which should be provided for ordinary seamen and the question of expanding the "Dufferin's" pre-sea training facilities will, it is understood, be dealt with by the Committee in its final report.

Pilgrim ships "Khosrou" and "Akbar" which sailed from Jedda on Jan. 2 and 4, 1948, arrived at Karachi, with 1,363 and 1,370 pilgrims respectively, on Jan. 13, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Jan. 15.

After disembarking pilgrims at Karachi both ships proceeded to Bombay on the same day.

(Continued from Column 1)

Yard will be permanently protected from further attack.

The annual Report also includes an interesting chapter giving an historical account of the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poons, from 1916 to 1946, describing the activities of the Station in various fields of research.



Armoured cars of Indian Cavalry regiment on patrol duty in Jammu

## Defence Minister's Tribute to Indian Troops Fighting in Kashmir

WISH to express the admiration of the Prime Minister, of myself and of our colleagues in the Government of India, for the work of the troops and the Air Force operating under your command in Kashmir", says the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, Government of India, in the course of a special message to the Maj. Gen. Kulwant Singh, General Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir Force and Air Commodore Mehr Singh, D. S. O., Air Officer Commanding, No. 1 Operational Group, R. I. A. F., respectively.

The message reads: "Moved out at short notice, and fighting against considerable odds, all units have shown great gallantry and have done magnificient work. This is all the more praiseworthy when it is remembered that many had had little or no time to reorganise after reconstitution.

"Units were moved into Kashmir at short notice with little time to be properly organised, but all difficulties have been overcome and aircraft have been kept in the air. Pilots have displayed

National Peace Brigade volunteers distributing rations to refugees on the roadside at Chauki Chura ( Jamma )

courage and the offensive spirit and long and difficult air sorties have been carried out to the great benefit of the operations as a whole.

"The country is full of admiration for the deeds of the army and for the work of the air crews and the air force ground staff that so well supported them and fully appreciates the difficulties of all kinds, not least that of climate, which beset them. At the same time none doubts their ability to bring the campaign to a successful close.

"The area of operations is being declared an operational one so that your troops and air forces, based in or flying over Kashmir, will be eligible for the pensions and other concessions connected with Field Service, and so that all may recognise and appreciate to the full the nature of their task".

## THEY KNEW THE CYPHER: Pakistan Expresses Regret

The Pakistan Government explained a few days after they first complained that the text of the Government of India's reference to the Security Council regarding Kashmir, which was telegraphed to Karachi on Dec. 21, was undecypherable, that they had been able to decypher the message.

They expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to the Government of India in calling for repetition.

The cypher employed by the Government of India was one with which both Governments were familiar as it was transmitted to Karachi by a machine, of which several were delivered to Pakistan at the time of partition.

The statement, therefore, of the Pakistan Prime Minister that the telegram could not be decyphered had mystified officials of the Government of India. The delay in Karachi in decyphering this important message was not due to any oversight or mistake in New Aelhi.

Placings by Employment Exchanges reached a new peak during November, 1947. 15,797 applicants, of whom 8,216 were ex-Servicemen, were placed in employment by the 53 Exchanges in the Indian Dominion. The number of displaced persons from West Pakistan, who were found jobs up to the end of November, was 6,667.

From the beginning of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation up to the end of November, 1947, 261,259 persons of whom 1,70,608 were exervice-men, were found employment. During November, 1587 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 234 Training Centres in India. This brings the total number of such persons to 40,247. Postings during the month include 1,485 ex-Servicemen to Vocational and Training Centres and 102 disabled persons to Training Centres for the Disabled. The total number of persons under training at the end of the month was 9,732.



### INDIA HOUSE RECEPTION TO MR. C. H. BHABHA

Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, High Commissioner for India in London, gave a reception in honour of the visit of the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Minister for Commerce, Government of India, during the latter's recent visit to London. These pictures show (above) Mr. C. H. Bhabha (left) talking to Sir Charles Cunningham and (below) Sir Walter Monckton (left) former Adviser to the Nizam of Hyderabad, Lady Monckton and Mr. Krishna Menon photographed at the reception.



### Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, KBE., CB., AFC., who will continue to command the Royal Indian Air Force, has had a long and distinguished career with the Royal Air Force.

Born in 1895, he entered the Royal Navy when he was thirteen years of ege and, after flying in the Naval Air Service for four years in World War I, transferred to the Royal Air Force in 1919. During World War II, he was with the Boftiber Command and in 1940 was appointed to the Fighter Command for the Battle of Britain.

Later, he visited Turkey as Air Member of the British Mission, to conduct staff conversations with the Turkish General Staff. In 1941, he commanded the Koyal Air Force in Egypt and was made Air Defence Commander in Egypt.

In 1942, he was Chief of Administration and Endin Command of the Desert Air Porce, and took part in the Gazala Battle, withdrawal to EI Alamein, the battles of EL Alamein and the advance to Tripoli with the Eighth Army.

In 1913, he was appointed Chief of Administration of the First Allied Tactical Air Force, Algiers, and took part with the British, American and French armics in the advance to Tunis and the capture of Sicily. He was also Chief of Adminis-

tration and 2nd-in-Command of Allied Air Forces, other than American, in Europe from the beginning of the Normandy invasion until the fual route of the Germans. Subsequently, he was Assistant Chief of Air Staff at the Air Ministry in London and later on, in 1947, came out to India as Chief of Inter-Services Administration.

On Aug. 15, 1947, when India attained freedom, he was appointed Air Marshal Commanding the Royal Indian Air Force, which on the same date, under the Air Marshal, became an Independent Armed Force of the Government of India.

#### LIVESTOCK CENSUS

In connection with the World Agricultural Census, 1950 undertaken by F. A. O., the Indian Ministry of Agriculture is collecting information on the characteristics of farm population and livestock production.

At present a livestock census is carried out once in five years in a majority of the Provinces and States and as it is the only census taken on a village basis, the importance of obtaining accurate statistics has been stressed in a communication the Central Government addressed to Provinces and States.

## PARACHUTE JUMPING INSTRUCTOR'S COURSE

#### Passing out Parade at Agra

IR Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst,
Air Marshal Commanding the
Royal Indian Air Force visited
No. 4 Wing R. I. A. F. Agra on
Jan. 9, and took the salute at
the passing out parades of personnel
who had successfully completed the
navigator's course and the paraclute
jumping instructor's course.

Addressing the men, the Air Marshal paid a tribute to the remarkable achievement of No. 12 Squadron RIAF. in carrying supplies in the Kashmir operations. He laid emphasis on the need for discipline, loyalty and efficiency without which, he said, no armed force can be of service, to the Government.

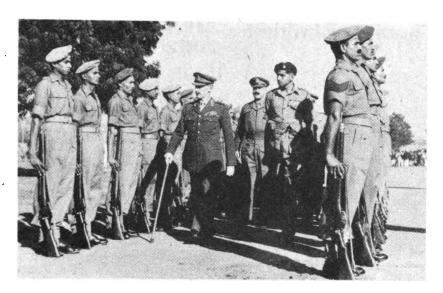
Accompanied by Air Commodore Mehr Singh, Commanding the KIAF operational Group, the Air Marshal later visited the officers' Mess.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pakala Venkata Rajamannar, a Judge of the Madras High Court, to act as Chief Justice of that court with effect from Jan. 15, 1948, in the vacancy of the Hon'ble Sir Frederick Gentle, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Jan. 14.



Parachute Jumping Instructors of the Royal Indian Air Force held a successful demonstration in Parachute jumping recently at Agra in the presence of Air Marshel Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Air Marshel Commanding the R. I. A. F. Hore Air Marshel Elmhirst is seen presenting the wing to LAC Gill





Lt. Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, former Chief of the General Staff. General Headquarters India, left for U. K. recently. Picture shows Sir Arthur Smith inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by the Raj. Rif. Regimental Centre Troops, at the New Delhi railway station, where he entrained for Bombay en route to the United Kingdom

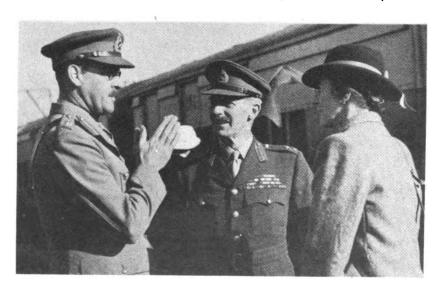
## Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith Leaves for U. K.

SEVERAL high-ranking officers of the Indian Armed Forces were present on January & at the New Delhi Railway Station to bid farewell to Lieut Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, KCB, KBE, DSO, M.C., former Chief of the General Staff, General Headquarters, India, who left by train for Bombay, en route to the United Kingdom.

On the ceremonial platform of the New Delhi railway station a guard of honour was provided by troops of the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre. The Rajputana Rifles Regimental band was in attendance.

Gen. Smith was educated at Eton and Sandhurst and joined the Coldstream Guards in 1910. In World War I he was awarded the D. S. O., M. C. and the Croix de Guerre and mentioned in despatches five times.

At the outbreak of World War II he was a Brigadier in Egypt and from 1941 to 1942 Chief of the General Staff in the Middle East. He was knighted in 1942 and returned to England to take up the appointment of G. O. C.-in-C., London District, where he remained until he took over command of the Persia-Iraq theatre in 1944. He was (Continued in Col. 3)



Sir Arthur Smith (centre) and Lady Smith with Lt.-Gen. F. R. R. Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army

## GEN. SIR ROB LOCKHART'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

On relinquishing his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart sent a farewell message to all ranks, which has just been re-published in a special Indian Army Order.

The message reads: "With very real regret I am vacating the appointment which I have been proud to hold since Aug. 15, 1947.

"I am extremely sorry that during the time I have been your Commander-in-Chief, circumstances have prevented me from seeing as many of you as I had wanted and hoped to see. I thank all of you who have done so much in so many ways and in so many places to help our new Dominion through the difficulties which so early beset it. We have all just cause to be proud of the part that the Indian Army has played. I am confident that you will cherish and live up to the great traditions and the soldierly qualities for which the Indian Army is so justly famous, and add still further to your good name.

"I wish all ranks good-bye and all success and happiness in the future. I shall watch for news of your doings with the keenest interest".

#### MESSAGE TO R. I. A. F.

"I take with me the happiest memoies of my relations with Air Head-quarters and the RIAF", says Gen. Sir Rob Lockhart, in a message to Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Air Marshal Commanding the Royal Indian Air Force.

The message reads "On vacating my appointment as C-in-C of the Indian Army, I write to thank you and all your staff for all their help and co-operation during the time I was C-in-C; they were always given so readily and in so friendly a way. Good luck to you all".

#### (Continued from Col. 2)

appointed G. O. C.-in-C. Eastern Command, in September, 1945, and then became Chief of General Staff, General Headquarters, India. On Aug. 15, 1947 he became Deputy Supreme Commander (Army) and after the abolition of Supreme Commander's Headquarters assumed Command of the British Forces in India and Pakistan.

Among those present to bid farewell to Gen. Smith were Gen. F. R. R. Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Air Officer Commanding R.I.A.F., Lieut-Gen. D. Russell, G. O. C.-in-C., D. E. P. Command, Maj. Gens. Rajindra Singhji. Shrinagesh, Williams, Rudra, Swinburn, Stable and Thapar and Brig. Madhuvsinhji, Delhi Sub-Area Comemander.

## Medical Supplies To Kashmir

Within the last few weeks the Government of India have sent several consignments of essential medical stores to Kashmir in response to the request of the Kashmir Government, both by air transport and by Military road convoy.

Ten consignments were sent by air with a total weight of 5,570 lbs. and three consignments by road weighing 14,282 lbs. These stores consisted of essential drugs like penicillin, sulphin drugs, vaccines, also surgical dressings, instruments, etc. Five tons of bleaching powder were also supplied for sterlizing the water supply at Jammu in view of the incidence of a number of cases of diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid in the city.

Besides the above, Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri, Secretary-General Indian Red Cross, who visited Kashmir, took with him as a gift from the Indian Red Cross to the Government of Kashmir approximately 4,000 lbs. of Red Cross Stores consisting of medical supplies, viz., penicillin 500 vials of 200,000 units each, drugs, bandages, dressings, blankets, wollen clothing, etc.

An urgent demand for modern surgical appliances and fracture equipment required to treat qasualties at Jammu was also promptly met by the Central Government.

Further supplies of Medical stores are being made ready by the Government of India to the extent of approximately 20 tons, and will shortly be despatched to Kashmir.

#### PRINCES' MEETING IN DELHI

His Excellency the Governor-General presided over a meeting of Indian Rulers at Government House on Jan. 7.

The following Rulers attended: Their Highnesses the Nawab of Bhopal, the Maharaja of Jaipur, the Maharaja of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Rewa, the Maharaja of Alwar.

Also present were the Prime Ministers of Kashmir, Indore, Udaipur, Kohlapur, Jaipur, Kotah, Bikaner, Rewa and Alwar; the Foreign Minister of Patiala, the Judicial Minister of Jodhpur and the Representatives of Travancore and Cochin. Mr. V. P. Nenon, Secretary of the States Ministry, also attended.

There was an informal discussion about the setting up of a Rulers' Privileges Committee.

Another meeting was held on Jan. 10, when 31 Rulers' and 44 States' representatives were present and a representative of the Ministry of States also attended.



### Capt. D. N. Mukerji

Commander (E) D.N. Mukerji, R.I.N. whose promotion to the rank of acting Captain has recently been announced, is the first Indian Officer ever to be raised to this high rank in the Engineering Branch of the Royal Indian Navy. He will be in command of H.M.I.S. Shivagi, the R.I.N. Mechanical Training Establishment at Lonayls.

Senior Indian Officer of the Service, Captain Mukerji joined the Royal Indian Marine (as the Service was then called) in January, 1928. In June, 1940, he was serving in H.M.I.S. Pathan when she was lost by torpedo or mine in the monsoon. He did good work after the incident, and despite personal injuries from burns helped to save most of his shipmates before the vessel sank.

#### Several Important Appointments

Captain Mukerji, during the World War II, held several important appointments including that of Base Engineer Officer, at major Indian ports. In recent years he has been responsible for carrying out important engineering projects.

Captain Mukerji who hails from Bihar was aducated at Patna University. He specialised in marine engines and received his early training in Calcutta, later going to Scotland for further training with the firm of William Simons at Renfrew, and at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

## DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EVACUATION

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation of the Government of India have appointed Mr. Y. K. Puri, I.C.S., to be Director-General of Evacuation in order to deal with movement of refugees from and to the Dominion of Pakistan, and allied problems arising therefrom, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 17.

#### Joint Defence Council

A meeting of the Joint Defence Council was held at the Prime Minister of Pakistan's residence in Lahore on Jan 11.

Those present were: Earl Mountbatten of Burma; Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Prime Minister of Pakistan); Pandit Jawaharla Nehru (Prime Minister of India); Sarata Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence, India); Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Minister for Refugees, Pakistan); Lieut.-Col. Iskandor Mirza (Socretary; Ministry of Defence, Pakistan); Mr. B. B. Ghosh (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, India); -Mr. A. K. Chanda (Financial Adviser, India), Gen. Sir Frank Messervy (Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan Army) and Gen. F. F. R. Bucher (Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army).

Various inter-dominion matters were discussed. One of the important decision-taken was to proclaim a general amnesty for all military personnel of the two Dominions accused of or sentenced for offences comitted whilst they were on duty in the other Dominion between Aug. 15, 1947 and Jan. 10, 1948.

The amnesty will cover proceedings, both in military and civil courts. An ordinance to this effect is being issued by the Governors-General of India and Pakistan.

#### **ECONOMIC COMMISSION**

(Continued from Page 170)

in the region, governments of other countries and the specialised agencies. By focussing attention on the economic problems of Asia, and on continuous action, the Commission will undoubtedly become a major factor in the reconstruction and development of Asian countries.

The territories within its scope are Pakistan, India, Burma, Ceylon, Siam. Indo-China, Singapore, the Malayan Union, Hong Kong, Indonesia, China and the Philippine Republic. Members of the Commission are the five countries in Asia which are members of the United Nations—India, China, Philippines, Siam and Pakistan—(since September 1947)—and also the following non-Asian countries—Australia, U. K., France, Netherlands, U. S. S. R. and U. S. A.

Non-self-governing countries are not full members, but they may be admitted as Associate Members with equal privileges except in regard to voting at meetings of the Commission. But they are eligible to be members of committees and subsidiary bodies with full rights of voting. They have to be sponsored by the Member countries responsible for their international relations. In accordance with the above, at the Baguio meeting, Burma, Ceylon, Singapore, the Malayan Union and Hong Kong were admitted on the recommendations of U. K., and Combodia and Laos on that of France.

The application of Indonesia sponsored by Netherlands and that of the Indonesian Republic directly made to the Commission and sponsored by the Indian Delegation were deferred consideration till the next meeting.

Associate Members have already proved their usefulness and shown a great sense of reality and awareness of the problem of Asian countries.

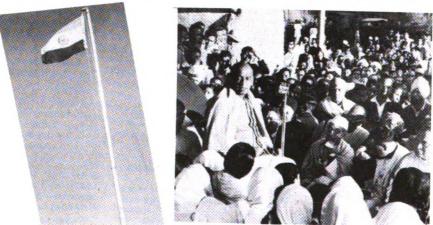
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### Sardar Patel in

#### Assam

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, visited Assam recently.

These pictures show (top) Sardar Patel in conference with representatives of the K'asi States Peoples' Conference, (centre) the Deputy Prime Minister addressing a public meeting in Shillong and (left) Sardar. Patel addressing the Assam Regiment at Happy Valley, Shillong.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Weights and measures in India vary not only from district to district but also for different commodities.

The principal units in all the scales of weights are the maund, seer and tola, and the standard weights for each of these are 82.28 lbs., 2.057 lbs. and 180 grains troy respectively.

The Indian tola is the same weight as the rupee, viz., 180 grains troy; the standard or railway seer is equal to 2.057 lbs. while the standard or railway maund of 40 seers is equivalent to 82 lbs. 4 oz. 9 drams. There are numerous local variations.

#### COINAGE-RUPEE IN DOLLARS AND POUNDS

Re. 1 is approximately 1sh. 6d. or 30.05 cents.
Rs. 100 are approximately £7/9/6 or \$30.05.
Rs. 1,000 are approximately £74/14/10 or \$300.53,
Rs. 1,00,000 (a lakh) are approximately £7.473/19/2 or \$30,053.
Rs. 1,00,00,000 (a crore) are approximately £747.395/16/8 or \$3,005,259.
1,00,00,000 is one crore (1,00,00)

COINAGE

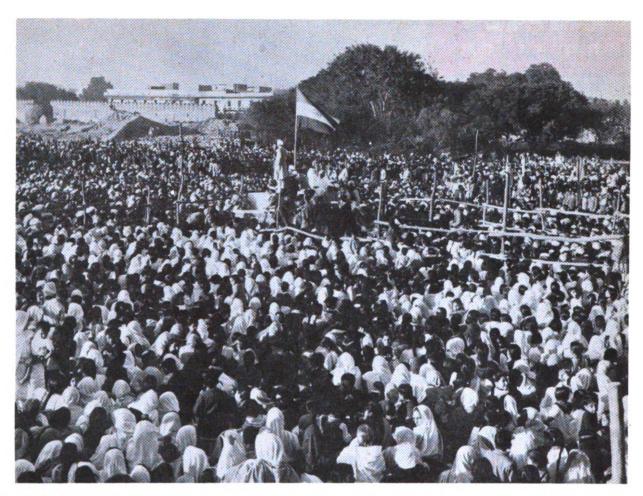
3 pies = 1 pice. 4 pice = 1 anna. 16 annas = 1 rupee.

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Vol. 22. No. 224 February 15, 1948

KASHMIR ISSUE BEFORE CLOSEO.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nebru, Prime Minister, recently addressed a mammoth peace meeting at Ramlila Grounds, Delhi-Picture shows a view of the gathering

#### Vol. 22, No. 224, INDIAN INFORMATION, 1 eb. 15, 1948

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of a mortar crew using a range firder.

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## URGENT CHARACTER OF KASHMIR'S CASE ESTABLISHED

## Security Council Proceedings

connected summary of the proceedings of the Security Council on Jan. 22 has been received from the Indian Delegation by the External Affairs Ministry. It says:

Today's meeting of the Security Council was entirely taken up with a long discussion on procedure which at least had the merit of establishing Indian Delegation's claim that the Jammu and Kashmir question should be given priority.

Two events combined to precipitate this discussion which otherwise would have been quite unnecessary: Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan's letter to the Security Council's President wherein he demanded urgent consideration of the other situation, particularly Junagadh, which he said, was straining relations between India and Pakistan and secondly a change of the agenda item to read, "India Pakistan Question" instead of "Jammu Kashmir Question" as it originally stood.

#### Zafrullah's Letter

Under the heading, "India Pakistan Question", today's provisional agenda included not only the original Indian reference to the Council and Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan's answer contained in his letter of January 15 to the Security Council President, but also Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan's latest letter dated January 20.

On seeing these overnight developments, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar at once sent off a letter to the President of the Security Council and also protested to him by telephone that the change of wording on the agenda was irregular.

When the adoption of the agenda came up for consideration at the start of the meeting, this afternoon, the President invited India and Pakistan to participate in the discussion although as non-members they were not entitled to in view of the delicate nature of the problem. In the course of his statement, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar set forth the legal and political reasons why it was important that the provincial agenda should not be adopted in the form in which it was presented.

Emphasizing that India had no objection to other matters being discussed fully in due course, Mr. Ayyangar said that the original heading of the agenda item should be retained. "Changing the heading means changing the content of the matter on which discussion has so far proceeded", he declared, "and it is that to which India takes the strongest exception."

Urging that Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan's second letter should be treated as a separate item to be taken up after the Kashmir case had been disposed of, Mr. Gopalaswani Ayyangar added, "If the title is changed and the range of debate widened accordingly, we shall have to reconsider our position".

In a second intervention towards the close of debate, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar insisted, "while we are not minded to exclude anything that may have a bearing on the Kashmir case, it is that subject which we have been discussing and it is to that subject that we must adhere to before passing on to others".

Conceding that it was immaterial whether the formal heading was changed or not. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar demanded that the Security Council should in the first instance and as a matter of urgency concern itself with the Kashmir case. "Unless we are satisfied and an assurance is given to us that the present debate will be restricted at least for the time being to the Kashmir case, we shall be performing no useful service in continuing to participate in this debate and will have to consider our position in the light of the new circumstances", he said.

These contentions were varmly supported by both United Kingdom and U. S. S. R. The United Kingdom delegate formally proposed that the issue raised by Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan's second letter would be treated as a separate item as proposed by Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. He subsequently withdrew his motion as it seemed unlikely to receive majority support. M. Gromyko's support of the Indian

position did not waver throughout the debate.

Various arrangements were submitted on the question of the inter-relation between the Kashmir case and the other matters raised by Pakistan. Columbia, Argentina, Syria and the United States also took part in the discussion.

In response to the Indian demand for an assurance that the Kashmir case should be dealt with first and the other matters only when the occasion arose the President said that he was unwilling to take upon himself the responsibility of giving such an assurance but would rule that such was the intention of the Security Council unless any objections should be voiced.

No objection was raised by any delegate and even Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan said that he only desired that "If we should reach a stage where the Council is unoccupied, then these other matters should be taken up and not considered as excluded owing to any technicalities".

#### Mr. Noel Baker

Mr. Noel Baker in the course of his last intervention in the debate said that assurances demanded by the leader of the Indian Delegation had in substances been given by practically all members who had participated in the debate.

The Indian Delegation has therefore achieved its primary procedural objective and foiled the attempt to broaden the scope of the discussion in such a way as to obscure the clear cut and urgent character of the Kashmir case.



Fighting the Invaders in Kashmir: Sepoys are seen moving with their kits through difficult and rockey country with the friendly assistance of the local people

## **CLEVER DISTORTION OF FACTS**

# Mr. Setalvad Refutes Sir Mohamed Zafrullah's Charges

THE following statement was made by Mr. M.C. Setalvad, Member of the Indian Delegation to the Security Council in reply to Sir Mohamed Zafrullah Khan's statement of January 16 and 17 before the Council:

The speech which was made on 16th and 17th by the representative of Pakistan, extending over five hours has, I am informed, established a record in the annals of the Security Council and the United Nations for the time taken. I have and can have no quarrel with length of his speech. The speech has also established a record for the calculated venom of its attack on India, the irrelevancy of much of its contents to the subject under debate, the deliberate omission of relevant matters and for its clever distortion of facts.

What I deeply regret and deplore is that a representative of a neighbouring state with whom we wish to live on terms of peace and friendship should have permitted himself to lavish numerous grave accusations against my Government, accusations many of which are not only untrue in fact but some, I feel, the representative of Pakistan himself could not have believed true.

#### The Real Issue

On behalf of my Government, I must emphatically repudiate these charges. These false accusations have been made in the hope of obscuring the real issue on which the Government of Pakistan has no effective answer.

The difficulties of the representative of Pakistan in meeting the case of my Government on the main issue can, however, furnish no excuse for the statement, full of most offensive allegations based on perverse and distorted presentation of facts. It has been stated that my Government has been a party to a well laid plan for extermination of Muslims in India and it has been suggested that the religion and culture of over thirty five millon Muslims within the Union of India are in danger.

I am sure that some at any rate, if not all, members of the Security Council are aware of the approximate number and distribution of the Muslim population in Indian Union. We have in India today over thirty five million Muslims distributed in varying proportions all over the country. Their proportion in the southern provinces of Bombay, Madras and the Central Provinces is smaller than in the provinces of West Bengal, United Provinces and the districts round about Delhi. Large masses of these thirtyfive million Muslims, even

though in small minorities, have lived and are living a normal peaceful life undisturbed and unmolested all over these provinces of the Indian Union. Is not this single fact sufficient to prove that the allegation that the Government of the Indian Union is out to exterminate Muslims is a deliberate and gross distortion of truth?

It is equally important to note that while there has been a large movement of populations between certain provinces of India and Pakistan, from the West Punjab and North West Frontier Province to East Punjab and in the opposite direction, there has been hardly any movement of Muslims from other parts of the Indian Union. These Muslims in other parts of the country, agriculturists and men in trade and business continue to live peacefully undisturbed in the Indian Union.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL

The Prime Minister has issued the following statement:

After having heard the statements on the situation in Kashmir from representatives of the Government of India and Pakistan, the Security Council of the United Nations adopted, on the 18th January, a resolution which called upon two Governments to take immediately all measures within their power (including public appeals to the people) calculated to improve the situation and to refrain from making any statements which might aggravate it. I am aware of the restraint which the Press and pullic in India have exercised in the discussion of the Kashmir issue and would earnestly appeal to all concerned to continue to observe moderation in all references to this difficult and delicate

Eminent Muslims occupy positions of honour and importance in the judiciary and other public services in India and in her diplomatic personnel abroad. The very important Indian Embassy at Washington is manned by a Muslim. A Muslim again has been appointed Ambassador in Egypt; another has been appointed Charge-deaffaires in Belgium. Our representative nearer home in Burma is also a Muslim. The Governor of one of the Provinces in India is a Muslim. The Indian Cabinet includes two Muslim Members.

In the face of all these glaring facts, I submit that the accusation against my Government of planned extermination of Muslims or of having been

guilty of sesisting in such a plan is preposterous and does not deserve serious notice.

This accusation comes from a Government which failed woefully to discharge its responsibility to the minority in its territory. The representative of Pakistan has deliberately ignored the happenings in Pakistan which are the real cause of the most unfortunate happenings in the Indian Union. Before partition of the country into two Dominions, the territory new constituting West Punjab had a large Hindu population in the Frontier Province and Baluchistan. In effect, by reason of the atrocities perpetrated in West Punjab and other places, nearly the whole of the non-Muslim population excepting persons forcibly converted to Islam and abducted wemen, left these areas in West Pakistan. The position in Sind is that nearly one third of the non-Muslim population has already come away and a large number of non-Muslims are awaiting transport for the purpose of leaving Sind.

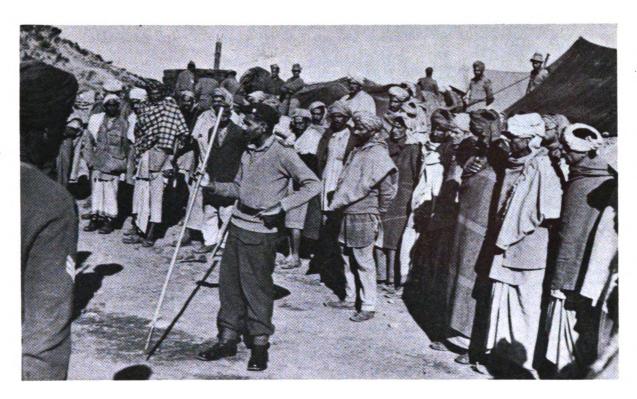
While a part of this migration of non-Muslims is even now taking place from Western Pakistan, the movement of Muslims from India into Western Pakistan has practically come to a stop. And this situation is not confined to Western Pakistan. There has recently been a continuous migration of non-Muslims from East Bengal, into West Bengal while there is no such migration of Muslims from West Bengal into East Bengal. What I wish to direct attention to is the necessary inference namely that the overwhelming body of Muslims in the Union are feeling quite secure in Indian territory and do not desire to move away.

#### Gandhiji's Efforts

Even in Punjab, while in the East Punjab about 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 Muslims will continue to stay in their homes, for example in Gurgaon District, hardly any non-Muslims are left in West Punjab, North-West Frontier Province or Baluchistan.

In view of these facts, could it be suggested that there is the slightest foundation for the accuration made against my Government that it has a desire much less a plan to exterminate Muslims? On the other hand, the definite and proclaimed policy of the Government of India, Mahatma Gandhi and the All-India Congress Cermittee is to actively discourage migration of any more Muslims from India and create conditions for giving confidence to those Muslims who migrated but wish to return to their homes.

As recently as 6th January, 1948 there was news from Karachi of the massacre of Sikhs and most extensive looting of their property. On the 12th January, there was an attack on a non-Muslim refugee train coming from Bannu in the North-west Frontier Province at Gujrat Station situated in Western Punjab. According to a despatch by Mr. Colin Reid to London "Daily Telegraph", 1,300 refugees were



To fight the raiders in Kashmir the Officer Commanding Indian Troops in Naushahra, Frig. M. Usman, is organising Home Guards from amongst the local population. Brig. Usman is seen at Beri Pattan with a large number of volunteers for the newly-formed Home Guards

massacred, 150 wounded and 400 are missing. The total number of refugees in the train was about 3,000 and according to our information the 400 missing passengers include 300 women who were kidnapped. A military escort of Indian Union troops accompanying the train was almost wholly destroyed. The tribesmen who have a concentration at Gujrat and local Muslims participated in the attack on the train.

I ask you to contrast the tranquility which now prevails in the territory of the Indian Union with the spirit of lawlessness, murder and massacre rampant even today in Western Punjab and Sind, evidenced by the two occurrences which I have mentioned. If I were minded to follow the example of the representative of Pakistan, I would rely on these occurrences as evidence of a plan by the Pakistan Government to exterminate non-Muslims. I do nothing of the kind. I do not wish to emulate him in making fantastic unsupportable accusations.

#### **Doctrine of Hatred**

The root cause of these massacres, killings and other brutal unmentionable crimes is to be found in the continual preaching of hatred of the communtiy by Muslim leaders for a number of years. This reprehensible propaganda was essential to and inseparable from the ideology on which the Muslim League founded itself. Muslim masses have been continually fed and nurtured on this doctrine of hatred and their fanaticism has been excited by cries of Muslim religion and culture being endangered.

It was inevitable in these circumstances that mass disorder broke out. It began with an orgy of killing and detestable crimes in Calcutta by Muslims and resulted in equally violent retaliation by Sikhs and non-Muslims in Calcutta. This was in August 1946. Since then the story has repeated itself in various parts of Bengal, Bihar, Punjab and elsewhere but it would be only right to say that, in broad outline, fury and disorder was, to begin with, let loose by Muslims. It is also correct to say in some cases, murder, looting, arson and other crimes committed by Muslims were acquiesced in if not encouraged by some Muslims in high authority.

These crimes led to an influx of large masses of population from Muslim majority areas into non-Muslim areas. These refugees brought with them tales of horror and woe that they suffered. The result was excitement among the non-Muslim population where the refugees had arrived. This excitement gave rise to a desire to exact retribution and retaliate on the Muslim population in their midst. Thus arose from time to time, retribution and retaliation leading to crimes equally heinous and obnoxious against Muslims by non-Muslims in varrious parts of the territories mentioned.

These crimes in their turn led the Muslim population in the affected areas to migrate to non-Muslim majority areas so that there was a stream of these Muslim refugees fleeing from East Punjab, Delhi and some other places towards Western Punjab and Sind. It has not been possible to esti-

mate the very large number killed in these various happenings, so great and varied have been the outrages in some parts of the country. Some estimates of the population migrated from either side of border to other side, have been about five million. That is a true picture of the killings, refugees and the transfer of population.

#### Mass Frenzy

These events have been the result of mass incitement and mass frenzy. It is obvious that with feelings of this nature pervading large masses of population, it was inevitable that forces of law and order should also be affected. These feelings naturally travelled into the minds of the police and the military of either community and it was found that these forces of law and order failed to do their duty to preserve it. However notwithstanding this attitude and the conduct of the forces of law and order, in our submission, it is fantastic to attribute these events to a preconceived plan of destruction or of driving away parts of their populations by either Government. Yes, there was connivance and encouragement by some Governments, of these happenings. Such connivance and encouragement can be demonstrated to exist in events in Calcutta where the Muslim League Government was in power and also in Lahore in West Punjab.

There has been a great deal said about genocide in the document submitted on behalf of Pakistan and my friend on the other side has said something about it. I have already pointed out the fantastic nature and indeed the absurdity of a suggestion of this kind.

Only a few days ago, Mahatma Gandhi started a fast in order that harmony might be restored between Hindus and Sikhs on the one hand and Muslims on the other, principally in Delhi and the area surrounding it. Aged and frail as he is, he risked his life for the purpose of bringing home to Hindus and Sikhs in the area mentioned the necessity of living in peace and brotherhood with Muslims. Happily he succeded and was able to obtain assent to seven points which he wished them to agree. Can it be seriously suggested that the Government of India which acknowledges the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi could ever plan or adopt a policy of exter-mination of Muslims? I repeat that this theory of genocide so fantastically put forward is not worthy of serious consideration.

#### **Totally Irrelevant**

True responsibility, as has already been stated, for these most unfortunate occurrences which led to the loss of so many lives and such detestable crimes, lies on the heads of those who in order to further their policies deliberately preached all over the country the doctrine of communal hatred and of some men who now occupy responsible positions in the Government of Pakistan.

In our view the story of these happenings all over India, of the events in Eastern Punjab and Eastern Punjab States and the detailed accounts of them which the representative of Pakistan has referred to are totally irrelevant to the issue now existing between India and Pakistan as regards Jammu and Kashmir. It has been alleged that these events form a background to the situation and that this situation could only be understood in the light of the background which the representative of Pakistan has tried to depict. That is again a suggestion which we cannot accept.

We submit that events and the causes which led to them are altogether beside the point. We say that they have been introduced in the answer filed on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and into the speech delivered by its representative merely to confuse what we regard as a very clear issue. That issue broadly speaking is whether with reference to the invasion of the State of Jammu and Kashmir by the tribesmen and others, Pakistan has failed to discharge her obligations as a friendly neighboring State to India in the manner we have alleged. We submit that no light can be thrown on that issue by examining the various matters constituting a background which have been adverted to by the other side. Indeed, we feel we shall be confusing the issue and making the position more difficult if we swent into those matters. However, as these matters have been gone into, it will be my duty to deal with them in detail. I assure the Council that my Government has nothing to conceal in these matters and hope to satisfy the Security Council-in this respect in due course.

It is surprising that the representative of Pakistan in his anxiety to find support for his allegations should have been driven to rely on untrue and un-authenticated reports. The Council will remember how he referred to the murder by Dogra troops of Brigadier Khoda Bux, the only Muslim Briga-dier in Kashmir Army,—"An Associ-ated Press report dated 31st October revealed that Brigadier Khoda Bux, Garrison Commander of Jammu who was the only Muslim Brigadier in the Kashmir Army had been murdered by Dogra troops in Jammu". I am sure that Security Council will be greatly surprised to learn that not only has the gallant Brigadier not been murdered but also that he is at the moment occupying the position of the Chief of Staff of the Kashmir State Forces. I shall give another example of how the representative of Pakistan has not hesitated to distort facts. He stated the other day that India sent a duplicate copy of its appeal to the Security Council to the Pakistan Government by cable in a cipher to which they knew that Pakistan Government did not possess the key.

#### First Complaint

On 31st December 1947 the Government of India despatched its com-plaint to Security Council, the text of which was sent to the Government of Pakistan on the same day. On the same day again we repeated to Pakistan the text of our complaint. On 1st January 1948 we received a tele-gram from Pakistan reporting that our message was undecipherable. Thereupon we despatched to Pakistan a message repeating the text of our complaint to Security Council. On 2nd January 1948 we again received message from Pakistan that they could not work our messages in automatic decoding machine called "Public". Thereupon we sent on 3rd January very detailed information in regard to the working of "Public" messages. On 4th January we received from the Pakistan Government a message dated 3rd January from Karachi to the following effect : "Please cancel our telegram No. 19 of date. We have deciphered telegram. Regret inconvenience". These facts should have been known to the representative of Pakistan. His inference that my Government sent cable to Pakistan Government knowing that the Pakistan Government could not decipher such a cable was most unjustified.

This in itself is a matter of small moment, but I mentioned it. It is tpyical of many such inaccurate statements made on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. It has been put before you, in our submission, as a wholly distorted picture which has been subtly supported by tacts inaccurately stated.

The one issue and the prime issue before you is the issue relating to the invasion of Kashmir. Our conten-

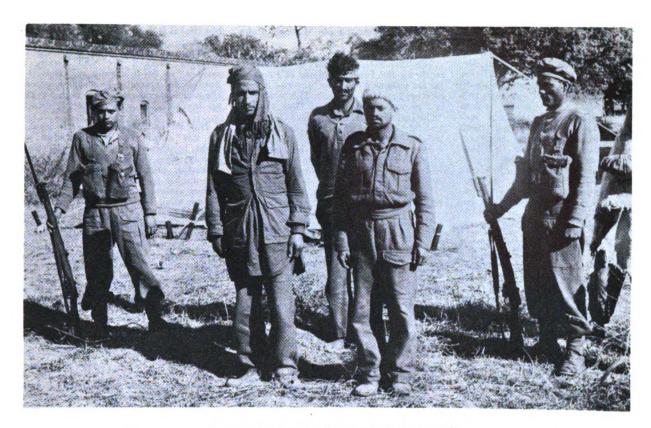
tion is, putting it again very broadly, that Pakistan as a neighbouring peaceful State failed to discharge its duties inasmuch as it has permitted transit to the invaders through its territory, or to use an expression which has been used here it has permitted warlike passage to these invaders through its territory. And we say further that Pakistan has rendered to these invaders direct and indirect assistance. Putting it very briefly, that is the main issue before the Security Council.

#### Reinforcement of Raiders

Before I pass on to the various other matters which have been adverted to, I wish to make a further comment on the main issue. I submit that there is a clear presentation of facts which lead us thoroughly to the inference that Pakistan has no answer to the charge which we have made against it—the charge in regard to the invasion of the province of Jammu and Kashmir. In the first place the existence of a large body of tribesmen in Kashmir is not and cannot be denied. We have reports as recent as 11th January 1948 which put the figure at as many as 60,000 tribesmen.

I wish to draw the attention of the I wish to draw the attention of the Security Council to a despatch by Mr. Douglas Brown published in "London Daily Telegraph" which contains the following passage: "The tribal leaders claimed that there were 60,000 Pathans always fighting in Kashmir each man fighting for about a month at a time. They said they used all routes but owing to Pakistan's lack of co-operation found it best to cross the State of Swat. The casualties so far have been about 400 dead and 250 wounded." That is the material part of the passage. I read it in order to make the following sulmission that as many as 60,000 tribermen sion that as many as 60,000 tripesmen are in Kashmir territory. What more, not only are they there, but they are being constantly reinforced so that tribesmen who go there are there for about a month and are then replaced. by others who also get into Kashmir. I wish to draw attention to what I may term an inescapable fact resulting from the geographical position of Kashmir vis-a-vis Pekistan. Is it possible for those 60,000 tribesmen to be there and be maintained as a fighting force as they are without the willing co-operation of Pakistan for the passage of those people to and fro through Pakistan? One has only to look at the map to see that it is inconceivable that these large hordes of tribesmen should be able to pass through Pakistan territory without-I will.... put it in the mildest way-cooperation of Pakistan Government. If one looks at the map one finds that they have had to travel at least 100 miles through Pakistan territory to get into Kashmir.

I put the following question to members as men representing responsible Governments and as men of affairs who understand these matters: Is it conceivable that these large bands or hordes of tribesmen could go through Pakistan territory in this manner into



Some prisoners captured during Kashmir operations

Kashmir without the co-operation of the State of Pakistan? That is really a simple issue and the conclusion which one can draw about it is inescapable by reason of the geographical considerations to which I have already referred.

However, the matter does not merely rest there. We have recently received news of tribesmen who were actually on their way to Kashmir or had the purpose of going to Kashmir being found in Lahore which is the capital of the Province of Western Punjab in Pakistan. I have a telegram from London which reproduces the information which the Lahore correspondent of London "Times" submitted under the heading "Armed Tribesmen in Lahore; Dances on Hotel Lawn". This is the telegram which we have received and it is dated 22nd January, 1948. It reads as follows:

"An armed band has reached Lahore nearly 300 miles from the entrance to the Khyber Pass. It' is quartered within 100 yards of the West Punjab Assembly in an old hotel originally requisitioned by the Provincial Government for Refugee Relief Headquarters. The men are of the Sulaiman Khel and Shinwari tribes and are behaving with their usual abandon and disregard for conventions. Tribal dances are now being held on the lawn of the hotel and drum beats throb down the Mall.

"In spite of the recnt local ordinance prohibiting the bearing of arms every man is carrying a rifle, the firing of which appears to express his appreciation of the dances. So far these 'joy shots' have not reminded the police of their duty.

"Later today they danced through the streets in a big farewell to some of their comrades who were leaving for Jammu. Before Queen Victoria's statue in Charing Cross they paused still dancing. They appeared to be in a happy mood, but as the procession proceeded down the Mall the tempo of drums quickened and a fusillade of rifle shots stampeded some horses and a small camel caravan".

#### Through Pakistan

That is the situation in Lahore. The inference is obvious that it is not only in the distant border land between the North-West Frontier Province and the tribal areas that tribesmen are trickling through, "scampering down the hills like goats", as my learned friend described them in a very graphic manner. But they come in well organized bands right through the capital of the West Punjab. There they are very hospitably received; police regulations are suspended, they are allowed to do what they like and it is while living there that they bid farewell to fight in Jammu.

That is what the telegram says. But the matter does not rest there. Some United States newspapers actually carried photographs of tribesmen being organized in Pakistan territory. I shall not weary the members with a great number of photographs, but I do wish to mention the one which appeared in "Life" magazine of the 5th

January, 1948, on page 16 of that issue. Muslim tribesmen are pictured shouldering rifles and cartridge belts boarding unofficial truck convoys for the Kashmir front. Therefore, photographic evidence is actually at hand of tribesmen being openly convoyed in what are called "Unofficial" trucks through Pakistan territory. I submit that this is a very strong evidence in support of the submission which we have made in our complaint to the Security Council.

What has been Pakistan's answer? Frankly, we have found it somewhat difficult to understand Pakistan's answer because in our view it has been said: "We have done everything short of war to prevent tribesmen from coming through our territory". That is one answer. Additional answers have been given by my friend on the other side of the table: "We have a long boundary and it is difficult to control the tribesmen. They come down in wintertime to do marketing and occupy themselves". It has also been said "tribesmen have been coming in that manner through the border all these years".

I wish to make an important observation. Until the 15th of August, the British were in charge of the frontier and tribesmen did not come down every year except some few of them for certain purposes. Was there ever such an influx of tribesmen as we have witnessed on this occasion when the British were guarding the frontier? Were these armed men allowed to come down

not only into the West Punjab but also into the neighbouring state of Jammu and Kashmir as happened on this occasion? I understand that the practice was always that outposts were maintained and when these tribesmen came they were allowed to go into this territory, their arms being taken away for the time being, which was for the purpose of preventing them from doing mischief in the territory. We understand that such military outposts as were located in the frontier territory or near it in Northern Pakistan have been withdrawn. We do not know for what reasons they have been withdrawn, but an explanation advanced is that tribesmen are friendly. However we do not know the reason.

Is it too much to suggest under the circumstances that have transpired that this deliberate withdrawal of military outposts, which existed through all these years, has been resorted to for the purpose of conniving at the entry of these tribesmen into Pakistan territory, so that they will be accorded free and comfortable passage into Kashmir? As I have already stated, we do not know, but we do suggest this as a motive behind the withdrawal of the outposts. Pakistan's answer is that it has done everything short of war to prevent this warlike passage through its territory, but has the Security Council been furnished any substantial or tangible evidence of any attempts by Pakistan to prevent the passage of these tribesmen? I submit most respectfully that no such evidence has been produced here. On the contrary, there is evidence to show that far from discouraging or even trying to prevent the transit of tribesmen, incitement and encouragement is being afforded to them.

#### On Jammu Border

Stories have recently appeared in newspapers of the visits of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to these tribal areas and it has been suggested that these visits were made with a view to prevailing upon the tribeemen to abstain from entering Pakistan territory and passing into Jammu and Kashmir territory. What are the true facts in that connection? Here again I draw attention to the comment made by the special representative of the "Statesman", a British-owned newspaper which is published at Delhi and Caleutta.

The comment reads: "The strength of the complaint by the tribesmen of arrests in Pakistan of those persisting in their journey to Kashmir raises the suspicion of propaganda. It is difficult to align these complaints with the presence of many hundred armed Pathans which I saw myself on the Pakistan border of District Jammu and the undoubted presence of at least several thousand tribesmen on the Azad front in Kashmir". In other words, what has been resorted to is not really for the purpose of preventing or even persuading the tribesmen to desist from what they are doing. There is, if the correspondent's view is correct, on the one hand a show of persuasion; there is, on the other hand, co-operation or committee, at any rate, in the

passage of these people through Pakistan territory.

We have also the report of statements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on his visit to Peshawar in the speech delivered on 15th January. This is what he is reported to have said in that speech: "The Indian Government were determined to bring Kashmir into tkeirfold by sheer weight of arms, which Muslims would never tolerate. Their action contrasted most unfavourably with Pakistan's restraint in not sendning troops to Junagadh". He went further to say that "the tribesmen would be treated in all respects as citizens of Pakistan."

Proceeding on the assumption that this report is a correct one, here is the Prime Minister of Pakistan stating that these tribesmen are to be treated in all respects as citizens of Pakistan.

#### Bases in Pakistan

Comment on a statement of that kind is needless. It would result in the necessary inference that these tribesmen are treated as Pakistan nationals and are allowed to go in thousands into the State of Jammu and Kashmir, with a view to what they are doing there. After what I have submitted to the Security Council, particularly in regard to this, I submit that the inference is irresistible that Pakistan is deliberately cooperating with these masses of tribesmen which have gone into Jammu and Kashmir.

It has been mentioned by my delegation that there are bases actually in Pakistan territory for the use of these tribesmen. I call attention to an extract from a Memorandum dated 12th December 1947 from Lt. Col. Douglas Leefer O.B.E. to the Chief Secretary of the North West Frontier Government.

The extract from the Memorandum reads: "There is, however, another factor we are bound to take into consideration and it is that recently we had in Parachinar, that is a part of the North-West Frontier Province, almost permanently leshkars of well armed men mostly khans on their way to Kashmir. The numbers sometimes fall to less than one thousand; on one day we reached the maximum of five thousand."

That statement in a letter by a responsible officer of the Government of North-West Frontier Province indicates and establishes the existence of a base which has in it tribesmen varying in number from one thousand to five thousand at a place called Parachinar. Could there be any clearer documentary evidence of existence of these bases which we allege exist in the State of Pakistan for the use of these tribesmen?

Speaking very broadly, again if what I have placed before the Security Council is, and I say it is, sufficient certainly to lead to the inference that Pakistan is cooperating with the tribesmen, I submit that it clearly has committed a breach of international obligations.

May I put the position in this way. Pakistan protests that it is anxicus to discharge its international obligations,

but that it is unable to keep these tribesmen from going into Jammu and Kashmir. That is, as I am sure the members of the Security Council are well aware, no answer. A State cannot say that it is unable to restrain a warlike passage through its territory to others and permit an invasion of a neighbouring State.

But let us suppose for a moment, I do not admit it, that Pakistan was right in the view it has put forth. Surely, then the remedy is very simple. Pakistan should openly state: "We are unable to keep the tribesmen away, either assist us in keeping them away or we shall have to adopt some other method to do this". If their contention is a true one, that I submit is a straight and direct answer which they should give. As we have already stated more than once, if that is the true situation we are quite willing to cooperate with Pakistan to get rid of these tribes. It would be no difficulty at all so far as our Government is concerned. But it will not do, I submit, for a friendly neighbouring Government to state, as they seem to, that they are unable to deal with the tribesmen and at the same time permit nothing to be done to deal

That is in short the position in regard to the broad issue. I submit that those who know the affairs of state can really and clearly appreciate this position. Could any of the States tolerate a situation of this kind in its territory? Let us suppose any one of the States represented on the Security Council was invaded by these large forces in this organized manner. Would it be an answer—I ask the Security Council to consider, and I am not speaking from a legal point of view, I am speaking from a broad political point of view for a neighbouring State to say: "We are not able to prevent it and we shall not let anyone else do it." That is the position which with respect I ask the Security Council to consider deeply.

#### Unjustified Attitude

I turn next to the statement, made more than once on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, namely, that this army which entered the State of Jammu and Kashmir is what they call an army of liberation. Let us assume that it is an army of liberation, which in fact it is not. However, let us assume that. Would that be any answer on behalf of the Pakistan Government to the issue raised? With respect I sumbit it is no answer.

Suppose that in a State there is a revolution or an insurjence. Does that justify—and again I call upon the Security Council to consider this point—a neighbouring State in co-operating with the invaders from beyond its borders, who are going into the State in which the revolt or insurrection is taking place?

Assuming that there is something to be liberated in Jammu and Kashmir, which of course we say is not true, I submit that even so the attitude taken by the Government of Pakistan is not justified.

The Security Council must undoubtedly consider the question whether the raiders in fact constitute an army of liberation. I admit that it is an army, not a mere band of raiders. But it is not an army of liberation, but of death, destruction, loot, arson and murder and in what they have done, they have made no dike between a Muslim and a Hindu or Sikh.

Mr. Setalvad proceeded to read quotations showing the raiders' destructive and barbarous methods, particularly at Baramula, from the London Duily Express of November 10, the New York Times of November 10, the Calcutta Statesman of November 11, the Chicago Tribune of November 3, the Times of India of November 13, the Peoples' Age Bombay of November 13, and also the United Press of India report of December 12, citing the Poonch Muslim National Guards Commander, Mr. Akram Khan's ramarks dissociating himself from the Muslim Conference and similar organisations.

He continued: All this evidence demonstrates that what came down from Pakistan into Kashmir was now an army of liberation but an army bent on destruction. Therefore the whole fabric, reared by the Pakistan representative on the thesis that here you have an invasion and we have to relieve Muslim brothers in distress, is entirely without foundation.

#### League Ideology

If not liberation what then is the object for which these forces have been allowed to onter Kushmir? Pakistan's object is clear—to coerce Kashmir into accession to Pakistan. Mr. Firoz Khan Noon said, "Pakistan without Kashmir was inconceivable". That is the key to the whole conduct and attitude of Pakistan regarding Kashmir.

The variety of matters brought in by the Pakistan delegate as background are not really relevant to the issue. But since they have been made the basis of various allegations against the Government of my country, it is my duty to deal with them.

The root cause of the situation, which has arisen not only in one dominion but in both, consists of two ideologies which have been prevailing in India recent years. One is the ideology of the Indian National Congress which is a secular political State wherein the individual, whatever his faith, would be a citizen. Contrasted with this was the Muslim League ideology based on religion-not a secular state but one to be dominated by those professing the Muslim faith. It is the idelology which impresses itself upon those in charge of Pakistan affairs and makes them aim at the forcible accession of Kashmir to Pakistan. The two ideologies led to a conflict in the pre-partition India. Muslims were told their religion was in danger and they must organise for its protection. There was propaganda of hatred against the other communities. What is more, violence was openly preached.

Mr. Setalvad quoted from Mr. Firoz Khan Noon and Mr. Suharwardy's



His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala talking to women and children refugees evacuated by the R. I. A. F. from Poonch

speeches of the 9th April 1946, and referred to the inaugrration of the Muslim League Direct Action Programme in July 1946 and the Calcutta Direct Action Day in August 1946 leading to the first large mass disorder which overtook India. Facts disclosed by the Spens Enquiry Committee show complicity of the Muslim League Bengal Ministry in the Calcutta Killings. Calcutta was followed by Noakhali where forced mass conversions occurred; then the brief terrible retaliation in Bihar by Hindus in October and November 1946. He referred to Pandit Nehru's part in quelling the Bihar disturbances.

#### West Punjab Disorders

Mr. Setalvad continued: Soon after the British policy announcement of January 1947 there arose a scramble for power in the Punjab which led to the peaceful province being torn into factions and handed over to forces of loot and disorder. The Muslim League attempt to dominate the Punjab, where Sikhs form a large number, led to tension and in February and March 1947 large numbers of Sikhs and Hindus were massacred at Rawalpindi, Peshawar and other places. So great was the terror that large numbers of Sikhs and Hinuds fled from the Province. Be it noted that there was at this time no persecution or harassment of Muslims in East Punjab. The flow of refugees was entirely from west to east. In West Punjab the Sikhs, largely responsible for the prosperity of these districts, were threatened with having to leave the homeland they had built with great labour and effort. Hence the deep apprehension among the Sikhs and the incident when Master Tara Singh brandished his sword and said what he did; I am not here to give the impression that he was justified in using those words. But the Sikh community was labouring under a great provocation at the time.

The theory of premeditated conspiracy or plan by the Sikhs is utterly unbelievable, fantastic and cannot command acceptance. To suggest that

the Sikhs, who own large farms in West Punjab, would be parties to a plan to migrate to the over-crowded East Punjab and exterminate the Muslims there in order to acquire little bits of land, cannot reasonably be given credence by any one acquainted with the situation. Stories of dreadful happenings in Peshawar, Rawalpindi and other places, carried back by the refugees from West Punjab, were the cause of happenings in East Punjab in August and September 1947. Sir Zafrullah Khan's picture is distorted because he has only presented what I may call the second chapter of the story. It is the first chapter which I have related wherein lies the real cause of what happened in East Punjab in August and September, 1947. It is no organised policy or premeditated plan but the necessary consequence of mass feelings generated by happenings in West Punjab which came to the knowledge of those in East Punjab: and the refugees brought details of horror. What ensued expected.

#### The True Picture

That is the true picture of the one or more outbursts of mass frenzy on either side which no State and no forces of law and order could control, for the simple reason that it was based on religion and community. These mass frenzies resulted in denuding the whole western territory of the Punjab and the North-Western Frontier Province of the whole of its Hindu and Sikh population, barring those forcibly converted or abducted women. It resulted equally in the movement of Muslims from East to West Punjab, though not to the same extent or degree. Disorders in some instances were encouraged or connived at or participated in by. forces of law and order but I refute the inference that the Government was a party to these disorders. Some of the tragedies in West Punjab took place at the hands of forces of law and order, in Sheikhupura in August 1947. I do not lay any charge against the Government

of Pakistan or the Government of West Punjab but emphasise that, while the police and troops were sometimes parties to disorders, this cannot support the inference which the Pakistan representative wishes us to draw that the Government was a party to the disorders.

Things became so difficult for Hindus and Sikhs in West Punjab that some of them, in September, 1947, were driven to mass suicide, rather than submit to the Muslims' heirous ill-treatment. One such occurrence took place at Jhang in West Punjab. Mr. Setalvad quoted a letter dated October 12 from the Governor of East Punjab to the Prime Minister of India and also from Bombay People's Age, October 5. He continued: Prominent Muslim League leaders and landlords participated in killing and looting in West Punjab. What really happened was that the beast in man got the upper hand owing to preaching of hatred and religious fanaticism. Forces of law and order did not function in East Punjab. To a greater degree they not only failed to function but participated in crimes and looting in Western Punjab. It is futile to attribute these happenings to any Governbute these happenings to any Governmental plan or Governmental participation. The tragic happening in West Punjab has resulted in practically wiping out the non-Muslim population in that province and the North-West Frontier Province. When I say wiping out I do not mean that all of them have been murdered; a large number has been and the rest have migrated.

#### A Difficult Problem

Another factor which should be mentioned is that the difficulties of East Punjab Government were far greater than those of West Punjab in August and September because, owing to the partition, a new administration had to be formed and organised. It was during this process of organising its administration that East Punjab was faced with the problem of dealing with mass disorder.

The Government of India is in no way concerned with and has no responsibility for the events in East Punjab States in June and July when the British Government was still in authority.

On the question of censorship it was suggested that India having planned the extermination of Muslims, did not desire newspapers to publish the true facts. I reject that charge and submit that no material has been laid before the Security Council to substantiate it. On the contrary a number of cases will be found where the Pakistan Government deliberately prevented journals from stating the true facts concerning the West Punjab happenings. He quoted an extract from an editorial in the Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, dated August 13.

Regarding the destruction of property and Sir Zafrullah Khan's complaint about his own house, he said: The house is intact. This matter has been repeatedly investigated and General Nazimuddin, a relative of the Pakistan delegate, was taken by General Thimayya to the house and the house was shown intact to him. If the meaning of the complaint is that the house has been

looted, that also is incorrect. We are informed on proper inquiry that the furniture and belongings of house except a few things were taken under proper escort to Lahore. That is the true picture of what happened. Not that I or my Government feels distressed in the least by any damage that may have been caused to my friend's property. When there is mass disorder and mass destruction loss must inevitably fall on one side or the other, on persons who have the misfortune to own property in the disturbed areas. My friend is not the only one to have suffered some loss. There are members of the Indian delegation who have also suffered losses, but it is unwarranted to build up a case against a Government or its policy on the basis of these facts.

#### Delhi Peace Efforts

While the loss of Quadian is again a matter of deep regret, it is literally nothing compared to the huge losses suffered by the Hindu and Sikh population in West Punjab. He quoted figures collected regarding such loss in the small town of Saghora and said: Places which have suffered similar fate regarding the property of Hindus and Sikhs are principally Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Multan and Peshawar.

As for the Delhi happenings, nothing has been placed before the Security Council to show Government participation. Indeed the British press published many reports of attempts by persons in authority, including the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru himself, to quell the disturbances often at personal risk.

Although Sir Zafrullah Khan complained about some youths shouting slogans against Mr. Jinnah, he had no compunction in reading out a quotation from the "Truth" imputing advocacy of war to Mahatma Gandhi. A suggestion of this character against the person who recently undertook a fast to prevent communal discord is entirely unjustified. What Mahatma Gandhi said was that utmost efforts should be made to bring about peace and harmony because if that were not done the two countries would drift into war.

The Delhi happenings are comparable to recent events in Karachi. The forces of law and order attempted to control disorders and some of the Ministers took part and did their best to try to quell the disturbances. That is precisely what happened in Delhi also. Mr. Setalvad quoted the latest telegram from Mr. Sri Prakasa on this point; and also the London Daily Telegraph despatch of January 15, about the Gujrat Railway Station massacre.

Such is the true position and the Government which has happenings of the sort I have described in its territory has the temerity to accuse India of geoccide. I submit that no accusation could have been based on slanderer foundations than the one submitted by the Pakistan representative.

The Pakistan representative referred to Ajmer as one of the places where the Muslim population was in danger, but the fact is that all steps have been taken to safeguard this place and whatever difficulties have arisen are due to differences between local Muslims.

Following the luncheon recess Mr. Setalvad continued: A fact which must be remembered is that the partition was a shock to many and feelings of people had been exacerbated. Therefore, it is not surprising in the light of the background I have outlined that there was a great upheaval. That the upheaval was not unnatural will be understood and appreciated in view of the fact that the country which had been under a unitary Government for a century had to be partitioned.

Having regard to the problems involved in the transfer of large masses from either side of the country, what has happened is not really a considerable disturbance, and the transfer has been carried out on the whole very satisfactorily. I am speaking not only with reference to our own, but also to Pakistan Government. In support of his point, Mr. Setalvad quoted Lord Mountbatten's statement made in London that 97 per cent of the people in India were living in peace.

Turning to Kashmir, the system of absolute monerchy and antiquated laws regarding cow killing etc. are not peculiar to Kashmir. Similar laws exist in other Indian States.

#### Sheikh Abdullah

As far back as 1931 or 1932, popular agitation started for freedom of the press and popular legislative and other reforms. This agitation was led by Sheikh Abdullah, lerder of the people's movement and of the National Conference. He founded in 1938 a movement which included not only large masses of Muslims but also Hindus and Sikhs. He advocated not only political uplift, but also social and educational imprevement in the State. Naturally, he came into conflict with the State. He has been sentenced to gaol seven times and has spent about four and one half years in gaol in Kashmir. His followers, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs also disobeyed certain unjust laws and followed him into gaol. As a result of the "Quit Kashmir" demand, Shiekh Abdullah was charged with sedition and sentenced to nine years in May 1946.

Another body in the State, called the Muslim Conference, represents the ideology of the Muslim League and membership is restricted to Muslims. The January 1947 elections were boycotted by the National Conference and contested by the Muslim Conference, but out of an electorate of 6,00,000 only 2,00,000 went to the polls to vote.

While disturbances in East and West Punjab were going on, complete peace prevailed in Kashmir itself. The State was crowded with refugees moving from one direction to the other and they were cared for mostly through the activity of the National Conference.

In August 1947, attempts were made to inflame feelings in Kashmir. Certain familiar methods were adopted and propaganda agents were sent into the State by bodies believing in a State founded on religion. In September, Muslims from West Punjab raided Jammu Province on a number of occasions. The third phase was the engineering of a revolt in Poench area.

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All these activities were designed to arouse disturbances in Kashmir, then still peaceful.

A further aspect, perhaps indicative of the source from which these activities flowed, was Pakistan Government's attitude towards Kashmir. By means of economic dislocation, creating difficulties in the matter of supplies, an attempt was made to coerce Kashmir into acceding to Pakistan. Still, right up to the end of September 1947, except for Hindus and Sikhs killed by Muslim raiders, there was no disturbance at all and no reason to suggest that any Muslims were being molested in the State.

On September 29, Sheikh Abdullah was released and he re-stated his attitude which had always been that wishes of the people should be ascertained on the question of accession without pressure from outside.

Pakistan, however, was not content to accept this attitude. The scheme was to augment the coercion it wished to apply by inviting tribesmen and affording them passage through its territory.

It is most important to remember that until the invasion began on October 22, there had not been any killing by Dogras. We have no facts to show that any Muslims were killed in Kashmir by Sikhs, Hindus or the Maharaja's Dogra troops before October 22. That central and important fact cuts at the root of what the Pakistan representative has tried to put before the Security Council.

#### In Dire Peril

It was in circumstances of dire peril to Kashmir, when people were faced with forcible conquest, that the decision to accede to India was taken—not only by the Maharaja but by Sheikh Abdullah and the National Conference. This step saved the State capital from being overrun, looted, pillaged like Baramula

No evidence has been placed before the Security Council to suggest that there was anything fraudulent about the accession in circumstances in which it was made. It is hardly short of an insult to the intelligence of the Council to be asked to infer fraudulent accession. Even if what I have been saying is brushed aside, no evidence can be found in Sir Zafrullah Khan's own statement that any fraud was involved. Even if his statements are taken as correct, there cannot be any question of fraud, much less violence. There was violence, in a sense, but violence encouraged and connived at by Pakistan which procured accession.

The conduct of my Government has been entirely above board in this matter. Even though the request came from both the Ruler and the people, my Government was careful to stipulate that it was accepting accession only on the condition that popular will should be ascertained in the proper manner when poace was restored. Could one then for a moment entertain the suggestion that there was any underhand dealing, fraud or anything improper in Kashmir's accession to India?

It was a feeling of revenge fostered by the presence of the Muslim invaders from the North that resulted in the first killing in Kashmir by Hindus and Sikhs on November 4. That is the only killing



Maj.-Gen. Kulwant Singh G. O. C., Jammu and Kashmir Division with Brig. Sen at a diversion where raiders have destroyed the bridge

of any moment which occurred at all in Kashmir. Is it not preposterous to suggest that this killing which took place after the raid was the cause of the raid on Kashmir?

Mr. Setalvad referred to the circumstances wherein the Muslim convoy was attacked and to the Indian Prime Minister's telegram to the Pakistan Prime Minister dated December 26 and proceeded: There has been no excess of any kind against Muslims since Indian troops entered Kashmir and nothing can be charged against the Indian Union or its troops. In fact it is their presence which has been instrumental in agreat measure in preventing occurrences of this kind against the Muslims in the Kashmir territory. On the contrary, large masses of the Hindu and Sikh population in Kashmir have been attacked and annihilated, partly with the assistance of raiders from West Punjab.

Even in these difficult circumstances Sheikh Abdullah was working for peace and harmony in Kashmir.

The theory that the Maharaja wished to exterminate Muslims in Kashmir where they are eighty per cent of the population does violence to the ordinary canons of inference. Had that been the intention, would lie have put Sheikh Abdullah in charge of the administration? Is the Maharaja to carry out the policy of extermination with the assistance of this popular leader, himself a Muslim? That is an exaggerated, extraordinarily fanciful position upon which the Security Council is asked to base its consideration and from which it is asked to proceed.

#### "Pearl Harbour Technique"

As to Kashmir's alleged failure to negotiate with Pakistan, I am not concerred here to defend the conduct of the State, but wish to point out that the invitation to go to Karachi dated October 20 was received by the Kashmir Prime Minister on October 22. Those dates are very eloquent. The suggestion that Kashmir should go to negotiate with Pakistan regarding economic difficulties when Kashmir had already been invaded cannot for a moment be

accepted. This reminds one of the historical instances like Benes or Schuschnigg being invited by the Nazis to negotiate with them when attacks on their territorics had been already planned or were in progress. It is a technique which can be summarised as the Pearl Harbour technique.

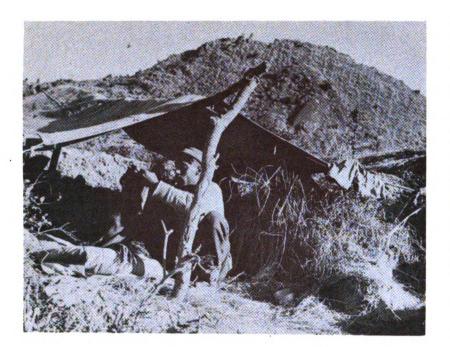
There is no question that the accession of Kashmir to India was pre-planned. As regards the complaint that Pakistan was not informed of the intended despatch of Indian troops, my answer is that there was no need, no obligation en our part to inform the Pakistan. The accession made Kashmir part of the Indian Union. We would have failed in our duty and imperilled Srinagar if we had waited to consult Pakistan.

It is an unfounded statement that the Indian Union refused at any time to negotiate a settlement. Far from there being any refusal to negotiate on our side, it has been Pakistan's attitude which effectively prevented any effort e.g., infiltration by raiders and eventual invasion.

#### India's Allegations

The numerous allegations we have made regarding Pakistan's aid to the raiders remain undenied. No denial has been forthcoming of our statement that the Prime Minister of the North-Western Frontier Province was the chief organiser of the raiding force. We have referred to admissions made by regular officers of the Pakistan Army as to the real position. These have not been denied.

Mr. Sitalvad went on to quote from a report by the correspondent of the London Times of January 13, 1948, regarding the "certain" complicity of Pakistan in the invasion and remarked: That is the situation which I ask the Security Council to remedy at an early date. We have placed before the Council such preponderating factual and circumstantial evidence as to justify the request that the Council should give Pakistan directives for which we ask. I stress the urgency and immediacy of the situation and give an assurance once again that my Government desires a peaceful solution of the Kashmir situation.



In the thickly wooded country of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian Troops are engaged in expelling the randers who have brought death and destruction to thousands of homes. Picture shows an Indian soldier's improvised home in forward area

# RAIDERS' ATTEMPTS TO CROSS SUPPLY LINE FOILED Survey of Campaign in Jammu

NDIAN casualties in all the operations in Kashmir and Jannu since October 27 were 84? including 339 killed, according to a survey of operations by Indian forces in Kashmir and Jammu till the third week of January, 1948. A conservative estimate of the raders' casualties put them at over tentimes this number.

Winter had already begun when the Indian Army after driving the raiders off the Srinagar Valley began its operations in Jammu province with Jammu City as the headquarters of the force. The absence of any good road which the Indian forces could use as their line of communication was a severe handicap. The one road, narrow and unmetalled, which led deep into the province, ran from Jammu through Akhnur and Beri Pattan to Naushahra and beyond it to a small village called Jhangar near which the road forked into two, one fork leading towards Mirpur and thence to the Pakistan border, and the other fork going north to Kotli, Poonch and Uri.

This road, nearly 200 miles long, has been built in many stretches on the sides of hills and followed the contours. It is so narrow in parts that only one vehicle can go over it at a time. It is also broken at many points by culverts and wooden bridges, not strong enough to take heavy equipment such as tanks. Lastly, this road runs almost parallel to the Pakistan border, across which

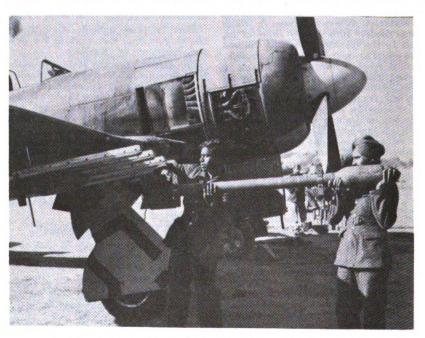
come some good first-class roads from Rawalpindi, Abbottabad, Gujrat and Sialkot, cities in Pakistan only within a few hours' drive from the Jammu frontier. Thus the Indian Army's advance had to be made at right angles to the real front which was the Jammu-Pakistan border.

When the Indian forces began to move from Jammu city to Akhnur and Beri Pattan, the position was as follows: Bhimbar had fallen after a battle in which well-trained raiders had attacked the small State Force garrison and vanquished it. Rajaori, north of Naushahra, along the old Moghal route through Bhimbar and Naushahra, had also fallen to the raiders. Rawalkot, Bagh and other such towns, in which the State Force garrisons had earlier made a stand against numerically superior formations of raiders, were in the hands of the raiders. In short, the entire district of Muzaffarabad, the district of Mirpur (with the exception of Mirpur town then held by a small State Force garrison) and the district of Poonch (excluding Poonch City, had been overrun.

The places in which the State Force garrisons were holding out against determined and continuous opposition from raiders—an opposition which had lasted for weeks—were Mirpur, Kotli, Poonch, Jhangar and Naushabra.

#### Indian Army's Advance

It was a race between the raiders using their shorter lines of communications and the Indian Army using its long, precarious and uncertain road. Indian Army advanced to Naushahra, relieved the garrison and went beyond to the cross-roads at Jhangar. The plan at that time was to close the gap between Jhangar in the south and Uri in the north through Kotly and Poonch, in order to have one long link between Jammu city and the Baramula-Kohala road. This plan could not be accomplished because of several factors; one was that a bridge between Poonch and Uri was found destroyed, another was that there were thousands of refugees for the Army to look after, a third was the weather and the fourth the



Armourers fitting rockets to a Tempest aircraft at Jammu airfield

Army's vulnerable line of communication with troops insufficient at the time to guard it.

Two columns, however, set out, one from Jhangar up north to Kotli, and another from Uri south towards Poonch. Both the columns again gained their objectives. The Jhangar column reached Kotli and brought out some 15,000 refugees who had gathered in the town to come under the protection of the State Force garrison. The column from Uri, crossing the stream at Kahuta on foot, arrived in Poonch and was ordered to consolidate and hold the town. Thus there was a break in the line between Jhangar in the south and Poonch in the north.

The raiders who had been moving daylight in lorries were forced to confine their movements to night-time as a result of the effective action taken by a reraft of the Royal Indian Air Force. Even so forward Indian pickete at Poonch, Uri and elsewhere could see headlamps of lorries coming in convoys up the many roads leading from Pakistan. Raders every day thus increased their strength and made their dispositions and concentrations. Action taken by Indian aircraft, ground patrols and long-range columns helped a great deal in disrupting the raiders' communications, in addition to inflicting large numbers of casualties on them. However since lives seemed to be of no importance to them, they came in ever increasing numbers.

#### Rain and Snow

Uri was accessible only from Srinagar and thus supplies or reinforcements to Uri had to go either by air to Srinagar and thence by road through Baramula or by road from Jammu city through Banihal Pass to Srinagar. As the winter advanced, Poonch also became isolated by land from the nearest base. The Haji-pir Pass (8,000 feet above sea-level) which lies between Uri and Poonch was blocked by heavy snowfalls. The Jhangar garrison had to turn its attention to Mirpur where the position was critical. The column actually made eight miles down the road to Mirpur when it was realised that raiders were getting control of the town. There were casualties among the State Ferce garrison in Mirpur as they prepared to abandon the town and fall back on Jhangar. However, many thousands of refugees and some men of the garrison managed to get away, although the remainder of the refugees perished at the hands of the raiders.

With the advent of rain and snow, the road between Jhangar and Jammu city became often unserviceable. Also raiders, using Japanese tactics, began to cut the road at many places. These interruptions, however, were at no time serious. Road clearing columns were sent and they reopened it after brief engagements with the raiders. There were, however, some losses in vehicles.

In the third week of December much movement was observed around Jhangar. Making use of adverse weather conditions, over 5,000 raiders surrounded the Indian detachment at Jhangar, and after cutting the road between Jhangar and Naushahra, stormed Jhangar. There were less than 200 Indian troops in Jhangar at the time and, although they fought valiantly for



An Indian Mortar team in action in Kashmir

several hours, they were forced to yield ground and fight their way out of the ring of raiders. The detachment suffered casualties in this action.

Emboldened by the local success they had achieved, the raiders made directly for Naushahra and surrounded it. Another spell of rainy weather was the signal for an offensive on Naushahra which began on January 6. The raiders were so confident of the outcome of the engagement that they departed from their usual custom of attacking at night and began their assault at 9.40 a.m. Naushahara was a strong base and Indian troops beat off the attack after it had lasted for some eight hours. Indian officers and men saw that the raiders did not worry about losses but came wave after wave and made charges against machine-gun and cannon fire. But by the afternoon they had had enough and, unlike on previous occasions when they had gone to the extent of suffering casualties in order to remove their dead and wounded, the survivers abandoned their wounded and dead around Naushahra and bolted into the night. The part played by the R.I.A.F. in this engagement was noteworthy. Indian pilots on returning reported that they had seen heaps of dead and wounded lying on the battlefield and lorries piled with the dead returning in the direction of Mirpur.

Indian forces in Naushahra followed up their success in this engagement and began an assault. In a fan-like movement they went from hill to hill and cleared each of raiders, until they had

widened the area of operation and their perimeter. They reopened the road behind Naushahra which had been out just before the raiders' assault,

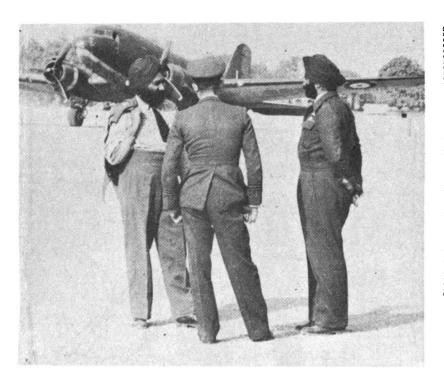
Simultaneously armoured columns operating in the direction of Bhimbar, penetrated deep into raider-held areas and destroyed many raiders,

The present position is that the Indian garrison has widened its perimeter around Poonch city. Uri is held in strength and columns and patrols are daily going out from other bases.

Jammu city is roughly ten miles from Pakistan territory due west and 16 miles south-west along the main road to Sialkot. Raiders have been active south of Akhnur around the tongue of Pakistan territory which abuts into Jammu province and is known as the Akhnur Buldge. But their efforts have been confined to nightly raids across the border, arson, kidnap and loot and return to Pakistan before morning. Indian troops have intensified patrolling in this area.

South-west of Akhnur, between Manawar and Bhimbar, again there is vigorous patrolling and there have been frequent brushes with the raiders.

The road which is the main supply line for Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir, nancly the Pathankot-Jammu road, is protected by stationary pickets as well as moving patrols. Raiders have made so far four attempts to cross this road but each time Indian troops have intercepted them and put them to



R. I. A. F. in Jammu: Air Commodore Mehr Singh, Air Officer Commanding No. 1. R. I. A. F. operational group, discussing air oprations with Wing Commander M. M. Engineer, O. C. R. I. A. F. Jammu and Wing Commander S. D. Singh

flight across the Pakistan border which is only 3½ miles at its nearest point.

Indian casualties in all the operations in Kashmir and Jammu from October 27 are 842 including 339 killed, A conservative estimate of the raiders' casualties puts them at over ten times this number. These figures are based on reports from patrols and columns, from aerial reconnaissance and from local intelligence. In many cases Indian patrols have actually counted the number of dead in a particular engagement.

Pathans form a large part of the raiding force. These men and others who are nationals of West Punjab, including ex-soldiers, are being trained in various bases near the Jammu border. They have been using rifles, light machineguns, medium machine-guns, sten-guns, mortars, mountain artillery, (3-7 inch howitzers) anti-tank rifles, anti-aircraft guns, Mark V mines, grenades, Verey lights, 2" mortar flares and a large number of army pattern vehicles. It has been claimed that these weapons have been captured from the Indian Army. Some rifles and some light-machine-guns may have been captured from State Force troops but no artillery, mines or other weapons. Few of the vehicles that the Indian forces have lost could have been used by the raiders, as these vehicles had been temporarily abandoned roads from which the raiders could not have driven them off into their own roads.

All those who have been taken prisoner whether they are Pathans or nationals of Pakistan, claim that they have been forced against their will to fight or have been incited by political leaders on the cry of a holy war. Nationals of West Punjab, who have been captured, have spoken in most scathing terms about the behaviour of the Pathans whom they dread and despise.

## We are Indians First and Last

HEAVY responsibilities lie on your shoulders as officers of the Indian Army in a free India. The men we command are second to none in the world and are well-known for their devotion to duty, loyalty and spirit of sacrifice—they are magnificent men," said Lt.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, the new G. O. C.-in-C. Delhi, East Punjab Command, addressing officers of the Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir in Jammu city on Jan. 26.

Gen. Carieppa said: "Some have expressed a doubt as to the officiency of the future Indian Army. On account of the reconstitution of the Army there has been a certain amount of dislocation but we can certainly overcome these and build a really first-rate army. We should be proud of being the pioneers in building up the army of new India.

"You must look after the men you command. The service of our country comes first. We are the servants of the people and our duty is to help our government carry out their policy at this critical period in India's history".

Continuing Gen. Cariappa advised the officers to set an example to others. "We are all Indians first and last," he said.

## ANTI-YELLOW FEVER MEASURES

To prevent the importation of yellow fever into India by airborne passengers who have been exposed to yellow fever infection, the Government of India have laid down certain conditions which must be observed by passengers travelling by air before they are allowed to enter this country, says, a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Health on Jan. 22.

According to the Indian Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1946 any person arriving in India by air is detained in isolation on arrival in India for a period up to nine days after arrival if he has been exposed to the risk of yellow fever infection and is not protected against the disease through a previous attack of yellow fever or by satisfactory immunisation.

The Government of India regard large tracts of the continent of Africa, including the whole of Central Africa, and the countries of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezula, British Guiana, French Guiana and Dutch Guiana on the continent of South America to be infected with yellow fever.

Satisfactory inoculation against yellow fever is one which has been performed (1) not less than ten days before arrival in a yellow fever infected area (or embarkation in a yellow fever infected aircraft which is regarded as a moving yellow fever infected area) or not less than 15 days before arrival in India; and

(2) not more than four years before departure from the yellow fever infected area.

The Government of India accept only those certificates of inoculation which are issued on the International form by competent National Health authorities concerned and which show that the inoculation has been performed with any one of the yellow fever vaccines approved by the World Health Organisation.

## SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL EXPANDED

To relieve the Delhi city hospitals of the heavy pressure under which they have been working since the influx of refugees, the Delhi Provincial Administration has re-equipped the general hospital on Safdarjung Road and reinforced the staff so that it can now accommodate 150 indoor patients and treat outdoor patients between 9—11 a.m. every

Taken over from the U.S. authorities in the beginning of 1947, the hospital is fitted with an X-ray plant and a pathological laboratory and it is regularly visited by the physicians and surgeons of the Irwin Hospital.

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ENDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948



A bird's eye view of the current developments in Indian States was given by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbbai Patel, Minister for States, at a Press Conference in New Delhi on January 29. Mr. V. P. Menon. Secretary, States Ministry is on Sardar Patel's right and Shri N. C. Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on the left

## CONSOLIDATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION OF STATES

## Sardar Patel's Statement

HAVE no doubt that the process of consolidation and democratization will be completed very shortly and certainly well before the new Constitution, which is being framed by the Indian Constituent Assembly, comes into effect and thus there will be no discrimination between the people of the Provinces and the people of States in the matter of degree of freedom enjoyed by them", said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister for States, in the course of a statement on the consolidation of States at a Press conference in Delhi on Jan. 29.

Following is the text of the statement:

As you are all aware, on the lapse of paramountcy, every Indian State became a separate independent entity and our first task of consolidating about 550 Indian States was on the basis of accession to the Indian Dominion on three subjects. Barring Hyderabad and Junagadh, all the States which are contiguous to India acceeded to the Indian Dominion. Subsequently, Kashmir also came in.

With the birth of independence in India, the urge for enjoyment of similar freedom naturally inspired the people of the States, where the process of democratisation of administration had not made anything like the same progress as was made in the adjoining Provinces. The result was agitation on the part of the people and occasional clashes between the Rulers and the ruled. Some Rulers,

who were quick to read the writing on the wall, gave responsible government to their people, Cochin being the most illustrious example. In Travancore, there was a short struggle, but there too the Ruler soon recognised the aspirations of his people and agreed to introduce a Constitution in which all power would be transferred to the people and he would function as a constitutional Ruler. Similarly, in Mysore, there was a struggle for a short time in which the popular will triumphed eventually, and we know that there has been a complete transfer of power from the Ruler to the people.

#### Orissa Rulers' Sacrifice

While these big States were temporarily able to deal with popular movements, the smaller States were notable even to maintain law and order with their limited resources and with the people in opposition to the administra-tion. This was particularly evident in the Eastern States, in one of which States, namely, Nilgiri, the situation had so deteriorated as to result in the Ruler leaving the State. In another State in the same area the Ruler could not return to the capital and had to approach the Ministry of States to advise the local Praja Mandal to keep quiet as the Ministry was about to take up the question of consolidation of States. States had formed a superficial Union which could not last as it was not based on linguistic, cultural and economic affinities. The law and order situation

in some of the States was so bad as to cause apprehension to the adjoining administrations of Orissa and the Central Provinces.

You know the sequence of events thereafter. I went there in the middle of December, met the Orissa Ruleis at Cuttack and the Chhattisgarh Rulers at Nagpur, and it was decided that the best interests of the people as also of the Rulers lay in administrative integration of the States with the adjoining Provinces. As early as 1930 the Simon Commission States with the adjoining Provinces but recommended the integration of these nothing came out of the proposal. The act of sacrifice on the part of these Rulers which this decision involved has been universally acclaimed throughout the country. The transfer of adminis-tration from the Rulers to the Provinces was smooth and peaceful and has been warmly welcomed by the people of the States except in one or two places where ugly incidents occurred. But I shall not refer to them as they were not of any consequence and do not affect the main theme, namely, that the merger of the States was carried out willingly and has caused satisfaction all around.

#### In the Deccan

The merger of Eastern States electrified the whole atmosphere. The people of the States found that here was a remedy for their difficulties arising out of their limited resources and narrow outlook. The 8 Deccan States which formed the United Deccan State by merging their sovereignties in the new State, a step which was then considered to be re-

volutionary, felt that even in the new State their life would be cramped and that they would not have the same amenities and benefits as the people of Bombay the adjoining Province of would have with all the resources of Bombay. The people who had assembled to frame a democratic constitution for their new State changed their minds and asked for the merger of their States in Bombay. The Rulers who have always been known for their their progressive outlook, appreciated weight and soundness of this view and agreed to abide by the decision of the people. The Constituent Assembly of the new State met only three days ago, i.c., on the 26th of January, and has passed a resolution by on overwhelming majority in favour of merger with a Province. The merger will thus be given effect to within a few days.

There are some other States in Deccan which had not joined the Union, but in these States also the movement for merger had become so strong that the Rulers could not maintain law and order and have had to approach the Central Government to take over charge of law and order pending the merger of the States in the Province of Bombay. These States are Akalkot and Jath. The Ruler of Jamkhandi was one of the earliest to read the signs of the times and had approached this Ministry more than two months ago for unqualified There merger of the State in Bombay. was thus no trouble in his State and the prople have welcomed the decision and the action of the Ruler. Thus all States in the Deccan except Kohlapur will shortly take their place in the Province of Bombay to the mutual advantage of both, and to the particular advantage of the people of these States.

#### Kathiawar

Next came the problem of Kathiawar. Kathiawar is a veritable jigsaw puzzle of different jurisdictions. The States in Kathiawar comprise 13 Salute States, 107 limited jurisdictional States and 329 non-jurisdictional estates and talukas making up 449 units altogether. The area involved is more than 22,000 sq. miles with a population of between 2½ to 4 millions. The administration of the States is complicated by the fact that many of them have scattered islands of territory all over the place. The Salute States of Nawanagar, Gondal and Junagadh, for instance, have respectively 9, 18 and 34 separate areas of territory. Added together, these 449 units divide the map of Kathiawar into about 869 different areas.

Because the jurisdiction changes every few miles, communications are in a primitive condition. Internal trade is rendered difficult by the export and import duties and the octrois which the various units levy, and this encourages extensive smiggling and black market operations. The administration of justice and the maintenance of law and order under these circumstances are greatly handicapped. The economic development of the region which has great potentialities is hampered by its political fragmentation.

This state of affairs is good neither to the State nor to its people. The late Political Department tried in its own way to solve the problem, but their measures were necessarily half-hearted and did not serve the purpose of unification. Their solution was that some of these smaller units should be attached to the higher States. This scheme was tried out, but at best it was never a good working arrangement. In any case the lapse of paramountcy brought this to an end.

Since I took charge of the States Department, the un fication of Kathiawar has been one of the major tasks to which I have devoted myself. In the altered circumstances the Rulers of the Kathiawar States have fully recognised the difficulties in continuing the present system, and I am glad to announce that it has now been possible to work out a scheme and get the agreement of the States to it by which the whole of the Kathiawar region will be integrated into a new State of Kathiawar as a single blood of territory. There will be no separate State or than boundary, and the whole area will be served by one Government. I have called you here to explain this, but in the first place I must pay my tribute to the Rulers for their patriotic co-operation which made this task so easy of achievement.

A copy of the Cevenant has already been given to all of you.

#### The New Set-up

I shall now describe briefly the main features of the new set-up.

The new State of Kathiawar is known as the UNITED STATE OF KATHIAWAR. There is a Presidium of Rulers consisting of five members, each of whom shall be the Ruler of a Covenanting State. The Rulers of Nawanagar and Bhavnagar, the two most important States in the region, are members of the Presidium in their own right. One member is elected from amongst themselves by the Rulers of the Covenanting non-Salute States. The other two members are elected by the members of the Council of Rulers consisting of the Rulers of the Saluto States other than Nawanagar and Bhavnagar

The Council of Rulers elect one member of the Presidium to be the President or the Raj Pramukh and another to be the Vice-President of the Presidium. The first election has already taken place, and H. H. the Jam Sahib of Nawanegar, who played a notable part in bringing these negotiations to a successful conclusion, has been elected as the RAJ PRAMUKH with H. H. the Maharaja of Bhavnagar as the Vice-President. The term of office of the Raj Pramukh and the Vice-President is five years. There will be a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the Raj Pramukh.

We have provided for the formation of an Interim Ministry, as follows. There is already an electoral college for Kathiawar which elects representatives to the Constituent Assembly of India. Our plan is that the same electoral college should meet not later than the 20th February and choose the leader of the Interim Ministry. It will be his task to constitute this Ministry.

The Covenant also makes provision for the summoning of a Constituent Assembly to draft a Constitution for the State of Kathiawar.

We have in the Covenant only provided for the basic principles regarding the Kathiawar Constituent Assembly. The details will be worked out by the new Government of the United State of Kathiawar. It is our intention that when this Constituent Assembly has been set up the Ministry should be reconstituted so as to reflect the majority opinion in the Constituent Assembly. Thereafter it will be for the Constituent Assembly to frame a permanent Constitution for the new State within the frame work of this Covenant and of the Constitution of India.

The Privy Purse of the Rulers has been fixed, and the amount shown against each is contained in Schedule 1 to the Covenant.

#### Bundelkhand

This Covenant, as you will have noticed, applies only to the Salute States and Non-Salute States. There are in addition a number of Talukas and Thanas which are administered by the Government of India through its Regional Commissioner in Kathiawar. We have prepared a separate instrument for their signature which we hope to complete by the end of January.

The movement for merger by which I mean either merger with the Provinces to suit geographical situations or amongst themselves, is progressing rapidly. Such a move has now the support of both the Rulers and the ruled. It is no longer a demand of the people only. You must have observed that recently the Rulers of Bundelkhand met at Nowgang and adopted a resolution for the creation of a United State of Bundelkhand in which all the Bundelkhand States and Kewa are likely to participate. It would be a State fairly large in area, but very substantial in mineral, forest and natural resources. Mr. Menon is hoping to go there on or about Febryary 8, 1948, to have further discussions with the Rulers and the people and to help there in bringing about a State based on complete transfer of power and somewhat on the model of the State of Kathiawar.

#### Central India

Another region where too the Rulers and the people are thinking on similar lines is Central India or Malwa. I have just received information that the Rulers of this region are forming a unitary State on the Lines of the State of Kathiawar based again on full responsible government, that is, executive being fully responsible to the Legislature and Legislature being fully representative of the people of the area. There is a similar move for Rajputana where all the smaller States and some of the bigger ones are hoping to join to form a State of Rajasthan which will help to preserve traditions, culture and peculiarities of life of the Rejputs. I welcome all these moves as they solve the problems of consolidation as well as responsible

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government at one stroke and it is particularly gratifying to note that these moves are not impositions from above but joint and wiking proposals of the Rulers and the ruled. Both the people and the Rulers have realised that grant of full responsible government is inevitable and that responsible government in a small State is just a farce. It is not possible to have a decent and modern administration except in a unit of fan size and this is what is now being attempted with, I am sure, considerable success in the country.

There will still be a number of large States unaffected by the movement for merger or Union. In these States there is a definite inovement for full responsible government. As I observed before Cochin led the way and Travancore soon followed suit and the Interim Government introduced in Mysore has become a model for many States to follow such as Kashmir and Gwalior. I have reason to believe that the leading Rulers of Rajputana are thinking of the same lines and will not lag behind the other Princes in trusting their people and giving them full responsible government thus enabling them to shoulder responsibilities for their own Government. I expect similar constitutional changes to be introduced very shortly in Bikaner and Jaipur. It is obvious that if any State lags behind it will only do so to its own disadvantage and to the disadvantage of its people. I have no doubt that this process of consolidation and democratization will be completed very shortly and certainly well before the new Constitution which is being framed by the Indian Constituent Assembly comes into effect and thus there will be no discrimination between the people of the Provinces and the people of States in the matter of degree of freedom enjoyed by them. All the units will thus march side by side and with equal freedom and not some as free men and some as seris.

#### Rulers' Co-operation

Nobody could have visualised this transformation in the country six months ago. Mr. Menon will tell you that a very senior officer of the Political Department told him just before the transfer of power that he was wasting his time over accession and standstill agreement and that not one State will accept the accession as proposed by the newly formed Ministry of States. These officers are still alive and must be wondering how the changes that have occurred since they left have really been brought about. While I give plenty of cradit to the people for this bloodless revolution in nearly \$ of the country, I have nothing but praise for the manner in which the Rulers have co-operated with us and with the people in bringing about this development. None is more conscious than myself that all this could not have been achieved but for their willing cooperation and their intense patriotism which was latent but which has just blossomed forth in all its fullness with the acquisition of independence by the country.

One State remains which is still causing us some anxiety. It is the State of Hyderabad. Its geographical situa-

(Continued on Page 229)

## THE UNITED STATE OF KATHIAWAR

## Covenant Entered Into By Rulers

OLLOWING is the Covenant entered to be part of this Covenant. into by the Rulers of Kathiawar States for the formation of the United State of Kathiawar:

We, the Rulers of certain States in Kathiawar,

BEING CONVINCED that the welfare of the people of this region can best be secured by the establishment of a state comprising the territories of the numerous States, Estates and Talukas in Kathiawar with a common Executive, Legislature and Judiciary,

AND HAVING resolved to entrust to a Constituent Assembly consisting of elected representatives of the people the drawing up of a democratic Constitution for that State within the framework of the Constitution of India to which we have already acceded, and of this Covenant,

DO HEREBY, with the concurrence and guarantee of the Government of India, enter into the following COVE-NANT-

#### In this Covenant,-Article I

- (a) "Covenanting State" means any of the States mentioned in Schedule I the Ruler of which has, whether by himself or by a duly authorised representative, signed this Covenant;
- (b) "Covenanting Salute State"means any Covenanting State which is mentioned in Part A of Schedule I;
- (c) "Covenanting Non-Salute State" -means any Covenanting State which is mentioned in Part B of Schedule I; and
- (d) unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, references to the Ruler of a State, or the Talukdar of a Taluka, include any person or persons for the time being exercising the powers of the Ruler or Talukdar whether by reason of his minority or for any other

#### (1) The Covenanting Article II States agree-

- (a) to unite and integrate their territories in one State, with a common executive, legislature and judiciary, by the name of "THE UNITED STATE OF KATHIAWAR"; and
- (b) to include in the United State so established, any other State, Taluka or Estate the Ruler or Talukdar of which agrees, with the approval of the Government of Indie, to the merger of that State, Taluka or Estate in the United State of Kathiawar.
- (2) The terms of all the agreements of merger referred to in clause (b) of paragraph (1) of this Article shall be binding on the United State and shall be deemed

- (1) There shall be a Council of the Kulers of the Covenan-Article III ting Salute States.
- (2) There shall be a Presidium consisting of five members, each of whom shall be the Ruler of Covenanting State and shall be not less than 21 years of age.
- (3) Subject to the condition mentioned in paragraph (2) of this Article. the Rulers of Nawanayar and Bhavnagar shall be permanent members of the Presidium, one member shall be elected from among themselves by the Rulers of the Covenanting Non-Salute States, and the other members shall be elected from among themselves by the members of the Council of Rulers other than Nawanagar and Bhavnogar.
- (4) The Council of Rulers shall elect one member of the Presidium to be the President, and another to be the Vice-President of the Presidium, and the President so elected shall be the RAJ PRAMUKH of the United State.
- (5) A Ruler elected as a member of the Presidium in pursuance of paragraph (3), or as the President or the Vice-President of the Presidiun in pursuance of paragraph (4), of this Article shall be entitled to hold office as such member, President or Vice-President, as the case may be, for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon the duties of that office.
- (6) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Article—
- (a) the present Rulers of Nawanagar and Bhavnagar, having been elected President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Presidium by the Rulers concerned on the 17th January, 1948, shall be the first President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Presidium;
- (b) the present Rulers of Dharangadhra, Palitana and Kotda-Sangani, having been elected members of the Presidium by the Rulers concerned on the 17th and 21st January, 1948, shall be the first elected members of the Presidium; and
- (c) the said President, Vice-President and members of the Presidium shall, for the purposes of paragraph (5) of this Article, be deemed to have entered upon the duties of their respective offices on the 1st February, 1948.
- (1) The Raj Pramukh shall be entitled to the same salary, allowances, and other Article IV amenities enabling himto discharge conveniently and with dignity the duties of his office, as the Governor of Bombay is entitled to on the 20th January, 1948.



- (2) If the Raj Pramukh is by reason of absence or illness, or for any other reason, unable to perform the duties of his office, those duties shall, until he has resumed them, be performed by the Vice-President of the Presidium. During such period the Vice-President shall be entitled in the same salary, allowances and other amenities as the Raj Pramukh.
- (1) There shall be a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the Raj Pramukh in the exercise of his functions except those under paragraph (2) of Article VII.
- (2) The Ministry shall be chosen by, and shall hold office during the pleasure of, the Raj Pramukh.
- (3) For the purpose of choosing the first Council of Ministers the Raj Pramukh shall convene, not later than the 20th February, 1948, meeting of the members of the Electoral College of Kathiawar (formed for electing representatives to the Constituent Assembly of India) but excluding the members from the States of Cutch, Idar and Radhanpur.
- (1) The Ruler of each Covenanting
  State shall, as soon as
  may be practicable, and
  in any event not later
  than the 15th April,
  1948, make over the administration of
  his State to the Raj Pramukh; and
  thereupon—
- (a) all rights, authority and jurisdiction belonging to the Ruler which appertain, or are incidental, to the government of the Covenanting State shall vest in the United State of Kathiawar, and shall thereafter be exercisable only as provided by this Convenant or by the Constitution to be framed thereunder;
- (b) all duties and obligations of the Ruler pertaining or incidental to the government of the Covenanting State shall devolve on the United State of Kathiawar and shall be discharged by it; and
- (c) all the assets and liabilities of the Covenanting State shall be the assets and liabilities of the United State of Kathiawar.
- (2) When in pursuance of any such agreement of merger as is referred to in clause (b) of paragraph (l) of Article II the administration of any other State, Taluka or Estate is handed over to the Raj Pramukh, the provisions of clauses (a) and (b) of paragraph (l) of this Article, and in the case of a State, the provisions also of clause (c) thereof, shall apply in relation to such State, Taluka or Estate as they apply in relation to a Covenanting State, with the modification that in relation to a Taluka or Estate, the references in the said clauses to the Ruler shall be construed as references to the Talukdar.
- (1) The military forces, if any, of each Covenanting State

  Article VII shall as from the date on which the administration of each State is made over to the kaj Pramukh, becomes the military

forces of the United State of Kathiawar.

(2) Subject to any directions or instructions that may from time to time be given by the Government of India in this behalf, the authority to raise, maintain and administer the military forces of the United State shall vest exclusively in the Raj Pramukl:

Provided that nothing in this Article shall be deemed to prevent the Kaj Pramukh from consulting the Presidium or the Council of Ministers in regard to any of the said matters.

Subject to the provisions of this Covenant and of the Article VIII Constitution to framed thereunder, the executive authority of the United State shall be exercised by the Raj Pramukh either directly or through officers subordinate to him; but nothing in this Article shall prevent any competent legislature of the United State from conferring functions upon subordinate authorities, or be deemed to transfer to the Raj Pramukh any functions conferred by any existing law on any court, judge, officer or local authority in a Covenanting State.

- (1) There shall be formed, as soon as may be practicable, a Kathiawar Constituent Assembly in the manner indicated in Schedule II.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the said Assembly to frame a Constitution for the United State (whether of a unitary or federal type) within the framework of this Covenant and the Constitution of India, and providing for a government responsible to the legislature.
- (5) Until a Constitution so framed comes into operation after receiving the assent of the Raj Pramukh, the legislative authority of the United State shall vest in the Raj Pramukh, who may make and promulgate Ordinances for the peace and good government of the State or any part thereof, and any Ordinance so made shall have the like force of law as an Act passed by the legislature of the
- (1) The Ruler of each Covenanting
  State shall be entitled
  to receive annually from
  the revenues of the
  United State for his privy purse, the
  amount specified against that Covenanting State.
- (2) The said amount is intended to cover all the expenses of the Ruler and his family including expenses on account of his personal stail, maintenance of his residences, marriages and other ceremonies, etc., and shall neither be increased nor reduced for any reason whatsoever.
- (3) The Raj Pramukh shall cause the said amount to be paid to the Ruler in four equal instalments at the beginning of each quarter in advance.
- (4) The said amount shall be free of all taxes, whether imposed by the Government of the United State of Kathiawar or by the Government of India.

- (1) The Ruler of each Covenanting
  State shall be entitled
  to the full ownership,
  use and enjoyment of
  all private properties (as distinct from
  State properties) belonging to him on
  the date of his making over the administration of that State to the Raj Pramukb.
- (2) He shall furnish to the Raj Pramukh within one month of the said date an inventory of all the immoveable properties, securities and cash balances held by him as such private property.
- (3) If any dispute arises as to whether any item of property is the private property of the Ruler or State property, it shall be referred to such person as the Government of India may nominate, and the decision of that person shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

The Ruler of each Covenanting State, as also the members of family shall be entitled to all the personal privileges, dignities and titles enjoyed by them, whether within or outside the territories of the State, immediately before the 15th day of August, 1947.

- Article XIII and custom, to the gaddi of each Covenanting State, and to the personal rights, privileges, dignitics and titles of the Kuler thereof, is hereby guaranteed.
- (2) Every question of disputed succession in regard to a Covenanting Salute State shall be decided by the Council of Rulers after referring it to the High Court of Kathiawar and in accordance with the opinion given by that High Court

No enquiry shall be made by or under the authority of the State of Kathiawar, and no proceedings shall lie in any court in that State against the Ruler of any Covenanting State, whether in a personal capacity or otherwise, in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him or under his authority during the period of his administration of that State.

Article XV in consultation with the Government of India and the Government of Bombay, take all steps necessary to set up a Joint Advisory Council, consisting of Ministers of Kathiawar and Ministers of Bombay, for investigating and discussing subjects of common concern and making recommendations thereon, and in particular recommendations for the better co-ordination of policy and action with respect to any such subject.

(1) The United State of Kathiawar hereby guarantees either the continuance in service of the permanent members of the public services of each of the Covenanting States on conditions which will be not less advantageous than on which they were serving before the date on which the administration of that

State is made over to the Raj Pramukh or the payment of reasonable compensation.

- (2) The United State of Kathiawar further guarantees the continuance of pensions and leave salaries sanctioned by competent authorities in any of the Covenanting States to members of the public services of that State who have retired, or proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, before the date referred to in paragraph (1) of this article.
- (3) The provisions of paragraph (1) and (2) of this Article shall apply also in relation to the public services of any other State in Kathiawar merging in the United State of Kathiawar; and the provisions of paragraph (1) shall apply also in relation to any staff of the Regional Commissioner, Western India and Gujarat States, which may be transferred to the service of the United State of Kathiawar.

Except with the previous sanction of the Raj Pramukh, no proceedings, civil or criminal, shall be instituted against any person in respect of sny act done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duty as a servant of any Covenanting State before the date on which the administration thereof is made over to the Raj Pramukh.

Article XVIII

Article XVIII

Article XVIII

Overnment of Kathiawar from negotiating a Union of Kathiawar with

other Gujarati-Speaking areas on such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the Council of Rulers, as well as the Council of Ministers, of Kathiawar.

## PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

The Provisions relating to the Kathiawar Constituent Assembly are:

1. The Assembly shall consist of not more than forty-five elected representatives of the people of the United State of Kathiawar on the basis of one representative for approximately one lakk: of the population:

Provided that the people of each Covenanting Salute State shall, irrespective of their number, be entitled to elect at least one representative.

- 2. The United State of Kathiawar shall be divided into territorial constituencies and the total number of seats shall be distributed among them by assigning to each constituency one or two seats as may be convenient. As far as possible the constituencies shall be so delimited as not to cut across the boundaries of any compact part of a Covenanting State.
- 3. The qualifications for membership of the Assembly and for being included in the electoral rolls shall be similar to those prescribed in relation to the Provincial Legislative Assembly of Bombay, subject to necessary modifications.

Provided that no person shall be

disqualified either from being chosen as, or from being, a member of the Assembly or from being included in the electoral roll of a constituency, merely because he is the Ruler of a Covenanting or other State, or the Talukdar of a Taluka or Estate.

- 4. An order shall in due course be made and proclaimed by the Raj Pramukh providing, consistently with the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, for—
  - (a) the delimitation of constituencies:(b) the preparation of electoral rolls;
- (c) the qualifications for membership of the Assembly;
- (d) the qualifications entitling persons to vote in the elections;
- (e) conduct of the elections, including bye-elections for the filling of casual vacancies;
- (f) corrupt practices at or in connection with such elections; and
- (g) the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with such elections.

In confirmation of the above Covenantwe append our signatures, on behalf of ourselves, our heirs and successors.

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S CONCURRENCE

The Government of India hereby concur in the above Covenant and Guarantee all its provisions. In confirmation thereof Mr. Vapal Pangunni Menon, Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of States, appends his signature on behalf and with the authority of the Government of India.

Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of States.

## PRESS LAWS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE MEETS

The Press Laws Enquiry Committee met in New Delhi, on Jan. 21, under the chairmanship of Shri Ganga Nath to hear oral evidence of official and non-official witnesses.

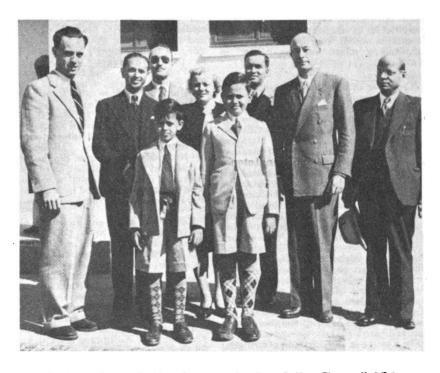
The Committee examined Mr. K. Shrinivasan, Secretary, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference and the Hon'ble Pandit Lingaraj Misra, Minister for Education and Health, Orissa. Resuming its sitting on Jan. 22, the Committee took the evidence of Mr. A.D. Mani, Editor, Hitvada, Nagpur, Mr. M. Chelarathi Reo, Editor, National Herald, Lucknow and Shri Radhanath Rath, Editor, Samaj, Cuttack.

The Committee will now meet in New Delhi on March 2—4, 1948, to record further evidence.

## ALCOHOLIC DRINKS PROHIBITED AT OFFICIAL PARTIES

The Government of India have asked all employees of the Central Government to refrain from serving alcoholic drinks at official or semi-official parties given by them in view of the general policy of prohibition.

The use of alcoholic drinks would be permissible only at social functions of a private nature, though it is hoped that on these occasions also, such drinks would be avoided or at least reduced to the minimum.



Sir N. Raghavan Pillai, who has been appointed as Indian Charge d' Affaires at Paris, left with his wife and children (centre group) on January 27. Appearing at right of the picture are Mr. P. A. Menon, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Ministry, M. Roux, Charge d' Affaires French Embassy in India and Mr. R. R. Salzena, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Ministry

#### CREATION OF UNITED KATHIAWAR

#### Shri Balwantrai Mehta's Broadcast

HE story of how the dream of united Kathiawar has materialised within 14 months of the Kathiawar Political Conference demanding the creation of such a State was told in a talk broadcast on Jan. 27. from New Delhi by Shri Balwantrai G. Mehta, Prime Minister of Bhavnagar.

The following is the full text of the broadcast:

A great and revolutionary change has come over the States of Kathiawar, in Western India. It was only 14 months ago that the Kathiawar Political Conference, at its session at Dhrangadhra, passed a resolution asking for the creation of a Unitary Kathiawar State with one Legislature, one Executive, one Judiciary, one Treasury and one Police Force. There was a hot debate at the session and the younger elements in the Conference pressed for the elimination of the Institution of kingship. Wiser counsels prevailed however, and the Conference by an overwhelming majority accepted the Resolution as it was originally drafted. The demand thus formulated at Dhrangadhra grew stronger every day and gripped the hearts of the people of Kathiawar. It was reiterated from hundreds of platforms—both inside and outside Kathiawar.

#### Junagadh

The surrender of Junagadh to the Government of India, after a vehement struggle by the Popular Forces against its unnatural inclusion into Pakistan, was a great and historic event which fires the imagination of the people, and set forces in motion which were bound to have a far-reaching effect on the polity of Kathiawar.

The State of Bhavnagar, presided over by a young and popular Prince, Shri Krishnakumar Sinhji, startled the Princes and people of Kathiawar by declaring the establishment of a full responsible Government. His Highness the Maharaja invited the elected members of his Legislature to form an Interim Goernment forthwith, and declared his intention to abide by the advice of the new Ministry in the affairs of the administration. He also invited these same elected members to elect a Constitution Committee which would draft the Constitution of the State on the basis of full Responsible Government. This declara-tion of His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar on the 15th instant in the presence of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, our Deputy Prime Minister, stirred the stagnant waters of Kathiawar Politics. His Highness the Maharaja himself, in his speech while making the declaration had indicated that it was advisable to make a move in the direction of bringing about the Political Unity of Kathiawar.

The Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislature, who has now formed the Interim Government, in his speech

welcoming the historic announcement of the Maharaja Saheb emphasised the vital necessity of bringing the whole peninsula of Kathiawar under a single Unitary Government for the moral and material well-being of its people. This plea found a welcome response in the speech of Sardar Patel who advised the Princes and the people of Kathiawar to take steps in this direction. It was a unique occasion when the Maharaja of a State and the Leader of the Opposition were arguing out the same case. Both wanted a Democratic new State which would even be willing to merge its individuality in a future province of Maha-Gujerat.

#### Rajkot Conference

Two days after this historic event took place at Bhavanagar, Mr. V. P. Menon of the Ministry of States, convened a Conference, at Rajkot of the Ruling Princes of the Salute States of Kathiawar. It was at this meeting that the leading Princes of Kathiawar took a wise and bold decision which would affect the destinies of the people of Kathiawar for years to come. They decided to merge their identities and create a single Unitary State which would be presided over by a Raj l'ramukh and be governed by a Popular Ministry responsible to the Legislature elected on the basis of a wide franchise. The Rulers have elected H. H. the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar as the first Raj Pramukh. This is a fitting selection and the people of Kathiawar have every confidence that with his wide experience and patriotism he will be able to launch the new State properly and guide it in its formative stages. The dream of the Popular Workers of Kathiawar which had found expression only 14 months back at Dhrangadhra came to be realised in this remarkable manner. The Ruling Princes of the III and IV Class States in Kathiawar met the States Secretary at Rajkot on the 20th and agreed to accept the decision for a merger of all the States of Kathiawar into one Single State. A covenant for the elimination of boundaries and creation of such a State had been prepared and signed by the Kathia-war Princes. The New Era has set in.

Kathiawar has an area of about 23,000 sq. miles with a population of about 40 lakhs. The total revenue of all the 250 States will approximate about six crores. The land being cut up into all these innumerable jurisdictions had failed to satisfy the needs of its people and every year there was an exodus of thousands of Kathiawaries to Ahmedabad, Bombay and other industrial cities in India and to various overseas countries. The people of Kathiawar are well known for their enterprise and business acumen. They have fared very well in all walks of life wherever they have gone. They have made their mark in many fields of activities, wherever they have gone. It was the misfortune of these sturdy

people to have been divided into innumerable estates and States. All opportunities for self-development and self-expression were severely restricted. A common Kathiawar outlook could not be developed.

The creation of the Kathiawar State, popularly known as the State of Saurashtra, opens vast possibilities of develop-ment. There is the famous Girner hill in the heart of Kathiawar. It is the opinion of experts that this site if properly harnessed could provide hydroelectric power to about a third of Kathiawar. This scheme has every chance of materialising under the new conditions. There are said to be mineral resources in the bowels of the earth in Kathiawar. They have neither been properly surveyed nor has there been any serious attempt for their exploitation. The New Popular Government when it comes into existence on or before the 20th of February will be able to develop these resources and bring prosperity to the toiling masses. When there are the Gir Forest, the rivers Shadar and Shetrunji, the various hills and hillocks and the beautiful coastline of the peninsula extending over about 300 miles. All this and a fine specimen of manhood and womanhood could well combine to make Kathiawar a land of Peace, Plenty and Prosperity.

It would be possible under the new dispensation to create a mercantile marine, a school for marine engineering, to develop fisheries, exploit the minerals and forests, encourage seafaring, develop trade and commerce through the various ports which have great possibilities of expansion, to harness the waters of the rivers for the purpose of irrigating barren land, generating power and preventing soil erosion. Years back, an economist of repute wrote about a port of Kathiawar that its growing strength would make it an equal to the flourishing ports of Bombay and Karachi. Kathiawar can develop excellent ports which could also be utilised as strategic naval bases. Cottage industries could be developed with the aid of electric power and the peasantry and artisans could ply their trade in peace.

#### Land Revenue Systems

There is a confusing multiplicity of land revenue systems and taxation structures in Kathiawar. It will be possible now to substitute this by a uniform land tenure, land revenue system and equitable taxation structure based on the model of the Bombay Presidency. The ruthless exploitation of the peasantry in petty States and estates will cease to exist, law and order will no longer be defied with impunity as it used to be the case under separate jurisdictions and boundaries. There will be bo rival claims to riparian rights to impede the progress of irrigation and agriculture. A common policy for the abolition of illiteracy, prevention of the spread of disease and eradication of the abject poverty shall have every likelihood of being formulated and carried out by the new Popular Government. This is really a call to the creative genius and constructive talents of the people of Kathiawar wherever they reside.

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INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

The New Saurashtra State will come into existence on the 1st of February and will gather to itself estates and States by gradual stages till the whole of the peninsula with few exceptions is included into its boundaries by the 15th April. The Gackwar's territory in Kathiawar. i.e., Amrali division of the Baroda States and the Jaffrabad portion of the Janjira State shall have to be merged into the new State in order to make it compact, homogeneous and natural. Some portion of the Bombay Province, now interspersed with some of the Kathiawar States could also with advantage be transferred to this new State. The island of Diuthe Portuguese settlement-shall also have one day to form a part of this new State. It will be then that the dream of the workers of Kathiawar will materialise to its fullest extent.

#### **After 12 Centuries**

For the past several centuries, the people of Kathiawar, though destined by nature to be one and homogeneous, have been deprived of Political Unity and, consequently, have been denied of the opportunities of self-expression and selfdevelopment. It may have possessed some sort of unity under the Mauryas and the Guptas, but, after the fall of Vallabhi dynasty for the last 1,200 years or so, the land has been divided and subdivided and every adventurer has had his full sway over the area he could command. Thus the land that produced Shri Krishna, Sudama, Gandhi Dayanand became a picture of misery and unhappiness and became the hunting ground for a band of exploiters and freebooters. The times have changed, the fetters are gone. The patriotic and far-sighted move of the Princes of Kathiawar has set forces in motion which are sure to restore Power and Plenty to this ancient land of Saurashtra.

## INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING ORGANISATION SCHEME

A Conference to consider the formation of an International Maritime Consultatative Organisation which would be, in relation to the United Nations, the specialised agency in the field of shipping will open on February 19, 1948, in Geneva.

The Indian Delegation will comprise:

Leader: Sir N. Raghvan Pillai, who has been appointed Indian Charge d'Affaires in Paris.

Members: Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Mr. M. A. Master and Mr. L. K. Jha of the Ministry of Commerce.

Besides the member states of the United Nations, the following countries have been invited: Albania, Australia, Eire, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Portgual, Switzerland, Rumania, Transjordan and Yemen.

The Conference will have before it the draft Convention adopted by the second session of the United Maritime Consultative Council in Washington in Oct. 1946.

# Work and Future Development of Survey of India

India a map reproduction organisation and plant, which with the addition of a few specialist personnel and special equipment, is likely to serve the needs of India for many years to come". This is the view expressed by the Surveyor General of India in his report "Survey and Mapping Policy", which is now under the consideration of the Central Government.

The Report continues "It is fortunate for the surveyor who will work in the India of the future, that the geodetic and other foundations on which his work must be built, were laid when India could be treated as a whole before partition. In the future, both countries and the geographical and scientific world, will gain much if the Survey of India and Pakistan can eliminate by mutual co-operation some of the restrictions imposed on their work by political divisions.

#### First Authoritative Map

According to the Report, the First autoritative map of India was published by a Frenchman in 1752. It had been compiled from route surveys by travellers in the interior and rough charts of the coast. Fifteen years later Lord Clive appointed the first Surveyor General of Bengal. His maps were originally military reconnaissances and chained surveys based on astronomically fixed points. They did not however attain the accuracy of modern maps of India based on the system introduced at Madras in 1802, and since extended over the whole of India and beyond. From these beginnings the Survey of India developed and it has since published. maps embodying geodetic and topographical surveys and undertaken the compilation of geographical maps covering the greater part of South East Asia.

For the Survey of India, the second world war was both an interruption and a digression. Normal civil activities practically ceased and the whole effort of the Department was directed towards war work. A large part of its staff was mobilised and formed the backbone of the military surveys in Persia, Iraq and the South East Asia Command.

During the war, practically no new topographical surveys were made in India and hardly any revision of standard maps was carried out. Production of revised editions of maps also fell heavily into arrears.

Among the new trends and demands for surveys noticeable since the end of the war, is the planning of numerous development projects in India. The irrigation, hydro-electric and other projects require precise surveys, not only of reservoir and dam sites, but also of the often very extensive areas proposed for irrigation.

Industrialisation has led to numerous demands for large-scale surveys of important cities, and the reclamation of wasteland to grow more food has also to be based on accurate surveys.

The Survey of India will now have to meet very heavy demands for surveys and publication, first to make up the arrears of work arising from the curtailment of normal activities before and during the war, and secondly, to provide large-scale surveys and maps for the development of India's resources in minerals, power, agriculture and industry, and also to meet the increased requirements of India's army and aviation.

The first is probably a temporary demand, which with extra facilities, the department should be able to meet during the next few years.

As regards the second, the following factors among others will have to be taken into consideration:—

- (a) The completion of the modern survey of India involving 180,000 sq. miles of new surveys must be effected as soon as possible.
- (b) Provision must be made for the periodical revision of standard top cguaphical maps.
- (c) Special air navigation charts must be kept up-to-date to meet the growing demands of civil and military aviation.
- (d) Demands for accurate large-scale survey of cities and other industrially important areas cannot be refused indefinitely, and
- (e) Special surveys in connection with irrigation, hydro-electric, land reclamation and similar projects will require high priority to assist in the development of India.

#### Development in Air Survey

During the last few years, very great advances have been made in air survey mainly in the direction of an improvement in the design of air cameras and lenses. Larger photographs can now be taken, which reduce work and improve accuracy. The design of machines for direct plotting of maps from air photographs had also improved, which enable accurate maps to be plotted with the minimum of ground control. Air survey is therefore likely to play a much more important part in the future.

The total area of the Union of India including the States is about 12,00,000 sq. miles and of this 180,000 sq. miles have yet to be surveyed in modern style. A programme of air photography of about 30,000 sq. miles yearly for the completion and revision of topographical maps would occupy about 40 years. A plan for topographical and project surveys is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

## RELAXATION IN IMPORT CONTROL

## Consumer Goods To Be Permitted On More Liberal Scale

HILE the main consideration governing India's import control continues to be the availability of foreign exchange, it is understood that a more liberal policy will be followed during the first half of this year in regard to the import from non-dollar sources of certain commodities, including motor cars and lorries, bicycles, typewriters, wireless receiving sets, tinned milk, newsprint, industrial tools, coaltar dyes, drugs and medicines, paints and varnishes, chemicals, scientific instruments, aeroplane parts, etg.

The goods will not be freely licensed, but it has been decided to raise the monetary "ceilings" governing their import. Two factors have combined to make possible these higher "ceilings". First, the licensing arrangements, which operated from July to December 1947, have served to provide a fairly accurate picture of the country's import requirements. Secondly the system of revalidating licences ceased with the end of 1947, relieving the pressure on foreign exchange resources.

An exception, however, has been made in the case of Capital Goods licences. These are being revalidated up to the approximate date of arrival of the goods, the only test being whether firm orders have been placed with exporters.

#### **New Validity Periods**

Another feature of the present import control arrangements, announced on Dec. 12, 1947, is that licensing will no longer correspond to the half-yearly shipping periods. Instead, most of the licences granted will be valid for six months from their date of issue. Others, covering goods which normally take a considerable time for delivery, will be valid for one year from the date of issue. This change, it is hoped, will even up for licence holders the time factor in the obtaining of their goods. It is understood that this innovation is the result of the improved shipping position.

Another aspect of the present system of the control is the classification of imports into different groups:

- (a) those licensed freely from dollar areas.
- (b) freely licensed goods from non-dollar areas, and
- (c) articles not to be licensed at all from any source.

The distinction drawn between dollar area and non-dollar area imports arises from the necessity to conserve dollars. It is recognised that for articles

which must be imported from dollar areas, licences will be granted. But generally it should be easier to obtain licences for goods from non-dollar countries.

Under the revised arrangements Open General Licence No.9'has been cancelled from the beginning of this year, but commitments already made in respect of articles affected by the cancellation will be allowed entry up to March 31, 1948, without the formality of a licence. The O.G.L. covered a wide range of articles, some of which were parts of machinery, machine-made cloth, agricultural implements, woollen and cotton fabrics, copra, coconut oil, mineral oil, raw silk, cotton yarn, raw wool, wood pulp, raw hides and skins. These goods are now being freely licensed from nondollar areas. On the basis of these licences, Government expects to have accurate and timely information of supplies received and commitments made.

Three O. G. Ls. of minor importance are still in existence. O. G. L. No. 2 covers certain imports from Middle East countries, mostly mineral oil products, O. G. L. No. 4 pertains to import of samples and of goods brought as personal luggage by diplomatic personnel. O. G. L. No. 6 covers country craft traffic from the Persian Gulf, Aden, Palestine, etc.

## GRACE PERIOD OF IMPORT LICENCES EXTENDED

The Government of India have been informed that owing to snow-storms in the United States of America, shipment of goods, which otherwise could have been made before the end of last year, was unexpectedly delayed. As a result, consignments which left the manufacturing factories well in time for shipment before Dec. 31 could not be shipped except after that date.

In order to cover the import of these consignments it has been decided, as a special case, that in the case of licences for imports from the United States of America which were to expire on Dec. 31, 1947, a period of 31 days' grace should be allowed, instead of the 15 days' grace at present allowed. Goods shipped against these licences on or before Jan. 31, 1948, will be allowed clearance, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, on Jan. 23.

#### RESERVE BANK ASKED TO PAY 50 CRORES TO PAKISTAN

The Government of India instructed the Reserve Bank on Jan. 17, to credit the Pakistan Government with Rs. 50 crores in implementation of the agreement about the division of the cash balance, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 17.

The balance of Rs. 5 crores was to be adjusted against the expenditure incurred by India since August 15, 1947, on account of Pakistan.

## EXPORT OF COTTON CLOTH AND YARN

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Jan. 30 said: In pursuance of the policy of progressive decontrol, the Government of India have reviewed the position with regard to price control over cotton cloth and yarn intended for export and have decided to lift the control, with immediate effect, in respect of all destinations except the following:

Australia, British East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika) and the Sudan.

The relevant notification under the Cloth and Yarn (Export Control) Order, 1945, appears in Section I of Part I of the, Gazette of India published on January 31, 1948.

#### **EXPORTS BY PARCEL POST**

Exports by parcel post of all articles, other than jewellery and precious stones, are no longer required to obtain valuation certificates from port Customs authorities regarding the contents of packages, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 21.

The Government of India has taken this decision with a view to removing difficulties at present experienced by exporters in inland trading centres, where facilities for valuation do not exist.

The relevant foreign exchange forms in respect of parcels containing articles other than jewellery and precious stones will continue to be countersigned by the Reserve Bank of India, or an authorised dealer in foreign exchange, on the strength of invoices, bills etc., but a Customs valuation certificate will not be necessary.

#### PROGRESS IN EMPLOYMENT

Of 24,631 refugees registered during the month of December, 1947, at the Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices of the Ministry of Labour in the Indian Union, 3,899, involving 15,697 dependants were placed in employment. The placement figures for this month are the highest recorded so far.

The total number of refugees registered with the Exchanges upto the end of December, 1947, was 64,224, of whom 10,566, involving 47,342 dependants have been placed in employment.



The All India Educational Conference opened in New Delhi on January 16- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (extreme left) is seen addressing the Conference

## **EDUCATION FOR ALL: CONSCRIPTION OF TEACHERS**

## Maulana Azad's Address at Educational Conference

would urge upon every educated man and woman to regard it as a sacred national service to come forward and serve as a teacher for at least two years. They should regard it as a sacrifice to the national cause and accept, for their services whatever allowance the state may afford", said the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, opening the All-India Educational Conference on January 16 in New Delhi.

The Education Minister added: "If every matriculate is required to put in one year's and every graduate two years' service in education before he or she attains his or her certificate we would get a large supply of teachers for our purpose".

Below is the text of the address:

It is exactly a year ago that I assumed charge of this Ministry on the 15th of January, 1947. It was then my intention to summon immediately an educational conference of representatives of Provincial Governments, the States and Universities in order to chalk out our future programme of action. In fact, dates had been announced for such a conference twice but circumstances over which we had no control, intervened on both occasions. I need not go into the reasons for these postponements as they are well known to you and will only say that I have spared no efforts to summon the conference as early as possible. In any case, we have met today and I have every hope that the combined wisdom of all who are present today, will enable us to formulate schemes that will meet adequately the educational requirements of this ancient land. I extend to you my cordial welcome and thank you all for your response to my invitation.

The agenda is already before you. You will find that it contains only the most pressing problems that confront us today. The first issue refers to the provision of basic education for every citizen of the State. It is on all hands that without such education a modern democratic state cannot flourish or perform those functions which are expected of it. The scheme of Post-war Educational Development prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Educa-tion has been accepted by the Central and the Provincial Governments. Steps have already been taken to set on foot the programme of action according to a first five year plan, but I must point out that all these have been done according to old methods and on the old scales. After the realisation of our independence, we cannot however, be content with programmes which were considered adequate for the old regime. Thus, no one will for a moment tolerate today that 40 years must elapse before the full scheme of basic education for all the inhabitants of this land can be implemented. In fact, even half that period will seem to many to savour of delay and procrastination. We must, therefore, devise measures by which the educational progress of this country can be so accelerated that we reach our objective within a much shorter time.

I know the many difficulties and obstacles which face us. I know that on account of the happenings in the recent past, the attention of the Government and the people has often been diverted from constructive work. After full consideration of all these factors, I would still assert that education cannot wait. Even if other nation building activities of the Government have to be slowed down or deferred on account of such difficulties, education, at any rate, must be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. We must not, for a moment, forget that it is the birth-right of every

individual to receive at least the basic education without which he cannot fully discharge his duties as a citizen.

In talking of basic education, we have to deal separately with the problem of providing education to school-going children and to sdults. The population of India today, after partition, is roughly 24 crores, if we leave out of account the people of the States. The school-going population will, therefore, be about 2,93,72,000, if we consider the age-group of 6 to 11 years. If we calculate on the basis of even 3 teachers for every hundred pupils, this would require about 9 lakhs of teachers for teaching close upon 3 crores of boys and girls. I will not raise here the question whether we should discourage single-teacher schools, though the best educational opinion favours at least two teachers for a school. In any case, the provision of 3 lakhs of trained teachers immediately seems an altogetier impossible task and nothing that the Government can do can remedy this defect overnight. In fact, this seems to be one of the main reasons why 40 years was regarded as the minimum period which must elapse before educational facilities can be provided for all citizens of the land.

#### An Appeal

We have, however, already seen that we cannot wait for such a long time and, therefore, my appeal will be to all educated men and women of this country to come forward to meet this deficiency. I would urge upon every educated man and woman to regard it as a sacred national service to come forward and serve as a teacher for at least two years. They should regard it as a sacrifice to the national cause and accept for their services whatever allowance the State may afford. We may also consider some kind of conscription for the purpose. If every matriculate is required to put in one year's and every graduate two years' service in education before he or she obtains his or her certificate, we would get a large supply of teachers for our purpose. If 2 lakhs of educated men and women come forward every year, we can in five years realise the

minimum number of teachers necessary for fulfilling our plans. This will, however, be an emergency measure and cannot continue indefinitely. We must, therefore, devote these five years for the greatest possible expansion in the provision of facilities for training teachers, so that by the end of that period, we may gradually replace volunteer teachers by teachers who have taken up teaching as their vocation.

Another great obstacle towards immediate provision of educational facilities for all is the financial implication of constructing the necessary school houses and other buildings. This, however, need not and should not deter us. I would go so far as to say that we need not just now make any provision for building expenses at all. India is a country where for nine months in the year pupil can work in the open without any difficulty or injury to their health. In villages, if necessary, educational work can be carried on under trees and even where structures have to be put up, whether in town or village, these can be built with bamboo and mud at a much lower cost than a pucca building would cost. In addition, we must never forget that in India there have already been voluntary contributions towards the establishment of schools and I have no doubt that if we can tap fully the resources or private munificence, the problem of meeting the cost of educational structures will be at least partially met.

#### Problem of Finance

Another chief obstacle to the immediate fulfilment of the Basic Education Plan is the problem of finance. For basic education alone we require at least 9 lakhs of teachers. The Pay Commission recommended a scale of Rs. 30—Rs. 50 for such teachers on the pre-war scale. I realise that this is hardly enough to attract the best type of candidates, but as I have stated earlier, my appeal is to educated men and women to regard this educational service for two years as a sacrifice in the cause of the nation. They must therefore agree to work on this meagre pay and look at it more in the nature of an allowance than wages for their labour. I have suggested that we should have at least two lac volunteers every year which will give 4 lacs of such volunteers at a time from the second year of the enforcement of the scheme. Even on the basis of pay suggested in the Pay Commission's Report, this would mean a wages bill of Rs. 2 crores per month or Rs. 24 crores per year for the next five years. The amount actually spent on Primary Education by the Provinces and the Centre as shown in the budget for the year 1945-46 is as follows:-

[See Cols. 2 and 3]

The figures have been taken from the Provincial General Educational Table. Since then there have been considerable increases in the provision for Education in the Central and Provincial Budgets, but figures are not at present available for the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 except in the case of the Centre. In the Centre, the Budget provides for a little over Rs. 11 lakhs for 1947-48. We may, however, ignore these

Name of Province	Expenditure on Primary Education by various Provinces during 1945-46	Education by various Pro-
	Rs.	
A88A\1	21,66,186	
BIHAR	2,09,820	
BOMBAY	1,71,22,281	Figures are
C. P. & BERAR	23,60,391	not
MADRAS	2,89,28,403	available.
ORISSA	16,77,017	
UNITED PROVINCES	57,52,008	
Total	5,82,16,106	
BENGAL (Undivided)	74,10,142	Figures are not
PUNJAB (Undivided)	57,66,474	available.
Total	1,81,76,616	ema manathinia ama di kamanana kana di pangangan da di di pangangan da di di pangangan da di di pangangan da d
Total of all Provinces	7,13,92,722	
Centrally Administered Areas		
AJMER-MERWARA	29,634	
CIVIL & MILITARY STATE	ION 1,03,958	Figures are
COORG	47,430	not
DELHI	2,72,564	available.
MINOR ADMINISTRATION	NS 1,49,960	
Total	8,03,546	
Grand Total	7,21,96,298	

variations as well as the variation that has been caused by the partition of the Provinces of Bengal and Punjab.

We would, therefore, have to find additional funds to the extent of about sixteen crores for the next five years. In Bengal, an attempt has been made to find money for educational purposes by the imoposition of an educational cess. It is for you to consider whether some such method may not be applied to other Provinces in order to meet part of this gap. You have also to suggest what further steps the Central Government can take in addition to what it has already done.

#### Adult Education

I now come to the problem of providing for the education of adults who are illiterate. Its importance need hardly be emphasized, especially to a body of educational experts like you. It is obvious that with the extension of democracy, the problem of adult education has become even more important than it was in the past. As you know, some work

for adult education has been started in the Provinces since 1938 but this was on a very small scale and must be increased and expedited manifold, if we are to obtain the desired results. Adult education has two aspects viz. (a) arrangements for making the adults literate, and (b) the provision of measures to enlarge their minds and enable them to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the country.

I will take up the question of education in the second sense first, as obviously this is more important in the case of adults than mere provision of literacy. Such expansion of mind of the adults can be largely effected today through the use of scientific methods and machinery which has made our task in this respect much lighter than it was before. There is experience of countries like Russia and the U. S. A. where open-air drama, the film and the radio have been used to very great effect. Russia has, in fact, succeeded in carrying out her successive five-year plans largely through the use of such scientific methods and machinery. We should benefit by the

experience of these countries and draw upon the vast stores of educational films which have been built up in Russia and U.S.A. At the same time, it has to be remembered that our conditions differ in many respects and their experience will have to be modified to meet our requirements. I am glad to inform you that the Education Ministry has recently established a department of Social Education which will take this problem up. Expansion of the Department is, however, necessary in order to make it possible to provide such dramas, films and radio programmes in all Indian languages. I hope that very soon the Ministry will be able to publish complete plans and schemes for this purpose.

The problem of imparting literacy to adults must be taken up along with that of providing basic education to schoolgoing children. For this purpose, we must not only depend upon the teachers who are engaged in such schools, but also call upon all Government employees of all categories to render such voluntary service as may be possible. This would be necessary, especially in the rural areas where it would not be possible to provide any alternative machinery for adult education. Government emadult education. Government employees can render great help both in their spare time by working in Night School and Sunday Schools, and also by their axample in their example in their example in their example in the spanning in the state of the schools. their example in introducing a drive, for literacy among their own subordinates who are illiterate. A time must soon come when literacy will be made one of the conditions for any employment under the Government, and in the meantime, Government are considering methods by which illiterate Government servants may be encourged to become literate.

#### **Medium of Instruction**

I now come to the second broad problem which we have to discuss in the Conference today. This concerns the medium of instruction in the schools and colleges. You are already aware of my views on this question. I hold that there is no place for English as a medium of instruction in future India, but at the same time there should be no precipitate action that may damage the cause of education. I hold that the replacement of English as a medium of instruction should be gradual and stage by stage so that there is the least possible interruption or interference with the process of education in the country.

I think it is not necessary to raise the question of the medium of instruction in the primary and secondary stages. Opinion is unanimous that instruction in these stages can be imparted only through the mother tongue. Differences hrise only when we come to the stage of education in the universities. sharply divided schools of thought hold the field. There are on the one hand those who want one common language as the medium of instruction for all the universities in India. There is another school who hold that education in the universities should be imparted through the regional language. I realise that there are weighty arguments in favour of both the alternatives. The Central Advisory Board, which has just completed its session, has discussed this question and decided to appoint a Committee of experts to go into it and submit recommendations. I have been asked to nominate the members of the Committee and will announce the names as soon as this Educational Conference is over.

I placed my own views before the Central Advisory Board and said that we should not change the medium of instruction in the University suddenly but allow a period of five years during which we can prepare for the gradual replacement of English by an Indian language. This would mean that by the sixth year, English would no longer be necessary as the medium of instruction in the universities and an Indian language could take its place. I am glad to inform you that the Board is in full agreement with this view.

#### Scientific Terms

One important problem in this connection is in respect of scientific terms but the Central Advisory Board has tried to solve it by declaring that scientific terms are international, and it would be a serious mistake to try to translate them. I agree with the view of the Board and believe that this is the only rational solution of the difficulty.

I may here refer to the experience of other eastern countries which have already made the experiments of coining new words for scientific and technical terms or importing them from an ancient classics. In Egypt the question of scientific terminology became important in the 19th century when Egypt took to modern European education on a large scale. Egypt, as you are aware, has a rich classical language from which it can derive most scientific terms. In fact, Arabic possessed many terms in Astronomy, Chemistry, Physiology and other Sciences which have since been incorporated into European languages. It was therefore easy for modern Egypt to coin new Arabic terms in the old moulds and one group in Egypt sought to adopt these Arabic terms for current use in Egyptian education. Many words were thus derived from the Arabic Classics and many new words coined, but experiment soon proved that this was not the happiest solution of the problem. With experience, the Egyptians, were convinced that the scientific terms in current usage in modern Europe should be adopted, as they have become international and do not now belong to any particular nation or country. Turkey and Iraq have also come to the conclusion that in matters of science and knowledge there should be no narrow nationalism but a truly international approach. Similar has been the experience of China and Japan. It must however, be admitted that for certain technical terms, especially in Philosophy, Logic and Mathematics, many terms are already available in Indian Classical languages and we should certainly use them, especially as in their case there is not the same universal agreement as in the case of scientific terms.

The next problem I want you to consider is the question of reforms in University Education. As I have already stated, there can be no question of narrow

nationalism in the field of knowledge, but at the same time we must see that there is no wrong perspective of a nation's past history and culture nor a failure to encourage the highest ideals in national character and civilization. Unfortunately, this has happened in India and I will draw your attention by way of example to the two particular instances of Philosophy and History.

To take up Philosophy first. Greek Philosophy was revived in Europe through the agency of the Arabs who were its commentators and critics during the middle ages. It was only during the Renaissance that direct translations were mude from Greek and Latin. The result is that in Europe, even the general history of Philosophy starts with the Greeks and ends with modern European Philosophy, touching merely the fring of Indian and Chinese thought. This is the history of Philosophy which the universities teach in India. But you will all admit that this does not represent the true fact of the development of philosophical thought in the world. No one can today deny the supreme achievements of the Indian mind in the realms of metaphysics and philosophy. It is true that recently Indian Philosophy has been introduced as one of the subjects of study in Indian universities, but it has not yet gained the position which it deserves in the general history of the Philosophy of the world.

#### Pythagoras School

One of the earliest schools of Greek Philosophy is that of Pythagoras. The tradition of his visit to India may or may not be true, but his Philosophy shows unmistakable marks of the influence of Indian thought. There is little doubt that the Indian mind had already advanced beyond the stage reached by Pythagoras. In fact, almost every school of Greek Philosophy has its counterpart in India. In addition, there are flashes of insight which we do not find in Greek Philosophy. 1 think that with the exception of two specific branches of learning the Indian mind has shown itself superior in every respect to the achievements of the Greeks. only two exceptions are in Logic and Astronomy. Aristotle's "Logic" is superior in structure and scope to Indian "Nyaya", while in Astronomy Ptolemy's "Nyaya", while in Astronomy Ptolemy's "Majestic" is superior "Majestic" is superior to Brahma Gupta's "Siddhanta" and the work of Aryabhatt. We therefore need a new History of Philosophy in which Indian Philosophy may find its rightful place.

Similarly in the field of History. Up to the time of Vincent Smith, there has been no reasonably true or correct History of India in English. Even Smith's History is defective and in many respects out of date. All histories used in our universities today reflect these defects. They suffer from both lacunae and distortions. Nothing is more important today than the reorientation of historical studies from the primary to the highest stages. This is a task which the universities must immediately undertake. The most practical method would be to prepare books in English which can then be translated into all the Indian languages. This would not

only mean economy in labour but also give a uniformity in tone and treatment of the subject. I would, therefore, appeal to all Indian universities to help in this noble task, and I can assure them that the Central Ministry will extend to them every possible help.

Another important question that I would like the Conference to consider is that of the study of the oriental languages and culture. We must admit that this has been most inadequate till now. I am sure there will be no difference of opinion that in the future we must make ample provision for remedying this defect. For this, two things are immediately necessary. We must, on the one hand, have a reform and simplification in the methods of, teaching and, on the other, we must afford both encouragement and facility for such studies.

Even where oriental subjects have been taught in the universities, they have been treated in a most cavalier fashion. If we look at the plight of Sanskrit or any other of the classical languages in the universities, we cannot deny that this has been done in a most half-hearted fashion in spite of the fact that such studies are essential for a true appreciation of Indian History and Culture. What applies to Sanskrit applies also to the study of Arabic and Persian.

#### Travellers' Accounts

I would like to draw your attention to the provision of facilities for the study of other oriental languages as well and especially of Tibetan and Chinese. It is well known that many of the Buddhist scriptures and literature are preserved in Tibetan, though the original in Sanskrit has been lost. For instance the "Tarka Bhashya" of Mokshankar Gupta could not for long be obtained in Sanskrit but a Tibetan translation was available and till recently that constituted the only source of our access to his thought. It is only lately that the original has been found and published in the Gaekwar Oriental Series.

The accounts of Chinese travellers are similar sources of illumination in respect of ancient India. Other treasures lie hidden in Chinese language and literature for the interpretation of our ancient history, if only they were accessible to us. For these reasons it is essential that our universities must provide adequate facilities for the study of these oriental languages. We must not forget that in the past, India was a Centre where the currents of Asiatic thought met and from which flowed out atreams which spread to the farthest corner of the Asiatic Continent. To truly appreciate Ancient India, it is therefore essential that there must be knowledge and understanding of other Asiatic languages and culture as well.

There are other issues which also require consideration and I have no doubt that you will take them up as the Conterence proceeds with its work. In conclusion, I would once again thank all of you for the trouble you have taken in coming to attend this Conference, and end by expressing the hope that our deliberations may yield results which will prove of lasting value to the cause of education in free India.

## EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS

The Educational Conference, which concluded its three-day session on Jan. 18, made far-reaching decisions on different aspects of education.

The most important item considered by the conference was the modifications necessary in the plan of educational development set out in the Central Advisory Board of Education's report popularly known as the Sargent Report, in the light of experience gained since the report was published in 1944. Pro-vincial Ministers of Education, Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Directors of Public Instruction and other eminent educationists present in the con-ference were all agreed that the period required to complete the work of mass education must be substantially reduced from the periodof 40 years envisaged in the Sargent Report. As suggested in the report, the conference agreed that eight years should be the period of Compulsory Basic Education but in view of the practical difficulties in the way of introducing it immediately, this period might be reduced during the first stage though in no case should it be reduced to less than five

The conference resolved that simultaneously, to supplement further education, a comprehensive scheme of Adult Education (through libraries, open air threatres, radio, films, etc.) should be put into operation immediately; that for the first five years conditions of training for teachers in basic schools would be relaxed; the work of full-time workers might be supplemented by parttime workers and skilled artisans; and the double shift system should be introduced to economise on buildings.

#### Committee on Grants and Loans

The conference also endorsed the recommendation of the Central Adviscry Board of Education for appointing a small committee of educationalists and others concerned with education administration to consider the question of finance required to implement the basic educational plan including the question of Central grants, educational cess and cducational loans.

The conference placed on record its appreciation of the work of the Central Advisory Board of Education, the Inter-Universities Board, the All India Council for Technical Education, the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, the University Grants Committee and similar bodies. It recommended that the Central Advisory Board of Education should be fully representative of the Provinces, States and Universities and for efficient work, Provincial, Regional and State Committees should be constituted on the same basis to work on similar lines; that the Bureau of Education should extend its activities on library and film units: that the Inter-University Board should be strengthened financially and otherwise to enable it to discharge its duties effectively and maintain suitable standards of university qualifications. The conference welcomed the extension of the scope of the University Grants

Committee to cover the work of all universities and research institutions and expressed the hope that it will work on lines similar to those in the United Kingdom.

The conference recommended that establishment of a Central Institute of Adult Education for training personnel for administration, supervision and field work and suggested that such a body should give a lead to provincial and State Governments, local authorities and voluntary agencies. It also recommended the establishment of a Central Co-operative Library. The recommendations of the Central Advisory Board urging the appointment of a committee to consider the means of financing education at all stages and the appointment of a Commission for Secondary Education were endorsed by the conference.

There was a prolonged debate in the conference about the medium of instruction and finally the conference recommended to the Ministry of Education the appointment of a committee to consider what should be the medium of instruction and examination at the university stage; the place of the national language in secondary and higher education and its script; the palce of English as a language in the university education; the stages by which English should be replaced by the national language or regional languages as medium of instruction and the steps to be taken for the preparation of text books, scientific terminology and requisites for implementing the recommendations made.

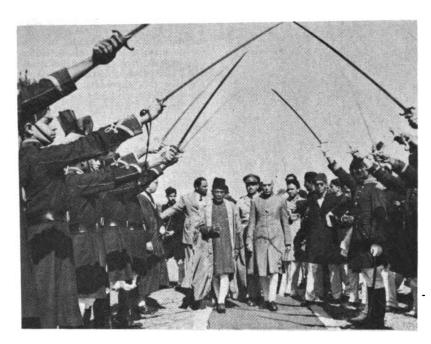
The Central Advisory Board scheme for the setting up of a National Cultural Trust was endorsed by the conference with slight modifications.

The conference urged the paramount need for research in all branches of learning and recommended that the Government of India should do all in its power to encourage the universities and research institutions to undertake research.

The Interim Report of the Scientific Man-power Committee was also considered by the conference which recommended that early action to implement the report should be taken.

It is announced in the Gazette of India dated January 17, 1948, that the offices of the Archaeological Survey of India and the Anthropological Survey of India shall, in future, be called the 'Department of Archaeology and Department of Anthropology" respectively.

The pilgrim ship "Rizwani," 'which sailed from Jedda on Jan. 11 1948; arrived at Karachi on Jan. 19, 1948. After disembarking about 143 pilgrims at Karachi she proceeded to Bombay on the same day, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on Jan. 21.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the Annual Convocation of the Muslim University at Aligarh on January 24. The Aligarh U. T. C. presented a Guard of Honour to Pandit Nehru on his arrival

## PLAY YOUR ROLE IN BUILDING UP THIS GREAT COUNTRY

### Pandit Nehru's Advice to Aligarh Students

INVITE you as free citizens of free India to play your role in the building up of this great country and to be sharers, in common with others, in the triumphs and setbacks alike that may come our way", said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, addressing the annual convocation of the Muslim University at Aligarh on January 24.

Following is a gist in English of the speech delivered by Fandit Nehru:

I have come back to Aligarh and to this University after a long interval. We have been separated not only by this distance of time but also by a distance of spirit and outlook. I do not quite know where you, or for the matter of that most of us, stand today, for we have gone through convulsions and heart-breaks which have no doubt created in many of us doubts and disillusionment. While the present is full of uncertainty, the future is even more shrouded and difficult to pierce. Nevertheless, we have to face this present and try to mould the future. We have to see, each one of us, where we stand and what we stand for. Without a stout anchor of faith in the future we will drift in the present and life itself would have no objective worth striving for.

I have accepted the invitation of your Vice-Chancellor with pleasure, for I wanted to meet all of you and to probe somewhat into your minds and to let

you have a glimpse of my own mind. We have to understand each other, and if we cannot agree about everything, we must at least agree to differ, and know where we agree and where we differ.

For every sensitive human being in India the last six months have brought pain and sorrow, and what is worst of all, a humiliation of the spirit. It has been had enough for those who are old in years and experienced, but I often wonder how the young feel who, at the threshold of their lives, have seen and experienced catastrophe and disaster. They will, no doubt, survive it, for youth is resilient; but it may well be that they will carry the mark of it for the rest of their days. Perhaphs if we are wise and strong enough to think and act rightly even now, we might succeed in erasing that mark.

For my part I wish to say that, in spite of everything, I have a firm faith in India's future. Indeed if I did not have it, it would not be possible for me to function effectively. Although many of my old dreams have been shattered by recent events, yet the basic objective still holds and I have seen no reason to change it. That objective is to build up a free India of high ideals and noble endeavour where there is equality of opportunity for all and where many variegated streams of though' and

culture meet together to form a mighty river of progress and advancement for her people.

I am proud of Innia not only because of her ancient magnificent heritage but also because of her remarkable capacity to add to it by keeping the doors and windows of her mind and spirit open to fresh and invigorating winds from distant lands. India's strength has been two-fold; her own innate culture which flowered through the ages, and her capacity to draw from other scurces and add this to her own. She was far too strong to be submerged by outside streams, and she was too wise to isolate herself from them, and so there is a continuing synthesis in India's real history and the many political changes which have taken place have had little effect on the growth of this variegated and yet essentially unified culture.

I have said that I am proud of cur inheritance and our ancestors who gave an intellectual and cultural pre-eminence to India. How do you feel about this past? Do you feel that you are also sharers in it and inheritors of it and therefore proud of something that belongs to you as much as to me? Or do you feel alien to it and pass it by without understanding it or feeling that strange thrill which coroses from the realization that we are the trustees and inheritors of this vast treasure? I ask you these questions because in recent years many forces have been at play diverting people's minds into wrong channels and trying to pervert the course of history. You are Muslims and I am a Hindu. We may adhere to different religious faiths or to none; but that does not take away from that cultural inheritance that is yours as well as a mine. The past holds us together, why should the present or the future divide us in spirit?

#### Change of Spirit

Political changes produce certain results. But the essential changes are in the spirit and outlook of a nation. What has troubled me very greatly during these past months and years is not the political changes but rather the creeping sense of a change of spirit which created enormous barriers between us. The attempt to change the spirit of India was reversal of the historic process through which we had been passing for long ages past and it is because we tried to reverse the current of history that disastor overwhelmed us. We cannot easily play about with geography or with the powerful trends which make history. And it is infinitely worse if we make hatred and violence the springs of action.

Pakistan has come into being, rather unnaturally, I think, but nevertheless representing the urges of large numbers of persons. I believe that this development has been a throw-back, but we accepted it in good faith. I want you to understand clearly what our present view is. We have been charged with desiring to strangle and crush Pakistan and to force it into a reunion with India. That charge, as many others, is based on fear and a complete misunderstanding of our attitude. I believe that, for a variety of reasons,

it is inevitable that India and Pakistan should draw closer to one another, or they will come into conflict. There is no middle way, for we have known each other too long to be indifferent neighbours. I believe indeed that in the present context of the world India must develop a closer union with many other neighbouring countries. But all this does not mean any desire to strangle or compel Pakistan. Compulsion there can never he, and an attempt to disrupt Pakistan would recall to India's disadvantages. If we had wanted to break Pakistan why did we agree to the partition? It was easier to prevent it then instead of trying to do so now after all that has happened. There is no going back in history. As a matter of fact it is to India's advantage that Pakistan should be a secure and prosperous State with which we can develop close and friendly relations. If today by any chance I was offered a reunion of India and Pakistan, I would decline it for obvious reasons. I do not want to carry the burden of Pakistan's great problems. I have enough of my own. Any closer association must come out of a normal process and in a friendly way which does not end Pakistan as a State but makes it an equal part of a larger union in which soveral countries might be associated.

## **National State**

I have spoken of Pakistan because that subject must be in your minds and you would like to know what our attitude towards it is. Your minds are probably in a fluid state at present, not knowing which way to look and what to do. All of us have to be clear about our basic allegiance to certain ideas. Do we believe in a national State which includes people of all religious and shades of opinion and is essentially secular as a State, or do we believe in the religious theocratic conception of a State which considers people of other faiths as some-thing beyond the pale? That is an odd question to ask, for the idea of a religious or the theocratic State was given up by the world some centuries ago and has no place in the mind of modern man. And yet the question has to be put in India today, for many of us have tried to jump back to a past age. I have no doubt that whatever our individual answers might be, it is not possible for us to go back to a conception that the world has outlived and that is completely out of tune with modern conceptions. So far as India is concerned, I can speak with some certainty that we shall proceed on secular and national lines in keeping with the powerful trends towards internationalism. Whatever confusion the present may contain, in the future India will be a land, as in the past, of many faiths equally honoured and respected, but of one national outlook, not I hope a narrow nationalism living in its own shell but rather the tolerant creative nationalism which, believing in itself and the genius of its people, takes full part in the establishment of an internanational order. The only ultimate aim we can have is that of one World. That seems a far cry today with warring groups and preparations for and shouting of World War Number Three. Yet despite



s'andit Nehru addressing the Convocation

all this shouting, that is the only aim that we can keep in view, for the alternative to world co-operation is world disaster.

We must cultivate that broad outlook and not to be led away by others' narrowness into becoming narrow in spirit and outlook ourselves. We have had enough of what has been called communism in this country and we have tasted of its bitter and poisonous fruit. It is time that we put an end to it. For my part I do not like the intrusion of this communal spirit anywhere, and least of all in educational institutions. Education is meant to free the spirit of man and not to imprison it in set frames. I do not like this university being called the Muslim University just as I do not like the Benares University to be called the Hindu University. That does not mean that a university should not specialise in particular cultural subjects and studies. I think it is right that this University should lay special stress on certain aspects of Islamic thought and culture.

I want you to think about these problems and come to your own conclusions. These conclusions cannot be forced upon you except to some extent of course by the compulsion of events which none of us can ignore. Do not think that you are outsiders here, for you are as much flesh and blood of India as anyone else, and yet you have every right to share in what India has to offer. But those who seek rights must share in the obligations also. Indeed if the duties and obligations are accepted, then rights flow of themselves. I invite you as free citizens of free India to play your role in the building up of this great country and to be sharers, in common with others, in the triumphs and set-backs alike that may come our way. The present with all its unhappiness and misery will pass. It is the future that counts, more specially to the young, and it is that future that beckons to you. How will you answer that call?

## Electric Power Map of India

The Survey of India under the general direction of the Office of the Electrical Commissioner, Government of India, has published an Electric Power Map of India, available to the public from the Manager of Publications, Delhi, and the Government Publication Depot, Calcutta.

The map which is drawn to a scale of 70 miles to an inch shows all existing power stations of 1000 kw. and over including steam, diesel as well as hydro-electric power stations and all major transmission lines of 22,000 volts and over.

Reproduced in five colours, it enables the different types of power stations and transmission lines at different voltages to be distinguished clearly.

It also shows projected power stations, steam as well as hydro, on which work has already started, or which are in an active stage of planning by the Provincial and State Governments or other authorities. Since it has been made from information available at the end of 1946, it necessarily shows the electric power picture of India before the country was partitioned.

The transmission lines shown in the map indicate approximately the areas which will be fed by the respective power systems, and if studied in conjunction

with the Government of India's annual publication "Public Electricity Supply—All India Statistics" a comprehensive view of the industry can be secured. The map has been produced in response to repeated requests from many sources.

The map contains a few insets in which details of certain areas have been shown on a larger scale for the purpose of clarity, The more important of insets are: (1) The greater Calcutta Electricity Systems; (2) the Bihar and Bengal Coal-field areas; (3) the Greater Bombay Hydro area, and (4) the United Provinces Gangee Canal Hydel System.

## RICE FOR COCHIN

In view of the special efforts made by Cochin State to procure a very high ratio of its crop nearly 40 per cent. it is learnt that out of the first shiploud of 5,000 tons of Pakistan rice, the Indian Ministry has allotted Cochin 3,350 tons.

The Food Ministry is reported to be more favourably inclined towards these deficit areas, which have taken steps to intensify internal producement.

## TRUE FREEDOM LIES IN SERVICE

## Health Minister's Address

tan only be judged by how far it will help in the establishment of a form of society in which human beings can live together most happily and find their true fulfilment both as individuals and as members of a community", declared the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, in her Convocation address delivered at the Government College, Ajmer on January 25. Following is the text of the address:—

First of all may I express my appreciation of the honour which the authorities of this college have done me in inviting me to deliver the Convocation address today. And may I thank you, Mr. Principal, for the very kind words with which you have been good enough to introduce me. They are far too generous and I alone can know how little I deserve your praise.

Graduates of the Government College of this ancient and historic city, I am happy to be with you today and to have the opportunity of sharing my thoughts with you. An ancient writer said, "Great reverence is owed to Youth" and it is in that spirit that I am addressing you today, not as an elder come to give you what you may feel is yet another overdose of admonition.

#### What is Freedom?

It is good to learn from the lips of your Principal of the high standard of results attained in the academic sphere by this Institution as also of its all round development. I can well understand and sympathise with his impatience at the slow pace of expansion of educational facilities but that is in keeping with the lot of all Institutions whether in the Provinces or Centrally administered. The resources of the country just cannot today keep pace with the demand. Nevertheless no financial or other handicaps may deter us from pressing on towards our goal.

This is your first "Annual celebra-on" in a free India. Throughout the ages men and women have died in the cause of freedom and India is no exception to the rule. But what is freedom? We have shaken off the foreign yoke. That is indeed a tromendous achievement for we are free now to shape our own distiny. But ever since political freedom became ours we have been faced with an upheaval the like of which no country in the world has ever had to battle with. To deal with the transference of a population numbering several millions was and is a gigantic task in itself, enough to strain the financial and administrative resources of any government. But to those, like myself, who have been privileged to serve this vast mass of humanity what has most appalled and stirred one to the depths is the mad extent to which communal frenzy can lead those who come under its sway. Men, women and

children uprooted from their homes, robbed of their possessions, their dear ones often killed before their eyes, rich vesterday, penniless today, victims of men's lowest passions, sad and broken in spirit, filled with despair. Is this the freedom for which the great leaders of the freedom movement in India and we who followed them had suffered and which we had dreamt of? Surely not. And so we come back to ask ourselves "what is freedom"? The present is a tremendous testing time for us; we are being tried in the crucible of suffering and whether we come through the ordeal purified depends on ourselves and our ability to understand and appreciate the essential values. For unless we do so we shall not be able to make anything of our freedom. Is it going to be another word for anarchy or untruth or the self-interest of those who are powerful to be achieved by violence and deceit and rather than through reason and merit? The practical value of freedom can only be judged by how far it will help in the establishment of a form of society in which human beings can live together most happily and find their true fulfilment both as individuals and as members of a community. In such a society there can be no room for violence, hate, fear, mistrust or suspicion nor for lying and deceit. No right claimed by any individual or community may be denied to another for that is no freedom which claims liberty of action without regard to the existence and wellbeing of others. It follows, therefore, that true freedom really signifies a willing subjection of himself by the individual or by a community to the chains of duty. In other words that perfect freedom lies in service. It is to that aspect of freedom, as I understand it, that I would like to draw your thoughts today.

## Power of Love

In the present crisis through which we are passing it is impossible to think of the major issues which control the destiny of mankind without relating them to current events. Whether we do or do not believe in violence as a method of settling personal or national differences, we cannot ignore the fact that only last week the greatest man of the age was willing to sacrifice his life because he believes in the Power of Love as the only weapon which can bring about peace and enable men to settle their differences. That a whole nation responded to his call on this occasion, as it has done more than once before, shows that the heart and mind of India are still sound. But the iron of hatred has undoubtedly entered deep into the minds and hearts of our suffering humanity and has bred the desire for revenge. We stood in danger of losing our beloved leader, we may yet lose him if we do not adhere to the straight and narrow way which he and the saints who have gone before him have trod and pointed out as the way of salvation. But greater than the danger of losing him is the

danger to us of losing our souls if we follow the wrong path.

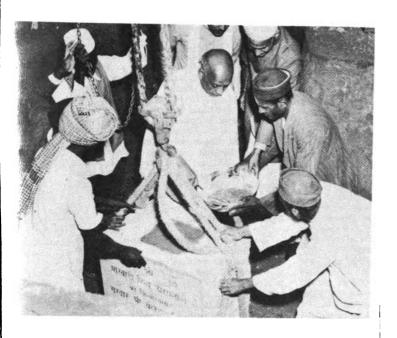
It is in the hands of the young men and women of this unhappy land to rescue it from all dangers and rebuild the fabric of our national life so that we may live truly and in perfect freedom. Youth has got to be developed to its highest potential. Education is power. If it is soundly conceived and efficiently administered it can and will mould the outlook of those who come under its sway. I believe we have been given in Basic Education a something that will train our boys and girls to become passionate lovers of that ideal of freedom which I have tried to place before you.

## **Spirit of Service**

You, young friends, stand on the threshold of your careers. I sincerely hope many of you will want to become teachers and doctors, two of the noblest professions that any man or woman can take up—the one to train and mould the heart and mind and character of our young and the other not only to relieve suffering but also to teach everyone the right way to live so as to avoid disease. For I believe that doctors can render a greater service to people by teaching them how to remain well than by curing them when they fall ill. Man falls ill because he disobeys the law of life and this illness applies equally to the mind as well as to the body. But no matter what profession you adopt you must remember that you are first of all a citizen of India and by virtue of the knowledge acquired a teacher in whatsoever walk of life fate calls you. A true citizen must have a sense of values, he must set and demand standards of integrity in both private and public life, he must have a veneration for discipline which is a corner stone of the national edifice and, above all, he must be filled with a spirit of service.

It is the privilege of youth to dream dreams. One of those for you has come true today and I warmly congratulate you on having proved yourselves worthy of being granted degrees. You are leaving the portals of your Alma Mater to sail on the wider sea of life. A larger freedom of choice and action has come to you which I hope you will use worthily in the opportunities of service which will open out to you. The whole of our land is a vast field of service. And I must emphasise that real India lies in the 700,000 villages of our land. It beckons to us to put our whole souls into the fight to end poverty, ignorance and disease, to endeavour to let every citizen feal the glow of freedom to build our national structure in such a way as to ensure justice and fulness of life to all, irrespective of caste, sex or creed. You who have been nurtured in this ancient and historic city should, if its history and beautiful monuments have been correctly appreciated by you, be able to make a special contribution to communal harmony. Ajmer represents the best in both Hindu and Muslim culture and art. These are our common heritage which none can take from us. Communal strife is the sport of little minds. Peaceful living alone will ensure growth, whether mental, material, moral or spiritual.

(Continued on Page 208)

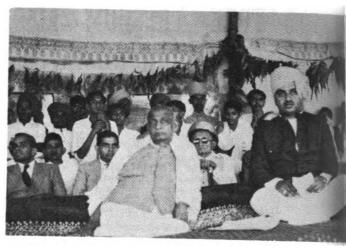


# DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN BOMBAY AND AHMEDABAD

During his recent visit to Bombay and Ahmedabad, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, performed the foundation-stone laying ceremony of hospitals in both the cities.

(Above) Sardar Patel laying the foundation-stone of the Marwari Hindu Hospital at Marine Lines, Bombay on January 19. (Below) The Deputy Prime Minister laying the foundation-stone of the Seth Lallubhai Gordhandas Hospital at Ahmedabad on January 22.





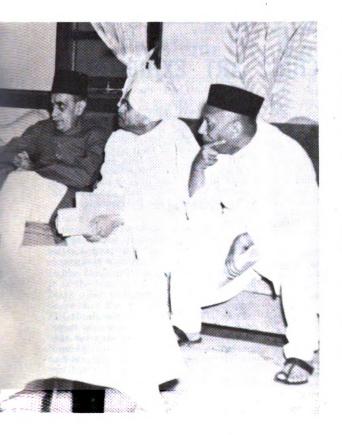
Sardar Patel and the Maharaja of Bhavanagar at the ceremony January 15, in connection with laying the foundation of the Gards in commemoration of grant of full responsible government to the Bhavanagar State.



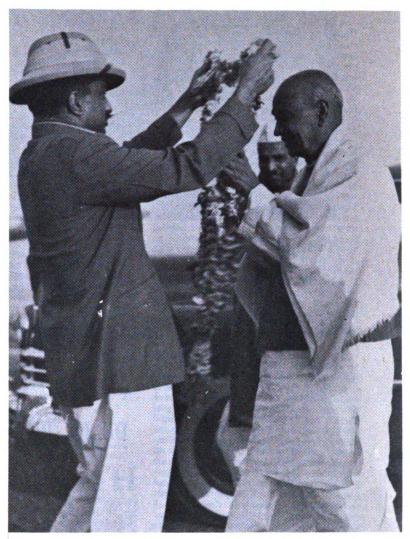
The States Minister is having discussions with the Deccan State

# STATES MINISTER IN RAJKOT AND BHAVANAGAR

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister for States, paid a visit to Rajkot and Bhavanagar in the third week of January.



s on January 19, during his visit to Bombay.



(Above) The Thakore Saheb of Rajkot welcoming Sardar Patel on his arrival there. (Below) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Maharaja of Bhavanagar at the meeting when the Maharaja made a pronouncement on constitutional reforms.



## (Continued from Page 205)

And here I would like to ask you to think seriously on what lines this growth shall be. "Read not to contradict and confute: nor to believe and take for granted: nor to find talk and discourse: but to weigh and consider", said a great philosopher. There has been and still is a danger of our copying everything from the West regardless of whether it is suited to our genius and tradition or not and equally the other of calling everything Western bad. There is good and bad in all of us. As we start to build we must be wise enough to free ourselves of all the shackles in the shape of evil customs or outmoded thought that bind us and eschew all that has led again and again to war between the nations of the West. Such wisdom can only come from deep study and careful thinking. I have drawn your attention to the real India. I am convinced that if we can remodel our villages so as to make them homes of culture and art and havens of peace, happiness and prosperity, we shall be making a tremendous contribution towards national growth along right lines.

#### Advice to Girls

I am happy to note that this is a college which gives equal opportunities to girls and I feel I must say a few words specially to them. Freedom will connote nothing if they are not alive to their responsibilities. For long years I have felt and often said that an educated girl should not enter into married life until she has given at least three years to social service in some phere. An illustrious son of your college has set an excellent example by devoting his whole life to the sphere of social reform and I am indeed glad that he is in our midst today. Custom and usage have dealt harshly with women and the fact that they are today sunk in a well of ignorance and superstition adds to their own and the country's misery. If educated women will not help their sisters the country will never rise to its full stature. To you who are listening to me today and through you to all young women I appeal to come forward in your thousands to serve your own cause which is the country's cause. In the recent tragic happenings women have been the worst sufferers. Buildings can be destroyed but rebuilt, wealth can be lost but can be remade, homes can be uprooted but new ones can spring up. But honour lost cannot be regained and it is hard to heal the wounds of the spirit. Let womankind in India be true to the high calling of their sex and let the lives of the loved heroines of our ancient past still inspire and guide us. All the rights which we to-day claim will come to us if we are determined to fulfil our part nobly for a right can only spring from a duty well ful-

Young friends. I pray that the end of your University career is for each one of you but the prelude to a life of progressive prosperity and happiness and that you will look upon this day not as the end of your education but as one marking the successful completion of only the first stage in a lifelong process. May God bless you and may He enable you to be true to your ideals, true to the best in you, true to the country which gave you birth and, above all, true to thun in thought, word and deed.

# REFUND ON TELEGRAMS DELAYED OR UNDELIVERED

In case of delay or non-delivery of ordinary and express telegrams, refunds will now be given by the Posts and Telegraphs Department subject to certain conditions, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General, Posts and Telegraphs on Jan. 21.

A full refund is admissible when the fault of the telegraph service is established. In case of errors in a telegram, a refund will be given when the telegram has been rendered useless by mutiliation. No refund will, however, be granted when the error is due to illegible or doubtful writing on the original.

In case of delays a refund may .ordinarily be granted when the delay exceeds the postal mail time in respect of ordinary telegrams and half the postal time in case of express telegrams. When the delay to an express telegram does not actually exceed half the postal time, but is still unduly serious, a refund of the difference between the 'express' and the 'ordinary' rates may be given at the discretion of the Post-Master General.

When a fully paid late fee telegram cannot be transmitted to the telegraph

office of destination during its closed hours, a refund of the difference between the 'express' and 'ordinary' rates, in addition to the refundable late fee, may be granted at the discretion of the Post-Master General. No refund is admissible, however, when the public had been previously warned that telegrams were liable to heavy delays owing to certain causes.

In cases of non-delivery, a refund may be granted at the discretion of the Post-Master General provided he is satisfied that the telegram has actually failed to reach the addressee through the fault of the service. If the telegram sent in reply to a reply-paid telegram remains undelivered through the fault of the spread through the fault of the spread in the Post-Master General may, at his discretion, grant a refund of the full cost of the telegram and the amount deposited for reply. No refund is, however, admissible when non-delivery is due to insufficient, incorrect or illegible address given by the sender.

Refund orders will be current for not more than three months from the date of their issue.

## DELHI POLYTECHNIC ART EXHIBITION

ER Excellency Lady Mountbatten speaking at the opening of the Delhi Polytechnic Annual Art Exhibiton on Jan. 22 said: I am most grateful to Mr. Fairbairn and Mr. Chakravorty for the very charming welcome they have given me on behalf of you all and I would like to say how very much I appreciate the invitation extended to me to open this annual Exhibition of work done by the students and staff of the Art Department of the Delhi Polytechnic.

It is most encouraging to know the headway this Department has made since it was started in 1942 and I earnestly hope it will be possible for your authorities' ambition that it should be developed into a Central School of Arts and Crafts to be fulfilled before long.

#### Delhi as Art Centre

The present day-to-day problems and needs of the people are such that it is all too easy to forget their cultural welfare. As the capital city of the new Independent India, housing diplomatic and foreign visitors from all parts of the world, it is only right and proper however that Delhi should be able to hold its head high as a centre of artistic life.

When I was in London I had the opportunity of visiting the magnificent Indian Art Exhibition at the Royal Academy, and you can indeed be proud that examples of the work of your students and staff here were on view, enabling people in England to realise that artistic effort and achievement is not only a thing of antiquity but is being vigorously maintained today.

Since my arrival in India last year I have seen a good deal of the work of those connected with the Delhi Polytechnic and have been highly impressed by the standard of their work and skill. I have in my possession some of the products of their craftsmanship which I hold in very high regard including a beautiful vase which was presented to me by students of the Polytechnic.

If the pioneer work you are doing here is to bear fruit, it must enjoy public sympathy and patronage. Arts has always required its patrons and never more so than now.

#### Scope for Development

From all that I have seen in India during the past year it is clear that there is ample scope in this country for the development of fine art, industrial and commercial art, sculpture and crafts. With sufficient public support it will be possible to invite experts in these different branches to come forward and to encourage the students to study arts and crafts which, quite apart from their intrinsic artistic value, would be of practical value to the nation.

May I congratulate your Art Department on the wide range of work it is exhibiting? It is a great tribute to the enterprise of Mr. Chakravarty and his staff, as well as to the keenness and talent of the students.

In opening this Exhibition I wish it every success and commend it most warmly to the patronage of all who value art in Delhi.

INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

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A two-day session of the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research opened in New Delhi on January 29.

Mr. Jairamdas Deulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister is seen addressing the Session. Picture shows (from L. to R.)

Capt. Ranjit Singh, Development Minister, East Punjab; Mr. S. M. Srivastava, Secretary, I. C. A. R.; Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, I. C. A. R.; Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram; Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; the Hou'ble Mr. R. K. Patil, Minister, C. P. and Berar and the Hou'ble Mr. Siddaiya, Minister, Mysore

## INDIA MUST BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD

# Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram On Problems Of Agriculture

our country than that of food. It ought to be given the priority which is its due to-day. We must make India self-sufficient in regard to food and that also soon", stated Mr. Jairam-das Daulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister, Government of India, opening a two-day session of the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi on Jan. 29.

The full text of the speech is as follows:—

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here for this the seventeenth meeting of the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It is the first meeting of the Governing Body after the attainment of Independence and the partition of the country. The changes necessitated in the constitution of the Council on this account have been approved at a Special General Meeting of the Council held recently and they have been brought into force with immediate effect. I take this opportunity of welcoming the representatives of the two newly created provinces of West Bengal and East Punjab and also the representative of Jaipur State which has joined the Council only recently.

## Napoleon's Dictum

I would first of all like to refer to the most important need of the country at the present moment, I mean the necessity of doing all we can to improve its food situation. We hardly realise the truth that probably no problem is more important for our country than that of food. It ought to be given the priority

which is its due. Napoleon's dictum that "the army marches on its belly" is as true to-day as it was a century and a half ago. We must make India self-sufficient in regard to food, and that also soon. I wish the Centre and the Provinces combined materially to increase the sowings of May and September 1948. The task before us is of a very emergent character and we require the active co-operation of every individual in the country in tackling this great problem.

#### Fruits and Vegetables

As you are all aware for several years now India has failed to produce the food it requires and the partition of the country has made the position worse. It is incumbent on the Council in common with other national organisations to do its utmost to bridge the gap by under-taking useful research for both short and long term plans and by transferring the practical results of such research to the farmer's field. I am gratified to find that this problem has already received the attention of the Advisory Board who have stressed the necessity of chalking out a programme of urgent research to help the campaign of Food self-sufficiency. I am glad also that the necessity for having suitable legislation on certain important aspects of the problem has also been carefully considered by that body, and I hope the matter will be taken up in right earnest by all concerned.

One particular point I would like to mention in this connection is that with the exclusion of certain tracts from the Indian Union the situation regarding protective foods such as fruits and vegetables and fish has considerably deteriorated. I understand that the I.C.A.R. is calling a Conference of Horticulturists some time in March next. I have no doubt that the Conference will review the present position and suggest practical methods for meeting the shortage of fruits and vegetables in the Union. An urgent review of the position in respect of other articles of foodstuffs e.g., fish, milk, potatoes etc. will also be required. Several other nations do not consume per capita as much cereals as we do and yet have better physique and health. India's present shortage in regard to cereals could also be easily remedied if the nation altered its dietetic habits and consumed other foodstuffs. I hope that the Council will conduct a proper research into all these matters so as to make India self-sufficient in Food.

#### **Eradication of Pests**

While research must be concentrated on the task of evolving better and higher yielding varieties of crops, in discovering better cultural practices and in placing more efficient tools in the hands of the cultivators, while due attention must be paid to the improvement of the animal husbandry resources of the country and while, as I have already said, the highest priority should be given to the increase of the food supply of the country, attention must also be given to the eradication of pests and diseases of crops and cattle in order that the country may be saved from enormous losses of foodstuffs for which these are responsible. I am glad therefore to find that a serious attempt is going to be made to control the wheat rust and other pests which effect crops and animals. As regards wheat rust, the Central Government have set up a Committee to co-ordinate the work of control and Government will finance the carrying out of this important work.

Survey and improvement of soile,



production and use of manures and fertilisers and manurial and varietal trials as recommended in the extremely valuable report submitted by Dr. stewart have also to be undertaken. I am sure that if the experiments recommended in the report are conducted not only on individual cultivators' fields but also on an all-India basis they will yield valuable data regarding the optimum yields of crops.

As you are aware, there is a serious dearth of technical personnel in the country at the moment and Government has taken upon itself the responsibility for sending men abroad for purposes of training. I hope that in the near future we shall have ample technical staff needed for our plans of progress. But even then the main problem will remain viz., to link our existing manpower with the vast material resources of the country and to develop them according to a plan, for in planned scientific development only lies the salvation of the country. I am glad, therefore, to know that the Council has taken up the quarties of the country. taken up the question of undertaking research on the basis of a planned programme from the Centre and on a regional basis. In framing our plans for agricultural progress we should work for a reasonable degree of regional self-sufficiency in regard to food. I have every hope that the provinces will give in this matter their fullest co-operation.

I think the Council was wise in amending its Charter to include developmental research and activities, for, in my opinion development cannot be divorced from research but must proceed hand in hand together. I shall be very much interested to know the results of the Delhi Development Scheme which the Council intends to work out. I understand that the intention is to apply all known improved practices in agriculture and animal husbandry in certain selected villages near about Delhi in order to prove to the cultivators what can be achieved by tackling their problems scientifically.

#### Cost of Production

The economic aspect of the Council's researches should also be kept in view. As one of my predecessors has once said. a poor country like India can ill-afford "Ivory Tower" research divorced from the realities of life and the needs of its cultivators. I welcome, therefore, the experiment that you propose to carry out regarding putting the "cow on the plough". Science must be utilised to serve the needs of the country but at the same time the economic aspect must not be overlooked. Agriculture being the most important industry in the country the cost of production must play an important part in all the activities of the Council. I was interested to know that the Council had been carrying out crop-cutting experiments for years now and that these experiments had been found to be very useful in estimating the crop yields in the provinces. Crop estimation is by far the most important aspect in the country's economy and I hope that the Union as a whole will adopt the technique in due course.

I regret to say, however, that one aspect of the Council's activities has not yet received the attention it deserves, that is its publicity and propaganda side. The Council must function effectively as the clearing house of information relating to agricultural and animal husbandry research and I would, therefore, suggest that its information activities must be put on a satisfactory basis as early as possible.

The partition of the country has prejudicially affected the financial resources of the Council and the income expected from the levy of a cess on agricultural produce is bound to fall in future. If the Council is to function satisfactorily it will be necessary for it to be provided with more funds than it can expect to get out of the cess. I hope that this body will make a strong representation to Government so that it may agree to make a suitable recurring grant to the Council for at least some years to come. I understand that the Advisory Board have recommended that the Government of India should be asked for necessary grants in connection with certain important activities e.g., (a) carrying out of the agronomic and varietal trials recommended in Dr. Stewart's report, (b) utilisation of bone meals, (c) carrying out of research on tubers etc. I think this is a step in the right direction and hope that Government will come forward with liberal grants required for these and other purposes. It is impossible for this organisation to serve the people of India unless its financial resources are very ample.

There are two other matters a reference to which is, I feel, called for in view of the circumstances existing in the country. Heavy loss to food crops in India is being caused by insect pests and plant diseases, amounting roughly to about 500 crores of rupees. This damage is caused not only to crops when growing in the fields but also to grains after harvest and during storage, in fact till they are processed and consumed.

Several important authorities such as the Indian Famine Commission (1943), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, have suggested very high priority to plant protection work in food production programme and in fact the Council of the F. A. O. have expressed the opinion that this single factor if properly attended to, can considerably reduce the food deficit of the world.

A good deal of the loss caused by pests and diseases can be avoided if control operations are taken in time and in a properly organised manner. It is therefore imperative that provinces should establish adequate Plant Protection Organisations for carrying out field scale control operations against more serious pests and diseases. The most essential pre-requisite for establishing such organisations is the appointment of well qualified Entomologists and Mycologists at the provincial headquarters. At present only the three provinces of U. P. Bombay, and Madras have such experts and these provinces are taking steps to establish Plant Protection Services for field work. The rest of the provinces, many of them are deficit, should emulate the examples of these provinces.

Control operations against some serious pests can be undertaken by simple methods, while others require power-operated sprayers and dusting machines which are unfortunately not

## Research Schemes On Food Production

MPORTANT research schemes on food crops production were approved by the Governing Body of Indian Council of Agricultural Research at its meeting held in New Delhi on Jan. 29 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jairamdas Daultaram, Agriculture Minister. To help India to become self-sufficient in food-grains as urgently as possible, research is to be carried out inter alia on the evolution of hybrid strains of maize, on improved varieties of pulses and millets, weed control, root crops and soils and manures.

#### Delhi Scheme

The scheme for the development and improvement of a group of 20 villages in the Delhi Province was adopted. The object of the scheme is to see what improvements can be achieved under existing village conditions as distinct from conditions prevailing in Government farms, and how the present methods should be modified to suit the average cultivator to enable him to apply the results of research in his day-to-day work. The five-year scheme has been prepared to improve both agriculture and animal husbandry in two compact blocks, one

of the irrigated and another of the unirrigated area of Delhi Province.

The Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken to establish a Central Potato Research Institute, for which the Government of India will provide the necessary funds.

The meeting adopted the following resolution on co-operative farming"

"The Indian Council of Agricultural Research should place at the services of Provinces and States who require it, all the experience and technical sovice which is available for the furtherance of co-operative farming".

The budget estimates for 1947-48 and 1948-49 were approved and members elected to the Standing Finance Committe of the Council.

The meeting was attended among others by the Ministers of Agriculture from C. P. and Berar, Mysore, Orissa and East Punjab, Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary, Government of India and Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

so far available in India. Arrangements are being made for the import of a small number of such machines which after trial for a season or two will be selected as model for the manufacture, if possible, of such machinery on a large scale in India. As regards pests and diseases which can be controlled by other methods -the number of such enemies of food is also large—the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India is going round the provinces and suggesting in consultation with local experts what pests and diseases can be tackled immediately with the facilities available. It is hoped that during 1948 all provinces will endeavour to control these saboteurs of our food resources which, are today inadequate for the needs of the country. The Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture will always be available for any assistance at the spot which the pro-vinces may require. It need hardly be emphasised that the urgency of establishing provincial organisations is great.

## **Marketing Problems**

The question of marketing of agricultural produce also needs attention. Though all provinces recognise the importance of improvements in Agricultural Marketing, of late there has been a tendency to side-track the subject and in some provinces the organisation which had been set up to deal with the problem has been disbanded. In the East Punjab there has been a complete breakdown while in the United Provinces orders were recently issued to disband the office of the Chief Marketing Officer. Assam disbanded the Marketing Staff in April 1947.

In the majority of provinces the Marketing Staff was utilised for Civil Supplies work since after the break of war and consequently there was a dislocation in marketing work. I would request all provincial Governments to take stock of the existing agricultural marketing problems and immediately formulate and execute new shemes of marketing with special reference to co-operative marketing, regulation of weights and measures, organisation of regulated markets and introduction of quality standards.

I do not wish to add to the length of my remarks at to-day's meeting by referring to other equally important matters. I would now invite you to take up the fairly long agenda which has been placed before the meeting.

## CATTLE SHOW COMMITTEE

The eighth meeting of the All-India Cattle Show Committee was held in New Delhi on Jan. 30 under the chairmanship of Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture.

The members agreed to approach the Central Government for a recurring grant of Rs. 1,75,000 for meeting the increased activities of the Committee. It was also agreed to abolish the Hissar breed of cattle for exhibition purposes.

Sir Datar Singh was elected Vice-President of the All-India Cattle Show Committee, Rai Bahadur P. N. Nanda as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Shri Desraj, Revenue Minister, Bharat-pur and Mr. B. N. Nanda as members.

# FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY DRIVE IN PROVINCES

PRACTICAL steps to increase India's foodgrain production in 1948 were discussed by Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Agriculture Minister, with the Ministers from C. P. and Berar, Mysore, Orissa, and East Punjab, and with the officials of other areas, who attended the meeting of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Agricultural Research on Jan. 29.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram stated that while the general question of increasing 'India's food production had been discussed often before, at this informal conference they should concentrate on measures for increasing the sowings of crops in 1948 so as to secure the maximum food outturn at the end of the year. It was necessary therefore to discuss only such schemes which could be implemented in the current year and which would be readily acceptable to the cultivators.

#### **Needs of Provinces**

The representative from Madras inter alia stated that the demands of his province were (1) high priority for the movement of manures (2) larger supplies of pumping sets for the areas affected by the failure of the monsoon, and more iron and steel for agricultural implements (3) priority for the movement of diesel oil and an additional allotment for the next few months (4) prohibition of inter-provincial movement of ground-

nut cake and (5) the supply of more tractors and larger supplies of nitrogenous manures.

On behalf of the Central Government, the action already taken in regard to the various points raised, was explained. There were world shortages of diesel oil and nitrogenous manures, and India's production of iron and steel had fallen by a third since pre-war. Even so, specific quantities were being earmarked to provinces for agriculture, from the steel quotas allotted to them.

## **Tractors for Mysore**

The Agriculture Minister from Orissa desired more oilcakes and pumps to increase production in his province. He would also welcome technical advice to increase fish supplies, particularly in the Chilka lake.

The Mysore Minister required pumps for agricultural needs, assistance in securing tractors for the reclamation and cultivation of waste land, and larger supplies of trucks and petrol for transport.

On behalf of the Central Government, it was explained that owing to earlier commitments to other areas, no tractors were available for Mysore for the next Kharif crop, but it might be

## Comrades in a Common Cause

An earnest plea for a complete identification of Government officials with the masses of the people and vigorous and energetic action in building a strong and prosperous India was made by Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Agriculture Minister, on Jan. 23 addressing the Ministry of Agriculture.

After the 15th of August, stated the Agriculture Minister, India had become politically free, but real freedom would only come when the fruits of 'swaraj' were made available even to the humblest individual. "For that a mental revolution was necessary in two directions, first the cultivation of brotherly feelings towards all, a spirit of common endeavour, and second a realisation of the fact that there is no distinction between government officials and the people. We are all comrades in a common cause, the uplift of our nation.".

Elaborating the theme, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram stated that it was not sufficient if efficient work was done in the offices, but it must be realised that we were all members of one common family, and suffering in one part of the country must affect us all in equal measure. Unless we cultivated this spirit of commonness, we could not aspire to be a great

Referring to a news item in papers regarding the refusal of labourers of the Tanjore District of Madras to harvest the crop, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram stated that there was probably some grievance behind this incident, but it was not realised that this action might affect the food supply of our own countrymen. There must be a more active, positive and vigorous attitude of co-operation amongst us all. "We are on our trial, and the world is watching to see what we make of our freedom. If we acquit ourselves nobly, we shall earn a name for ourselves in history."

Agriculture, stated the Minister, was a positive and productive activity, and it would be his endeavour to enlarge the scope and activities of the Agriculture Ministry. Their responsibilities had increased with the adoption of the policy of decontrol in foodgrains, and all their efforts had now to be mobilised to meet the new conditions.

Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary, assured the Minister, of the loyalty of his colleagues and staff.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram addressed the Ministry of Food on similar lines. possible to supply a unit of 15 tracttors in time for the rabi sowings.

The Minister from the C.P. required assistance from the Centre in the following directions (1) engineering staff on a temporary basis for minor irrigation schemes (2) technical advice for siting wells (3) larger supplies of iron and steel (4) supplies of oil engines and pumps (5) liberal supplies of arms and ammunition to protect crops against the ravages of wild pigs. The Government of India was supplying 30 tractors for reclaiming 20,000 acres of waste land in the Saugor district.

Bihar needed assistance in securing more building materials and iron and steel. Punjab's requirements consisted of jower seeds, fodder for cattle, supplies of iron and steel and tractors. It is expected that about 200 tractors will have been delivered to East Punjab by June.

Mr. Jairamdas Daultram in his concluding remarks suggested the establishment of emergency machinery both at the Centre and the Provinces for increasing the food output during the next two seasons.

## REGIONAL STATISTICAL CONFERENCE

A Regional Conference on Statistics will be held at Singapore from January 27 to January 30 under the auspices of the Special Commissioner, South-East Asia, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on Jan. 23. The Conference will discuss statistical methods with particular reference to food production and consumption, as they are now followed in the different countries of South-East Asia, to enable statistics to be compiled on a comparable basis.

The Government of India delegation to the Conference will consist of Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, Statistical Adviser, Indian Council of Agricultural Research as Leader and Mr. G. M. Sankpal, Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Bombay, as member.

## GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' SCALES OF PAY

Government servants, who were given the option to elect the rates of pay prescribed in the Schedule to the Central Civil Services, (Revision of Pay) Rules, 1947, issued with the Finance Department Notification No. F. 11 (1)—Establishment (Special)-47, dated July 29, 1947, were required to do so within six months of the date of issue of the rules.

In view of the fact that the scales of pay in respect of certain services and posts still remain to be prescribed, and due to certain other reasons, it has not been possible for the persons concerned to exercise the option within stipulated period, which expires on January 29, 1948.

The Government of India have, therefore, decided to extend the period of election up to April 29, 1948, says a Press Communique, issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 21.

# DR. KUMARAPPA'S SUGGESTIONS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

Ofar the researches carried out on problems of agriculture have been mainly for the henefit of the rich. We must now reverse the process, and undertake research schemes which will benefit the poor cultivators. Swaraj will have no meaning unless we realise that the masses are our masters and their needs should be paramount", stated Dr. J. C. Kumarappa of the All India Village Industries Association, at an informal conference of the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture which had been arranged by the Minister for Food and Agriculture on January 28 to discuss various problems relating to the programme of making India self-sufficient in food.

India was an agricultural country, he said, and any shortage in food should not last for more than 6 months or for more than a year at the most. The Agriculture Department can be an insurance against food shortages.

Dr. Kumarappa continued: "We have to tackle this question of food shortage on various fronts, such as the production, distribution, preservation and consumption of foodgrains. We have also examined the possibilities of instituting reforms and changing conditions by which we can reduce the grain requirements of the people. The Agriculture Department is one of those departments which must benefit mainly the producers.

One method of solving the problem was to give high priority to the production of food crops such as cereals, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables in preference to commercial crops. For this it would be necessary to plan on the basis of small self-contained village unit. A group of 30 or 40 villages for instance with a population of about 50,000 could be grouped for such a purpose, and it would be easier to work out a balanced diet for the people in such an area. It would probably be necessary to introduce crop planning by legislation. We must have a regular plan of production not in regard to money crops but for food crops.

On the question of distribution, Dr. Kumarappa stated that the primary aim should be to feed the local village population. That would also solve to some extent, the problem of long distance transport, because long distance transport was necessary only to meet the requirements of deficit areas. If groups of villages were made self-sufficient in food, it would also be possible to eliminate to a large extent, middlemen.

The Government should also develop multi-purpose co-operative which could help avoid the which now results on account of untimely sowings. Co-operative societies could also supply the needs of the villagers such as seeds, implements and manure.

## ECONOMY COMMITTEE SET UP

A resolution of the Central Government was published on Jan. 28 constitututing an Economy Committee in response to the widespread desire expressed in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on a cut motion by Shri B. Das regarding economy in expenditure. A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 28 says: During the War, enormous expansion of Departments took place, and no systematic review has been made since its termination to effect legitimate reduction. Government have, therefore, been considering for some time the need for a scientific enquiry into the growth of expenditure of the various Departments, their attached and subordinate offices since 1938-39 and the promotion of economy and elimination of waste in the context of altered conditions, having due regard to the requirements of normal Governmental activities and the development plans which they propose to carry out as a National Government of a free and independent India.

The composition of the Committee is as follows:

Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai—Chairman; Shri B. Das, Member, Constituent Assembly; Shri S. K. Patil, Member, Constituent Assembly; Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Member, Constituent Assembly; Shri Ishwar Dayal, Accountant-General, Members and Shri G. S. Rau, Deputy Secretary in the Finance Ministry will act as Secretary.

It is the endeavour of the Government to carry out a scientific investigation of the needs of the various Ministries etc. and the composition of the Committee as set out above, representing as it does the experience of business, the legislature and the Government Departments, is a guarantee to that end. Government have impressed on the Chairman and the Members of the Committee the expeditious nature of the work. They have accordingly directed the Committee to make interim reports in respect of the various Ministries so that action can be taken as quickly as possible on the recommendations of the Committee.

## INCREASED FACILITIES FOR TRUNK CALLS

In order to provide increased facilities for the booking of trunk calls by the public and to avoid congestion on the lines due to priority calls by officials, the Government of India have restricted the duration of priority calls of the category 'Immediate' to 9 minutes, says a Press Note, issued by the Directorate-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on Jan. 21.

This, it is hoped, will lead to early maturity of calls booked by the public.

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The aim should be to help farmers to overcome their various difficulties.

India was a food producing country and there was no need for imports from abroad. He felt that there had been a diversion of land from food to commercial crops. In Malabar for instance about 20 per cent of the land under food has been diverted to money crops. Referring to polished rice; Kumarappa said that the rice mills enabled the storage qualities of rice to be better, but all the nutritive value was lost. If rice mills in the country were abolished the nutritive value of the rice would go up by 10 per cent. As far as the rich people were concerned they could supplement their diet with other things, but in the case of the poor they were at present getting rice devoid of all nutritive

Turning to the growth of the sugar industry in the country, Dr. Kumarappa instanced the case of Bihar which had become deficit in rice by turning to sugarcane. The use of gur which had more nutritive value would mean less area under sugarcane and thus more under rice. Sugar was a devitalising food for it drew upon certain minerals from the body for its digestion. Therefore, it should have no preference over rice. We had to think in terms of the masses and not the city dwellers. From this point of view, the increase in tobacco cultivation in Andhra was another step towards national suicide.

#### Manure

To meet the villager's need for manure, co-operative societies could be organised to arrange suitable subsidies for the manufacture and distribution of compost from night soil. This could become an industry as individual farmers could not be expected to manufacture their own manure. Artificial manures might be utilised where farm-yard manure was not available, but it should not replace natural manure. By the use of compost, the increase in production would probably be more than by using chemical fertilizers. While details had not been worked out, there was a suggestion to utilise cowdung in villages for the manufacture of methane gas which would serve as fuel, and the residue after the manufacture of the gas could be used as manure.

Although valuable researches had been carried out, it was necessary to fit these into the farmer's economy. At present the Agriculture Department did not have sufficient field workers to carry the knowledge from the laboratories to the farmers. It was, therefore necessary to expand its contacts with the cultivators.

The speaker referred to his recent visit to England where he had found the younger generation in better health than before the war. One explanation for this was the greater intake of fruits and vegetables and milk products than before since England had less cereals than before the war. He did not see any reason why, as in England, people here too should not take more to vege-

tables. This intake of cereals need not be as much as it is now.

Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary, speaking on behalf of the Department explained what the Department had been able to achieve in regard to the different suggestions made by Dr. Kumarappa. In the course of his remarks he stated that the broest Department was already working on schemes of planting quick growing trees which would help solve the villager's problem of fuel shortage, and night soil was being converted into compost. Out of 700 large municipalities 250 were already producing compost and the Government of India were subsidising its distribution to the villagers. The present difficulties were in securing sites for settling tanks and in securing the technical staff.

In regard to the question of commercial crops many factors had to be taken into consideration. Without commercial crops they could not, for instance, earn the necessary foreign exchange which was essential for India's industrial development.

### Minister's Observations

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatran, Agriculture Minister thanked Dr. Kumarappa for his views on Agriculture, which in broad outline were the views of Gandhiji. In commending these to the officers of the Agriculture Ministry, for examination, he said, "A man of science is not a true scientist if he is not open-minded and always prepared to receive new ideas. We must welcome such ideas and test them in the light of our experience disinterestedly and dispassionately and if we find that they contain some element of truth then we should try to implement them. Unless we adopt such an attitude, we cannot progress, we cannot move forward".

## HALF-YEARLY JUTE EXPORT QUOTA

The Government of India have reviewed the supply position in regard to raw jute vis-a-vis the requirements of mills etc. and have decided that the quota for the current half-year ending June. 25, 1948, should be restricted to 5,00,000 bales, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Jan 29. Should the supply position, however, indicate later an overall improvement, the question of the release of a further quota will be taken up for consideration.

Exports will be allowed on the same basis as announced in the Press Communique of January 8, 1948; that is on the production of bona fide evidence that firm contracts have been concluded with importers abroad.

Applications will be invited by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, for the entire six-monthly quantity. Intending exporters should approach him for further details, including destinational quotas and the last date for submitting applications.

## INCREASE IN TALCHER COAL PRICES

The Government of India have announced in a Gazette of India (Extraordinary) an increase of He. 1-6-0 per ton in the price of coal produced in Talcher State; the revised prices will be Rs. 14-6-0 per ton of run-of-mine, dust coal and slack and Rs. 15-6-0 per ton of steam coal, rubble and smithy nuts. The increase is the result of a rise in the cost of production following the grant of certain wage increases to labour in accordance with the policy adopted since last year of securing an improvement in the wages and working conditions of colliery labour.

The revised prices took effect from January 30, 1948.

# **EXPORT OF RAW COTTON:** FURTHER RESTRICTION

The Government of India annunced in a Press Communique dated November 30, 1947, that the export of long staple raw cotton (13X16" and above) would be prohibited.

A Press Communique issued by the Chief Controller of Export Office, on Jan. 19, says that in view of the practical difficulties involved in administering this restriction and of the imperative need for the conservation of suitable types of raw cotton for use in the mills, it has been decided to prohibit, with immediate effect, the export outside the Indian Union to all territories, including Pakistan, of all raw cotton except the following specified varieties, namely,

Bengal Deshi, Oomra Deshi (excluding CP I and II), Math, Assams and Commillas.

To avoid hardship, however, to such exporters as may have effected confirmed sales of varieties of short and medium staple cottons, other than those specified above, prior to the announcement of this prohibition, the Government has decided that consignments covered by sales effected prior to this date will be allowed to be exported, provided documentary evidence is produced to the Export Trade Central authorities at the port of export within three days of this announcement.

Therefore, exporters concerned are advised to contact the Export Trade Central authorities at the port concerned with such evidence immediately. Claims received after three days of this announcement will not be considered.

## BETTER CONDITIONS FOR FACTORY WORKERS

## Labour Minister's Speech In Parliament "Even with these changes, the new definition will not cover all workers. I

OVING for reference to a Select Committee the Bill to consolidate and amend the law regulating labour in factories the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, said in the Dominon Parliament on Jan. 30: "When this Bill is passed into law, we would have placed on the Statute Book a Factory Law, which if properly enforced, will secure a marked and distinct improvement in working conditions."

Mr. Jagjivan Ram pointed out that if the House agreed to the Bill the number of industrial establishments subject to control would be trebled and protection would be extended to 35,00,000 of factory workers.

Speaking on the main changes that had been introduced in the Bill, the Labour Minister stated: "We have tried to implement as many of the provisions of the International Labour Organisation Code of Industrial Hygiene as are practicable under Indian conditions. The provisions relating to periodical medical examination of young persons and the submission of plans of factory building are also from I.L.O. Conventions. We have also freely drawn upon the British Factories Act, one of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation on this subject."

#### Administration of Law

Mr. Jagjivan Ram confessed that the administration of the law required considerable tightening up. Ever since he took charge he added, he had kept this question prominently in view. In every one of the half-yearly conferences with Provincial Labour Ministers, this question was discussed in some form or other. The difficulty of the Provincial Governments was stated to be mainly of finance. Although the centre had no executive responsibility in this matter, it had set up an Advisory Organisation to study the various aspects of factory administration in this country and elsewhere and advise the Provincial Inspectors. This organization was also running training and refresher courses for the Provincial Officers. He hoped, therefore, that before long we would have a corps of trained officers, adequate in number, to secure strict enforcement of the

Mr. Jagjivan Ram said: "This Bill was introduced at the last session. It has been circulated by executive order for eliciting opinion. We hope to receive the opinions before the end of April. The Select Committee can meet sometime in May or June, as may be convenient, and submit its report to the House in the next Session.

"The object of the bill is not only to consolidate the law relating to work-

ing conditions in factories, but also to introduce certain important new features."

Explaining the important changes that have been proposed in the Bill, the Labour Minister continued : "The existing law applies only to industrial establishments where manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power and where 20 or more persons are working. There is an enabling provision authorising Provincial Governments to extend the provisions of the Act to establishments using power and employing 10 or more workers. But this enabling provision has been made use of only to a very limited extent, with the result that Factories Act may be said to apply only to industrial establishments using power and employing 20 or more persons. A few Provinces have enacted legislation to regulate factories where power is not used. But even such legisla-tion is applicable only to establishments where 50 or more workers are employed.

#### Protection for Workers

"It is now proposed that the law relating to factories should be made applicable to all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers where power is used and 20 or more workers in all other cases. As a result of this change the number of establishments subject to control is likely to be trebled. The number of workers to whom the protection of the Factories Act will extend will increase immediate-ly from 25 to 35 Lakhs. The country is now setting upon an era of industrial expansion. We are all agreed that, as far as possible, this industrial expansion should not take the form of a limited number of big factories, but rather of a large number of small industrial establishments dotted all over the country. It, therefore, becomes necessary that our law relating to factories should be made applicable to the smaller establishments also. It is with this view that the definition has been widened.

The present Act makes a distinction between seasonal and perennial factories. Becuase the seasonal factories work for only a part of the year, there is a tendency to be somewhat lenient in the enforcement of standards relating to safety and health. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. Whether a factory works for a part of the year or for the whole year, provisions relating to safety, health and welfare should be equally applicable. We have, therefore, done away with the distinction between perennial and seasonal factories.

feel, and I am sure the Hon'ble Members will agree with me, that regulations relating to cleanlines, ventilation, lighting, supply of drinking water, the provision of sanitary conveniences, fencing of machinery, hours of work, weekly day of rest, prohibition of the employment of children, reduced hours of work for adolescents should be applied to all work places, irrespective of the number of people employed. The difficulty in extending these essential provisions is mainly an administrative one. As I have said, the new definition of factories will treble the number of establishments subject to control. The Inspectorate will need considerable strengthening. Provincial Governments should be given sometime to organise a bigger Inspection service. As soon as satisfactory arrangements are made to secure a proper enforcement of the Act to establishments covered by it. Provincial Governments will be in a position to extend the essential provisions relating to health, safety, welfare, hours of work and age of entry into employment to other work places. To enable them to do so, a provision (Section 86) has been added giving power to Provincial Governments to apply these provisions to any premises where a manufacturing process is carried on, with or without the aid of power, except where the work is done by the worker solely with the aid of his family.

#### Safety Provisions

"The elaboration of the provisions relating to health, safety and welfare deserve attention. The existing Act leaves far too many things to be covered by rules or to be done at the discretion of the Inspector. The rules are not always uniform, and the discretion cannot be exercised in a uniform way, with the result that there are considerable variations in the standards applied to different factories and in different parts of the country. Another serious defect in the existing legislation is that it leaves many matters to be attended to only at the instance of the Inspector. There is no obligation on the factory owner installing new machines, not specifically covered by the rules or notified by the Inspector as dangerous, to take any measures for the safety of their workers. With the rapid technological advancements that are taking place, installation of new types of machinery and the introduction of new processes will be of frequent occurrence. The adoption of safety measures cannot be postponed till provision is made for them in the rules. The only satisfactory method is to lay on the factory owner a clear and definite responsibility for taking all measures necessary to secure the safety of workers in his factory. If we are to lay this responsibility on the owner, the precautions to be taken and the standard to be observed in regard to health and safety measures should be clearly prescribed in the Act itself. This is precisely what has been attempted in the Bill.

"An additional and no less impor-tant advantage of this procedure will be the enforcement of a definite and uniform standard in all industrial establishments and throughout the country. Sections relating to the casing of new machinery, hoists and lifts, cranes and other lifting machinery, pressure plant, precautions to be taken against dangerous fumes, ex-plosive or inflammable gases, are all new. The obligation relating to the casing of new machinery, has been imposed not only on the factory owner, but on the manufacturer of the machinery or his selling agents as well. In the Chapter dealing with the disposal of wastes and effluents, the specific provisions relating to ventilation and temperature are new. Similarly, the sections relating to the provision of cool drinking water during hot weather, the employment of cleaners to keep the water closets clean, the obligation to provide suni-tary water closets in all establishments are new provisions.

"In the chapter relating to welfare, we have made provision that in every factory where are workers obliged to work in a standing position, suitable arrangements for seating should be provided, so that they may rest whenever they get an opportunity. Where a worker can work efficiently in a sitting position, then seating arrangement should be provided for him. The sections relating to facilities for storing and drying clothing is also new one.

## Scrutiny of Plans

"If the arrangements for the welfare of workers are to be successfully managed, it is essential that workers must realise their responsibilities in the matter and should be actively associated in their management. Section 50 of the Bill provides for such association. An enabling provision has also been made under which the owner of any factory, employing 500 or more workers may be required to appoint a suitable Welfare Officer, whose specific duty it will be to look after the welfare of the workers. To ensure that the right type of people are appointed and to give them a measure of security and independence, Provincial Governments have been given power to prescribe the duties, qualifications and conditions of service of these officers. Honourable members will appreciate that this is an important provision.

"Another important provision, to which I would like to invite attention of the House, Sir, is the one embodied in Section 7 providing for the scrutiny of the plans and specifications of factory buildings and their layout by the Factories Inspectorate. In quite a number of buildings, walls and roofs have not been so constructed as to keep the temperature, which in our country shoots upto 110 or 120 degrees

in summer, as low as possible. Again, even such an elementary thing as pro-per flooring is not done according to the requirements of the processes car-ried. Then again, rest sheds, wash-ing and bathing places, water closets have all to be located at convenient places. The layout should be such as will promote, to the maximum extent, the safety and health of the workers in the factory. Where the manufac-turing process is such as will throw out considerable quantities of wastes and effluents, it is of great importance that proper arrangements should be made for their disposal, so that they may not affect the public health of the neighbourhood. Very often buildings are put up without proper consideration being given to these aspects. Later on, it becomes difficult to rectify the defects. We have, therefore, introduced a section so that before the buildings are erected, the plans and specifications are examined with a view to seeing whether the provisions of the law relating to matters of health, welfare and safety been complied with and proper arrangements will be made to dispose of the wastes and effluents.

## Age of Entry Raised

"In regard to employment of workers, we are raising the age of entry from 12 to 13. Young persons who have not attained the age of 18 years, instead of the present limit of 17, will be considered as adolescents. If they have not reached sufficient physical maturity to be classed as adults, their hours of work will be only 4½ hours instead of the present limit of 5. The provisions relating to medical examination of young persons are also being strengthened. Hereafter they will be examined not merely before initial employment, but every year.

"The Chapter dealing with holidays with pay has been revised to provide for the grant of holidays to workers who, have done six months' service. This is a new provision. The definition of authorised leave has also been revised to provide for unauthorised absence upto a limit of twenty days in a year. In regard to casual absence due to illness or other reasonable cause it would be sufficient if the worker gives the reasons for his absence within three days from the commencement of such absence. These provisions will remove a source of dispute between employers and workers whether a particular absence is authorised leave or not, and if it is not an authorised leave, whether the worker is at all entitled to leave in respect of any preceding period.

"Information in this country regarding occupational diseases is somewhat scanty. The factory owner and the medical practitioner attending upon factory employees are the persons who can give useful information. Provision has been made requiring these people to give information regarding accidents in factories causing death or serious injury or of diseases treated. Power has also been given to take

samples of substances used in the manufacturing process, if its use is either contrary to the provisions of the Act or likely to lead to injury or cause disease to workers, and for their examination. Certifying surgeons have been authorised to exercise medical supervision in any factory where the occurrence of occupational diseases have come to notice or is suspected. These provisions which are new, are designed not only to obtain a knowledge of occupational diseases, but also to arrange for such remedial measures as can be taken to prevent their occurrence or reduce their incidence.

"Changes have been made in the Penalties Chapter also. The existing law only provides for a fine for contravention of the provisions of the Act. To an employer, a fine is no deterrent. We have, therefore, provided for imprisonment as well, upto three months for the first offence and upto six months for the second and subsequent offences".

## GOVERNMENT'S GENUINE SYMPATHY

Replying to the debate on the motion the Labour Minister emphasised that it was only from a genuine feeling of sympathy towards labour that the Government were bringing forward measures of labour legislation. He added that it was not because of sentiment or of coercion due to agitators but because labour had so long been denied the minimum human rights.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram claimed that the Bill was not a revolutionary measure but a modest beginning towards a great objective. He denied that the Government were blindly copying the west and stressed that they were only taking advantage of the experience of the western countries. He pointed out that a country which began industrialisation at a later stage had the advantage of learning from those countries which had started earlier.

Dealing with the argument that the provisions of the Bill might strangle industry, the Labour Minister said that it was a platitude often indulged in by the industrialists of this country. He felt certain that the provisions, instead of preventing the growth of industy would help its development on sound and scientific lines.

#### Costs of Production

Referring to the criticism that the cost of production might increase, he admitted that if we were fair to the working classes the cost of production might slightly go up. That was no reason, he added, why we should not give the workers their due. No doubt, he continued, reduction of working hours and payment of their wages to workers would add to the cost of production. But, he pointed out, they had to put the whole thing on a rational basis. There were, he thought, other items by which the cost of production might be reduced and he

suggested that some thought might be given to the question of how much profit the industrialists in this country were making. Was it not necessary in the interest of the consumer and the country as a whole to have a check on profits as well, he asked.

Concluding, the Labour Minister referred to the provision in the Bill giving power to Provincial Governments to exempt certain categories of factories from the operation of the Act and said that this had been done with a view to allowing some time to the Provincial Governments to set up a proper machinery for inspection. There was another difficulty also apart from finance, namely the availability of the necessary technical personnel for the inspectorates. These limitations, he said, were the reason for the latitude given to Provincial Governments.

Messrs. R.K. Sidhwa, B. Das, Tajamul Husain, Harihara Nath Shastri, Z.H. Lari and V.C. Kesava Rao took part in the debate that preceded the Labour Minister's reply.

After Mr. Jagjivan Ram had replied, the House adopted the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee consisting of the following: (1) Mr. Khandubhai K. Desai; (2) Mr. B. Shiva Rao; (3) Mr. N.G. Ranga; (4) Shrimati Renuka Ray; (5) Mr. Gokulbhai D. Bhatt; (6) Mr. Sunder Lal; (7) Mr. Nand Kishore Das; (8) Mr. T.A. Ramalingam Chettiyar; (9) Mr. Harihar Nath Shastri; (10) Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad; (11) Mr. H.V. Kamath; (12) Mr. K. Santhanam; (13) Mr. Arun Chandra Guha; (14) Mr. Balkrishna Sharma and (15) Sir J.P. Srivastava, besides the Mover (the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram).

The Select Committee is to report on the opening day of the next Session of the Legislature.

## PROTECTION OF DOCK WORKERS

The Indian Dock Labourers Act 1934, the operation of which was kept suspended owing to various reasons, came into force from Feb. 10, 1948, according to a notification in the Gazette of India dated January 17, 1948.

By another notification in the same issue of the Gazette, regulations were prescribed for the protection of dock workers and for the safe working of machinery in ports and quays.

The ratification by the Government of India of the I. L. O. Convention regarding protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships was registered on Feb. 10, 1947, and twelve months must elapse before legislation on the subject could be enforced.

## 48-Hour Week For Coal-miners

## Compulsory Provident Fund

48-hour week for India's 250,000 coalminers was agreed upon by the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Coal-mining at its meeting in Dhanbad on Jan. 23. Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Secretary to the Labour Ministry was in the Chair.

Other proposals to amend the Indian Mines Act which received the approval of the Committee aim at insuring comprehensive provisions for safety, health and decent working conditions for miners. Amendments seek to provide for improved water supply, sanitary conveniences, ambulances, and medical requirements, both below and above the ground, and for their inspection by a Welfare Commissioner. In addition, it is proposed to make medical examination of young persons obligatory.

Maintenance of proper registers, which facilitate implementation of conciliation awards, Provident Fund and other benefits, is to be made compulsory. A proposal to embody in the Act the rate of payment of overtime at one and a half times the normal daily rate was also agreed to.

Representatives of the Central Government, of the Provinces of West Bergal, Bihar and the Central Provinces, and of the States of Bikaner and Rewa were on the Government group. Delegates and advisers from mineowners' and workers' organisations also took part in the meeting.

The institution of a compulsory provident fund for coal-miners and the setting up of a school for training in the use of machinery were agreed to by the Committee at its resumed sitting on Jan. 24.

## Payment of Bonus

The Committee also decided to make payment of bonus querterly and approved a proposal to standardise employment, attendance, output and payroll registers with a view to improving statistics of labour and production in coal-mines.

The aim of the provident fund scheme is to provide for the miner in his old age. According to the scheme adopted by the Committee, there will be a central fund for all collicries. The cost of administration will be met through a levy which is likely to be less than one pice per ton of the coal raised. Workers who are entitled to get bonus for 1947 or who might hereafter qualify for bonus in any quarter will automatically become members. In addition, underground workers who put in thirty per cent of the number of working days in a quarter and surface workers who put in forty per cent attendance will also be eligible. A worker will contribute roughly about one anna per rupce on his basic wage and the employer an

equal amount. The scheme discourages the withdrawal of accumulated funds by a worker except at the age of 55 years. Payment in case of invalidity or death is provided for.

The scheme for the establishment of a training school is intended to improve the skill and efficiency of the worker in handling machinery, the use of which is expected to increase with the development of the Damodar Valley. At the first stage men will be trained as electrical and mechanical fitters and later in operating underground machinery. The capital cost of the school is estimated at about Rs. 10 lakhs and the annual recurring cost at about Rs. one lakh. While the capital cost will be borne by Government, the recurring cost will be met by the collieries which send the trainees. Trainees will be given allowances during the period of training.

The Committee agreed that the attendance and production bonus awarded by the Board of Conciliation (Collicity Disputes), equavalent to four months' basic wages in the year, should be paid every three months instead of annually. An underground miner will be entitled to quarterly bonus if he puts in an attendance of 70 per cent. of the working days. The Committee recognised the need for improving statistics of labour and production in coalmines. After considering proposals for standardisation of registers, a sub-committee was appointed to finalise the forms of registers and returns. It will consist of Chief Inspector of Mines, Director, Labour Bureau and two representatives each of employers and workers.

## U. P. REMOVAL OF SOCIAL DISABILITIES ACT

The Government of India bave extended the provisions of the United Provinces Removal of Social Disabilities Act 1947, to the province of Ajmer-Merwara, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Jan. 23.

This Act provides that a member of a Scheduled Caste will be eligible for an office under any authority and will have access inter alia to any river, well, water-tap, bathing place, cremation ground, hospital, dispension, educational institution or place of public amusement or public entertainment.

A member of a Scheduled Caste will be entitled to enter any Hindu temple and offer worship therein in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general, and no court shall, in adjudicating any matter or executing any order, recognise any custem or usage imposing any civil disability on any person on the ground that he belongs to a Scheduled Caste.

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INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

# PRIME MINISTER PLEADS FOR MAXIMUM PRODUCTION

E want a stream of wealth pouring out from our fields, factories and workshops and reaching our country's millions, so that ultimately we might be able to see India fulfil our dreams," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on January 18, broadcasting from New Delhi in the series "Produce or Perish".

The Prime Minister said, "Friends and comrades, I am supposed to speak to you about the production crisis. But my mind is full of other matters and other crises. We talk of production of many things but perhaps the most important thing is for a nation to produce men and women, good and true. One such person is in India who through his goodness, truth and power of the spirit brightens this ancient land and casts his radiance on us, a weak and erring mortals, and advises us when we go astray. We have strayed enough from the right path and wasted our inheritance, and our good repute and had enough of this now. We must go ahead on the path of creation and construction and co-operation and goodwill to our brother man.

"Production means wealth. If we do not produce we don't have enough wealth. Distribution is equally important so that wealth cannot accumulate in the hands of a few but, nevertheless, before we think of distribution, there must be production.

#### **Economic Problems**

You know we have many problems to face today -economic problems-apart from others. There are questions of control and inflation and so many other things. There is, again, the scarcity of goods. The changeover from wartime to peace-time economy has been very slow. And indeed instead of progress there has often been going back. Now this is the most urgent and serious matter for us to consider, because as this kind of thing goes on there is a kind of creeping paralysis on our economy and the whole of India and the whole of the nation suffers. Today in addition, we have to face tremendous problems of vast mig-ration and colossal numbers of refugees. The refugees are not producing. East Punjab is not producing much and all these people become unfortunately a burden on the country. Not that they want to be a burden, not that they are not capable of producing but circumstances have forced them into this unhappy position. So we have to think of production as an urgent problem even more than what we have otherwise done.

"We want a stream of wealth pouring out from our fields, factories and workshops and reaching our country's millions, so that ultimately we might be able to see India fulfil our dreams. "We talk of freedom, but today that political freedom does not take us far unless there is economic freedom. But there is no such thing as freedom for a man who is starving or for a country which is poor, the poor whether they are nations or individuals, have little place in this world. Therefore we have to produce in order to have wealth, sufficient, and distributed by proper economic planning so that it may go to the millions, more specially to the common man. Then not only the millions prosper but the whole country becomes rich and prosperous and strong. Many people have faith in all manner of dangers and people talk loosely of conflict with other countries. I hope there will be no such conflict.

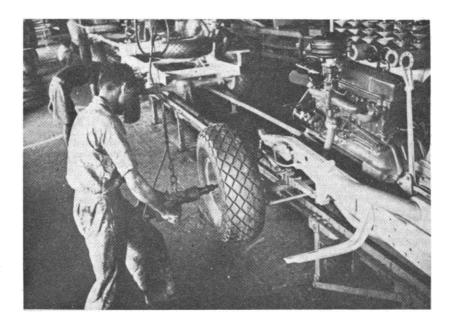
Nevertheless, a new country-a new State which has recently achieved its independence—must take full care of guarding that independence and that freedom. It has been said rightly that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. How are we to effect this? How are we to put into effect the schemes of reforms, or constructive schemes or development schemes unless we have the wealth to put into them? We cannot live on borrowed money for long and even if we borrow money we must have the credit for it. We must be strong enough to invest it in proper channels. All these require production-production in the immediate present to fulfil our immediste needs, so that we may have something to lay by for these productive

schemes of development. Therefore, we come back to this basic need of production at the present. Now, production means hard work, unremitting labour; production means no stoppages of work or strikes or lockouts.

#### Strikes and Lock-outs

"Now I am the last man to say that labour should be denied the right to strike, for the weapon of strike has been a much valued weapon through which gradually labour has gained a position of strength and eminence in most countries. Nevertheless, there are times when strikes are dangerous, when strikes not only injure the cause of the nation but also ultimately the cause of the worker himself. This is one of those times, and it was for this reason that a short while ago at a Conference held in Delhi the representatives of the Government, of Labour and Industry decided almost unanimously that we should have a three-year truce, during which there should be no strikes or lock-outs. Obviously, if we decided any such thing, we must have a machinery to see that such a thing is done. Otherwise some will take advantage of this decision. Therefore in that conference it was further decided to have this machinery so that the worker, labourer or peasant would have his due, would have a fair deal and would even take some part in the management more specially in regard to his own needs. If we have a fair and impartial machinery of this kind then strikes and lockouts would have no meaning.

"Of course, strikes and lockouts should have no meaning in a properly constituted State, where everyone has his due. Strikes and lockouts are the symbols of



Assembling automobiles in India: Truck wheels being mounted to chassis on moving conveyer

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something being wrong in the economic system. Well, a great deal is wrong in our economic system today not only in India, but in other parts of the world as well. We have to change it but in changing it we have to take care that we do not smash what we have already got. There is that danger that in doing something rashly, we may go further away from the objectives that we aim at. Therefore at present with all these crises facing us it is most important for us to have a period of industrial calm and peace so that we may all together co-operate in increasing production in the country and in building up the country by having put through the vast schemes of development.

"You know that we have had these schemes for a long time. Unfortunately, many of them still remain paper schemes. It is time that we gave effect to them. There are among them great river valley schemes which would not only irrigate the land, prevent floods, produce hydroelectric power and prevent malaria and other diseases but generally produce conditions for rapid development of industries and for modernising our agriculture. Do you realise that India is heavily populated but still has vast tracts of land where no man is putting up because these tracts do not have water or the soil requires some treatment?

"Our present population can easily be fully employed without any unemployment and add to the wealth of the country, No country can be over-populated if there is work for everyone, and we propose to have this work, but if we succeed in our endeavour then we shall have to give up the idea of unceasing conflict in the economic and labour fields and that again as I said, can only be solved if the worker gets his due, and if he is not exploited by others.

"We must devise something early for this purpose. To some extent this has been done but a great deal has yet to be done. Meanwhile we must decide to give full effect to this three-year truce which we have decided upon.

#### Need for Peace

"So let us get on with work, hard work. Let us produce but what we are producing is not for some individual pocket but for the nation, to raise the standard of the people and the common man and then if we do that we shall see India progressing rapidly and many of the problems that face us today ending in a solution. It is not an easy task for us to rebuild India. It is a very big problem though we are many people and there is no lack of resources in India, there is no lack of human beings capable, intelligent and hard working human beings. We have to use these resources of man power in India.

"It also depends on peace, international peace, national peace, economic peace and peace in the labour world and in the industrial world. Let us have this peace. At the present moment, I am particularly talking to you for industrial peace and let all of us join together in this campaign to produce and remember that this production is not for just enriching individuals but it is to enrich the nation. For if India lives we also live."—Jai Hind.

# Indian Wattle Bark: Plan For Big-scale Cultivation

THE Indian substitute for South African wattle bark, so indispensable to Indian industry, has been found and the Government of Madras are intending to cultivate it on a large scale. An article published in a recent issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Reseach discusses the relative merits of the indigenous tanning material and the possibility of cultivation of wattle trees in India.

Indian tanning industry largely depended for its requirements of vegetable tanning materials on South African wattle bark. The imports of wattle bark from South Africa, during 10 years ending 1945-46, amounted to 28,000 tons valued at Rs. 396 lakhs.

The Indian babool bark and avaram bark are not rich sources of tanning, yielding only 14 per cent. tannin, as compared to 64—65 per cent of the imported bark. The approximate cost per unit of tax is Rs. 36-10-0 as compared to Rs. 6-12-0 of the South African bark.

#### Research Carried out

During the last two decades appreciable research has been carried out by the Madras Forest Department on the possibilities of economic production of wattle bark. It has been established that Niligiris tan bark black wattle, Accacia mollissime wild Syn., Accia decurrens wild var meths Lin., are indentical with Natal black wattle. The bark of the trees grown in the Palani Hills and the Nilgiris has a tannin content varying from 20 to 57 per cent. The species in the Madras Province requires an elevation of 5,000—7,000 ft. and a well distributed rainfall of 60 inches or more for best development. Attempts to grow them at an elevation of 3,000-5,000 ft. have failed.

The Madras Government intends to plant 24,000 acres in Palani Hills 5,000 acres in South Coimbatore division and another 5,000 acres in Kollegal and North Coimbatore Hills. A research station is also to be started at Kadaikanal to deal with plantation, production and marketing problem.

The article gives relevant statistics regarding planting costs, estimated offtake of bark in different provinces, acreage to be planted to meet the demand and other relevant details.

Two factors, affecting the life of an internal combustion engine, are efficient air cleaning and crank-case ventilation systems. It has been estimated that a three to five fold increase in engine life is possible by the use of air cleaners, which prevent dust accumulation in the engines and consequent wear. Proper ventilation of the crank-case is necessary to remove harmful vapours and gascs in the engine, thus reducing engine deposits and wear.

A new and improved system combining the function of air cleaning and ventilation development in the Physical laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi, is described in another article appearing in the Journal. Simplicity of design, ease of its construction, and superior performance are some of the outstanding features of the new system. The composite system can be used in producer—gas vehicles and—many types of stationary engines could be fitted with this system. Results of critical tests on this system and other devices are given.

## Fabric Type Filters

The system employs the fabric filters, the fabric being an Indian mill product, which could be readily produced in large quantities. A pair of bags made out of this cloth can give considerable length of service. In one case, a distance of 4,500 miles was covered on the original pair of bags. The bags can be washed and used over and over again.

A patent application to cover the device described in the article has been filed in the Indian Patent Office (Prov. No. 35646, dated September 11, 1946.)

Other articles of interest appearing in this issue are Lac or Synthetic Resins, Refractories and Indian Graphite,—its beneficiation and probable uses. The editorial discusses the progress of science and university education.

In pursuance of the decision to allow resumption of private trading with Japan, it has been decided that applications for licences for the import and export of goods should be made to the Chief Controller of Imports and the Chief Controller of Exports respectively, or their Deputies at various ports, in the same manner as that obtaining in respect of countries with whom private trade is now permisible, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 2.

No Mail Order business will, however, be permitted, and the existing procedure whereby private traders enter into contracts direct with SCAP (Supreme Commander, Allied Powers) for purchases or sales will continue for the time being.

A fresh batch of photographs of unclaimed and unidentified children, who came from Pakistan, has been received by the Displaced Persons' Enquiry and Search Service, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 10. These photographs have been placed on view at the Kingsway and Kalkaji Refugee Camps, Bela Road Barracks, Purana Qila and at the Search Service Headquarters in Room No. 58, 'P' Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

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# DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT—A MULTI-PURPOSE SCHEME

THE Bill for setting up the Damodar Valley Corporation is to come up for consideration before the Indian Parliament during the Budget session.

The Damodar Valley Project is a multipurpose scheme. It is designed to control floods, irrigate about 763,800 acres of land and supply power to the extent of 350,000 Kw.

It is proposed to set up the Damodar Valley Corporation on the lines of the Tennessee Valley. It shall be the duty of the Corporation to promote the Agricultural, Industrial, economic and public health development of the area within its operation. And in order to carry out the functions the Corporation may establish, maintain and operate laboratories, experimental and research stations and farms for conducting experiments and research. This will give an idea of the comprehensive nature of the work entrusted to this Corporation in the Valley and the adjoining area which will be declared from time to time as its area of operation.

#### **Damodar River**

The Damodar river is notorious for the frequent flood damages it has caused. The river flows through the province of Bihar and Bengal and drains an area called, on account of its industrial potential, the Ruhr of India. The industries that will be located along the lower reaches of the valley must be protected from the ravages of flood. The main lines of communication connecting the important port of Calcutta with the rest of India must not be damaged. The rich irrigable rice fields of Burdwan District must not be subjected to dangers of a flood. Last but not the least, the city of Calcutta should never be threatened by a flood. Flood control is therefore a very important

development. This of this aspect will be obtained by constructing a number of dams across the Damodar river and its tributaries, to provide large storage reservoirs which will hold back the floods. These reservoirs will be kept partially empty during the flood season to hold the rushing storm waters which will be released later at a safe rate. The many dams together have a flood control storage of 3,569,000 Acre feet. This capacity to absorb floods is sufficient to reduce a flood much larger than any under record and a peak flow of 1,000,000 cubic feet per second to a harmless 200,000 cubic feet per second.

#### Power Resources of Project

The flood waters and the annual flow will be converted into a perennial flow and will also be harnessed to develop electric power. Electric power generating stations have been planned at all dams. The total installed capacity of all the hydro-electric stations put to-gether will be about 200,000 Kw. As the amount of this power available varies with the season, a large thermal (steam) generating station with an installed capacity of 150,000 K. W. will also be built. This hydro-steam combination will not only meet most of the load requirement in South Bihar and South West Bengal but also form the backbone of the future inter-provincial electric power grid connecting the different provinces. The annual energy available from the hydro-electric stations alone will amount to 800,000,000 K. W. hrs. Preliminary estimates indicate that the energy will be available for sale at very attractive rates which will rapidly advance industrialisation of the valley.

At present the Damodar River partially irrigates about 186,000 acres in the Burdwan district. During dry

## Employment Service: Record Placings

In December

During the month of December 1947, the Employment Service in the Indian Dominion again set up a new record of placings, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General, Resett ement and Employment on Jan. 23. 16,103 applicants, of whom 6,609 were ex-Servicemen, were placed in employment by the 53 Exchanges in the Indian Dominion. Up to the end of December, 10,566 displaced persons from West Pakistan were placed in employment.

The total number of persons placed in employment, since the inception of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation, up to the end of December,

1947, was 2,77,362, of whom 1,77,217 were ex-Servicemen.

During the month of December, 1947, 2,461 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 249 training centres in the Dominion of India, bringing the total number of selected and posted up to the end of that month to 42,708. Postings during the above month include 2,384 ex-Servicemen posted to vocational and technical training centres and 77 disabled persons posted to training centres for war disabled. The total number of persons under training at the end of the month was 9,884, including 368 displaced persons.

years when the monsoon fails, this area is not assured of sufficient water even in October. No water is available for any summer crop. After the completion of the project sufficient water will be stored for release to meet the irrigation requirement of about 763,800 acres in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Hoogly and Howarh. Two crops will be assured where one grows now, irrigation will also be available to a fairly large acerage in Bihar. To achieve this in addition to the dams there will be a barrage on the lower reaches of the Damodar from where the water will be diverted into a net work of canals on both the banks of the

The main irrigation canal will be made navigable for large, low draft river craft. This canal will be provided with suitable berthing facilities and lock arrangements to enable through traffic at very economical rates between Calcutta and the neighbourhood of the Regional coal fields. This additional means of transport will be of great value to the industrial development of the valley.

In addition, general development like water supply to towns and industries nearby scientific management of soil, better methods of cultivation for different crops on model farms, reafforestation of large areas, cheap electric power supply for rural areas, establishment of cottage industries, co-operative movement, fish culture, recreational facilities for industrial labour on the lakes formed by the reservoirs, malaria control and amenities to attract tourists will all be undertaken.

#### Problem of Rehabilitation

All this must be achieved and that, too, within a short time. Previously construction of a single dam has taken as much as 10 years or even more. We must move faster. We want immediately more food, more power and more industries. It is therefore proposed to go in for the most modern methods of construction which will enable us to complete the scheme within a period of ten years if not earlier. This project when completed will cost the nation over Rs. 55 crores.

Formation of reservoirs will submerge large number of villages and large areas of land. This is unfortunate though inevitable in schemes of this nature. But the Central Government have assured all that rehabilitation of the displaced will be the first charge of the Corporation. Every attempt will be made to settle the displaced population under conditions superior to those under which they now live. Land with irrigation facilities will be found wherever possible. A great number will find employment in the construction of the project. Many will enter new industries. None will be left without a liberal compensation. Everyone in and near the valley will be benefitted. Already detail mineralogical survey has begun. Exploratory investigations to establish useful industries have been set on foot. It is hoped that with full cooperation of all concerned the Damodar Valley Corporation will introduce a new era of prosperity for the people of this most important part of the country in Bihar and West Bengal.

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ORGANISATION

## Director-General's Plea For Continuance

PLEA for the continuance of the Employment Service Organisation was made by Dr. N. Das, Director-General of Resettlement and Employment, when he addressed the Central Employment Advisory Committee on Jan. 16, in New Delhi.

In a message to the Committee, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, stated: "The Employment Exchange Organisation is an infant institution in this country, having been set up only two and a half years ago. We are anxious that it should develop on sound lines and be able to render effective service to employers and employment seekers alike. I hope that the celebrations of this Committee, in which I am deeply interested, will contribute towards making this Organisation more efficient and useful".

The Director-General in his speech said: "Employment Exchanges and Training Schemes play a vital part in the economy of every civilised country and it will be a tragedy if, in India, after

the initial experimental period of five years, these institutions are not allowed to assist in her economic development. The last Asian Regional Labour Conference, held in New Delhi, discussed the scope of the Employment Service and Training Centres in the planned development of Asian countries and came to the unanimous conclusion that these institutions were not merely desirable but essential for orderly progress.".

## Nearly Three Lakhs Employed

Referring to the work of the Organisation up to the end of December, 1947, the Director-General pointed out that 2,77,300 men and women had been placed in employment and 3,894 persons trained while 9,159 persons were under training at present. The organisation, Dr. Das observed, had also helped in the problem of rehabilitating displaced persons from Western Pakistan. This was made possible, he said, as there was in the country an organisation which could be adapted to meet all emergencies.

## River Projects To Be Speeded Up

DECISIONS of far-reaching importance were taken and several recommendations made to hasten the development of irrigation and hydroelectric projects in India at the 18th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation, held recently in Delhi, under the chairmanship of Shri A. N. Khosla, I. S. E., President of the Board. Chief Engineers for Irrigation and Electricity from all parts of the country attended the meeting and discussed many technical and administrative problems connected with the river projects to be extended shortly.

The Board has unanimously recommended that persons whose land will be submerged under the storage reservoirs or will be otherwise acquired for works in that connection should be compensated as far as possible, by giving them land for land. Where Government land in sufficent quantities does not exist, a proportion of private land benefited by the project should be acquired for the resettlement of dispossessed people. Early, legislation is recommended to permit acquisition of land for settling dispossessed land holders as acquisition for a public purpose.

#### **Potential Water Resources**

In another resolution the Board reiterates the necessity of undertaking early surveys of the potential water resources of all catchments and has commended the action recently taken in this respect by the Government of Bombay. The Board has put forward suggestions for co-ordinating such activities of all provincial and state administrations in India.

The Board has decided to establish a close liaison with the activities of the newly formed Indian Standards Institution and has decided to co-operate with this body in preparing and publishing standards of interest to the engineering profession.

Th Board has also recommended the undertaking of electrical research in main hydraulic research laboratories in India and has decided to establish close liaison with various institutions already engaged in this work.

The Board has called for the appointment of a Committee to review existing legislation and propose measures necessary to overcome the present difficulties created by demands for realignment of power transmission lines after erection.

Various other technical matters of great importance to the new irrigation and hydro-electric projects were also discussed. The Board has reviewd its existing constituation and recommended changes to bring it in line with the changed political structure of the country.

Mr. A. N. Khosla, Chairman, Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, has been re-elected President of the Board for the third year in succession. Rao Bahadur A. R. Vankatacharya, Chief Engineer, Madras, has been elected as Vice-President of the Board, the other members of the Executive Committee being Rai S. K. Guha Bahadur, I. S. E., Chief Engineer for rrigation, Bengal, and Shri S. A. Gadkery, Chief Engineer for Electricity, East Punjab.

This also vindicated, added Dr. Das, the policy the Government, followed in encouraging expansion of the scope of the organisation in consultation with the Provincial Governments so as to cover all categories of employment seekers, irrespective of whether they were ex-Servicemen or not. The reason for pursuing this policy, he explained, was because the Government felt that, in the ultimate analysis, employers wanted the best type of men.

Concluding Dr. Das stressed that the organisation had made honest and sincere efforts to build up an employment service which would benefit employers and employment seekers alike, although it had to contend against prejudices from various quarters and deal with a difficult commodity, namely, Labour.

#### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

The Central Employment Advisory Committee adopted a resolution recommending that the employment service should be made permanent and expanded to include all categories of employment seekers. The resolution added that an Employment Service Office should be opened in each district and that further expansion of the service should be according to the needs of each individual district.

A second resolution adopted by the Committee recommended that civilians should be brought within the scope of the technical and vocational training scheme of the Ministry of Labour and that the Central Government should take immediate steps to improve the quality of craftsmen trained.

By another resolution the Committee requested the various Central and Provincial Government Departments to take steps to implement the Central Home Ministry's order regarding recruitment of staff through the Employment Exchanges.

After appointing three Sub-Committees on Employment Exchanges, Training and Employment of Women, the Committee reviewed the work done by the Employment Organisation last year.

Among those who attended the meeting were officials of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment and representatives of Provincial and State Governments, employers, workers and women's organisations.

## RELEASE OF CARGOES DETAINED BY JAPANESE

Cargoes originally owned by Allied or neutral nationals but which were detained in Japan under the Japanese Freezing of Shipping Act of July 1941 are now being released, according to an announcement by the Civil Property Custodian in Japan, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Jan. 27. The release order covers merchandise paid for before the outbreak of war, or which was in transit to other countries at the time of the Japanese Freezing Act.

For the full text of the announcement containing conditions of release, reference should be made to the Indian Trade Journal of December 18, 1947.

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# RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

# Joint Appeal by Women of India and Pakistan

A JOINT appeal by women representatives of India and Pakistan was issued on Jan. 28 for the recovery of abducted women.

The appeal is signed among others by Viscountess Mountbatten of Burma, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Miss Jinnah and Begum Liaqat Ali Khan.

It states: "We are sure that women of India and Pakistan will not rest until all women have been recovered and effective action taken to restore women to their inherent status and prestige".

"Raising the status of woman and encouraging her to take her legitimate share in national reconstruction has been an important item in the national programme of the main political parties. Independence has been achieved in both the Dominions. We the women of the States of India and Pakistan had hoped that on gaining independence we would get a chance of implementing the programme concerning the progress of women. Before we could do anything in this direction we found the East and the West Punjab in the grip of terrible orgy of violence and brutality. Human life seemed to have no value at all. Unfortunately women and children becarre the special targets of this fury. The experience which the masses of women and children had to go through blackened the fair name of India and Pakistan. As if this was not enough, abduction of women and children as a planned objective of retaliatory measures took place. This is a problem that not only raises issues on humanitarian grounds but is endangering the whole question of the status of woman, and her right to live as an individual member of the States, and to get protection from it.

## Appeal to Women

It is satisfying that the Governments of both the Dominions had long ago realised this danger and taken clear decisions that forced conversions and marriages would not be recognised. They also attached particular importance to the recovery of women and called a special Inter-Dominion Conference on the 6th December, 1947 to devise a machinery for the purpose.

The success of this work depends mainly on enlightened public opinion and general realisation of the fact that women are human beings and abducting them and keeping them are a direct infringement on their fundamental human rights to live as citizens of a free country. If the present tendency is allowed to pass without challenge from woman, it is feared that it will check the course of women's progress. We, therefore, call upon all women and women's organisations in both the Dominions to mobilize themselves to fulfil the following programme:—

- i. To organize a vigorous campaign in favour of "Hands off Women and Children and Return the Women".
- 2. To collect information regarding the location of abducted women and children kept in their area and communicate it to the proper agency entrusted with the recovery work in that area.
- 3. To organize propaganda through personal approach and public meetings.
- 4. To make the "Restore Women and Children Week" from Monday the 1st February, 1948 to Sunday the 7th February, 1948, a success, by educating public opinion and actually helping in the effort to recover women.
- 5. To put pressure on Provincial and State Governments to establish official organisations for the recovery of abducted women brought into their provinces or

We hope that the women of both the Dominions will realise the gravity and importance of this programme and make an all-out effort. Let us not forget that what has happened in the Punjob is not only a challenge to all our ideals and hopes, but it creates a precedent, which if tolerated, will endanger our society. If, for any reason, this practice is abducting women is not vigorously opposed, than for all practical purposes owomen will be deprived of their right to citizenship and protection by the State.

We are sure that women of India and Pakistan will not rest until all women have been recovered and effective action taken to restore women to their inherent status and prestige".

The signatories to the appeal are:-

#### INDIA

Viscountess Mountbatten of Burna, Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Shrimati Rameshwari Nehtu, Mrs. Nathulakhshmi Reddi, Lady Trivedi, Kamladovi Chattopadhya, Begum Masuma Hussoin Ali Khan, Mrs. Anusuya Bai Kale, Tarabai Prem Chaud, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Mrs. John Matthai, Lady Ram Rao, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Miss Leilamani Naidu, Mrs. Renuka kay, Mrs. Hannah Sen, Shrimati Raksha Saran, Mrs. Kitty Shiva Rau, Shrimati Shanno Devi, Miss Premvati Thapar, Miss Mridula Sarabhai, Sita Devi and Dr. Parkash Kaur.

#### PAKISTAN

Miss Jinnah, Begum Liaqat Ali Khan, Begum Shah Nawaz, Begum Bashir Ahmed, Begum Fatima, Lady Haroon, Begum Mir Ahmad, Begam Hidayat Ullah, Begum Jamalud Vin Khan of Baluchistan, Begum Abdul Qayum, Begum Tasadduq Hussain, and Begum Ismat Iftikharud Din.

## Army's Role In Recovery Work

A conference was held at Lahore on Jan. 8, 1948, to review the progress of the recovery of abducted women, said to Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 19.

It added: The conference revealed a basic difference in the outlook of the Governments of Pakisten and India regarding the role which the Army should play in the recovery of abducted women. The representatives of the Government of India pressed that the Army should be actively associated in the recovery on both sides of the border, that is, troops be allowed to accompany the police parties to the villages for recovery of abducted persons, as originally agreed in the conference of Dec. 6, 1947. The Government of Pakistan did not agree to this proposal and desired that the activities of the troops should be restricted to guarding transit camps and providing escort for transport of recovered persons to their own Dominion. The representatives of the Government of India also protested against the proposal of Pakistan authorities to stop the entry of Indian troops even for this limited purpose in some of the districts of  $W_{\mbox{\footnotesize est}}$  Punjab.

Although on the main issue, agreement was not possible between the two Governments, yet on other matters related to proper functioning of the present machinery the representatives of both the Dominions agreed that an all-out effort should be made.

## DOUBLE-SHIFT CLASSES FOR WOMEN STUDENTS

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, have arranged double-shift classes for refugee women students in the Indraprastha College for women, Delhi. Instruction will be provided only in the Faculty of Arts both in the Intermediate and B. A., Pass and Honours.

Students desirous of attending these classes should contact immediately the Principal, Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi.

Similar arrangements have already been made for men students in the Hindu College, Delhi.



H. E. Lady Mountbatten, Lady Trivedi (in striped overcoat) and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, surrounded by refugees of the Juliundur Refugee Camp, which they visited recently.

## Registration of Claims For Refugee Property

Registration of claims regarding property left behind in Pakistan by refugees was started by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in New Delhi on October 1, 1947, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 30. Provincial Governments have now started registring similar claims in their territorics.

The registration was considered desirable with a view to:—

- (1) obtaining some approximate idea of the extent of property left behind by non-Muslims in Pakistan.
- (2) obtaining record of all documentary evidence of title that individuals may have brought out.

There was and is no intention on the part of the Central Government to assume responsibility for paying these claims over the counter. Negotiations for a property settlement are, however, in progress with the Pakistan Dominion. At present it is not possible to say whether mutually satisfactory agreement will be reached, and if so when. In any case considerable time would elapse before individual claims could be adjusted within the framework of some inter-dominion settlement.

Owing to disturbances in Palestine, no insured correspondence or parcels for that country will be accepted at post offices until further orders, says a Press Note issued by D.G., P. and T. on Feb. 7.

Security of mails is not guaranteed by the Palestine Postal Administration and mails in transit through Palestine are likely to suffer delays.

## LOANS TO DISPLACED DOCTORS AND LAWYERS

The Government of India have decided to raise the maximum limit up to which loans may be granted from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000 in the case of doctors, including dentists, radiologists, vaids, hokims and homeopaths, and legal practitioners, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation or Jan. 23.

It added: The grant of loans will be subject to the terms and conditions already specified under the scheme for grant of loans to displaced persons belonging to urban areas in West Pakistan who have arrived in the Indian Union. Furthermore, the grant of loans will be confined to persons who decide to settle in a town or place in the economy of which they are likely to be absorbed permanently.

## MORE STATES TO ENLIST REFUGEE CONTRACTORS

In response to the Government of India's request, a number of Indian States, besides those already announced, have agreed to enlist refugee contractors.

Narsingarh invites applications to enlist six contractors experienced in road and building. Jhalaker wants two refugee P. W. D. contractors and applicants should contact the State Engineer. Kotah offers good prospect to refugee contractors who may be enrolled as P. W. D. Contractors for roads, buildings, irrigation works. Licensed electrical contractors and plumbers can also be enlisted.

Rajkot, Dharangahara, Bundi, Indore, Benswara, Ratlam and Suket are also prepared to consider applications for enlistment.

Other States which have agreed to enlist refugee contractors and about whom an announcement was earlier made, are Baroda, Bikaner, Rewa, Kapurthala, Nabha, Benares, Alipore, Datia, Rajgarh Darbar and cortain small States in Orissa and Chhattisgarh States Agency.

## INFORMATION FOR REFUGEES

A fortnightly journal, entitled Relief and Rehabilitation, intended to represent the cause of rofugees as well as to give information as to the steps taken by Government to help them, has been issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India.

The Journal which is being published in English, Hindi and Punjabi, is for free distribution among refugees all over India, particularly those in Camps in East Punjab, and Kurukshetra. The object of the Journal is explained in an announcement in the first issue, dated January 15, 1948, which says:

"The fortnightly journal issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation intends to provide a forum for displaced persons and the authorities responsible for their well-being. Our readers are invited to write to the Director, Information Bureau, asking for information on the varied problems facing them. We will do our best to obtain relevent information from authoritative sources and the replies will be sent to individual enquiries and where information is of general interest it will also be published in these columns.

"Apart from this, the Journal will serve as a current news-sheet, to convey to displaced persons information regarding relief and rehabilitation".

In a message to Relief and Rehabilitation, the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. says:

The problem of refugees is one of the most stupendous problems any country in the world has ever had to face. It is one of those problems which are not amenable to easy and quick solution.

Though it is the direct liability of the Government it deserves the care, attention and service of every Indian in every sphere of life. Despite the manful efforts of the Press, the public at large have grasped the situation only in its bare outline. Few, who have not come in direct contact with the problem and studied it in detail, can have a real idea of its serious proportions, its far reaching consequences and the difficulties pertaining to its solution, particularly in the matter of rehabilitation. Let me however, give this assurance that difficult as the task is the Government is determined to carry out its obligation to the fullest extent.

The present publication is intended to represent the cause of refugees as well as to give information as to the steps taken by the Government to help them. It will serve as a link between the Government and the displaced community and as a vehicle for the exchange of information between the two. In this the refugees will have a scope for making known their special requirements and the Government for indicating what is being done for meeting them. The publication is thus expected to render a much needed service.

I should like to convey thanks of Government to the authorities of *The Hindustan Times*, and specially to Mr. Devdas Gandhi, for generously agreeing to print the journal free of charge.

# FOUR TOWNSHIPS TO BE BUILT NEAR DELHI

Sites for four satellite townships in the Delhi Province have been announced. These townships will, to a large extent, meet the demand for houses for the overflowing refugee population in Delhi, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 26.

It adds: The new townships will be at Mehrauli, Kalkaji, Tehar and Sheikh Sarai. The Delhi Improvement Trust has framed expansion schemes for the development of these areas and has issued notices under section 36 (I) of the U. P. Town Improvement Act 1919 (8 of 1919) as extended to the Province of Delhi, inviting objections by February 17, 1948.

The Mehrauli Scheme will cover 518 acres and will comprise the villages of Mehrauli and Sultanpur. Kalkaji scheme will cover 825 acres and consists of Tughlakabad, Tekhand and Bhapur villages. Tehar has the largest acreages of 1450 acres consisting of Tehar. Nangal Ria, Posangipur, Asalatpur, and Khawad villages. Sheikh Sarai will cover 632 acres consisting of Khirki, Hausrani, Begumpur, Tutsarai, Sheikh Sarai and Sarai Shahji villages.

Full particulars of the scheme, maps of the areas comprised in the scheme and a statement of the land which it is proposed to acquire may be seen at the office of the Delhi Improvement Trust, Regal Buildings, New Delhi, on any working day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## RECOVERY OF MUSLIM WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Up to January 15, 1948 the East Punjab Government had been able to recover 8,005 Muslim women and children and converted persons, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 23. The details of rescued persons are: abducted women 3,391, abducted children 2,750, converted persons 1,864.

An intensified campaign to recover abducted women and children and abducted persons was launched in East Punjab in accordance with the decisions of the Inter-Dominion Conference at Lahore on December 6, 1947.

Reliable figures of women and children and converted persons rescued in West Punjab are not available. From reports it is clear, however, that the progress in rescue operations in West Punjab has not been satisfactory and in certain districts of West Punjab the provincial government has imposed restrictions on the movement of Indian military and police personnel engaged in those operations.

## HIS HALF MONTH'S WAGES

A Delhi workman went to the Prime Minister's office on Jan. 28 and handed Pandit Nehru twenty two rupees and two annas in small changes.

"That represents my half month's wages, Panditji, and I donate it for the National Relief Fund which you have opened," he said.

## CONCESSIONS FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS

To enable displaced students who were studying in the ninth or tenth class in high-schools in Pakistan to continue their studies, it has been decided to give them further concessions, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on Jan. 28. Such students may now apply for exemption from tuition fees and grants for purchase of books to the heads of their respective institutions.

Besides Government schools, private recognised institutions also are expected to give this financial relief to displaced students. Such institutions may ask for an increase in Government grant if necessary, in case they have a large number of displaced students on their rolls.

## REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES

On account of the developments in Sind, Government of India have decided to restart registration of refugees in Delhi at Room No. 168, 'P' Block, Raisina Road, with effect from Wednesday, 28th January, 1948, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Jan. 28.

## VALIDITY OF ARMS LICENCES

Licences issued to persons in the Indian Dominion under the Indian Arms Act and Rules before August 15, 1947, are now valid only within areas which comprise the Provinces of the Dominion and are not valid in the territory now in Pakistan unless the law of that Dominion permits it, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Jan. 22.

In the case of arms licences which extend within former Provinces and districts of India which have now been partitioned, the extent of the validity of the licences should, so far as the Indian law goes, be deemed to be limited to the areas which now fall within the Indian Dominion. Their validity in the areas now falling in Pakistan is governed by the laws of that Dominion.

A licence, which was duly made before Aug. 15, 1947, by a District Magistrate now in Pakistan but which extends to an area now in the Indian Dominion, continues to be valid within that area. Its validity in the area which now falls within the territory of Pakistan is dependent on the law of that Dominion.

When a licence is due for renewal, the renewing authority can only validate it for a juristiction within which he has authority, i.e., for the Union of India or for the present Province which he serves or for his own district.

If a licencee wishes to validate his licence outside the area within the Provinces of the Indian Dominion, he must seek a fresh licence from the competent authority in that area.

It is, however, pointed out that the relevant provisions of the Pakistan (Adaptation of Existing Pakistan Laws) Order 1947, are similar to those in the corresponding Indian Order and hence unless the Pakistan Government has in the meantime amended its Arms Act of 1878, the position of the licences issued before Aug. 15, 1947, in Pakistan will be the same as in India.



Another view of the Jullundur Refugee Camp

# PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL TO REFUGEES New Development and Rehabilitation Board

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawah arlal Nehru, Prime Minister, issued the following statement on Jan. 13:

About 10 days ago I stated that the Government was making every effort to provide some kind of whelter for the refugees in Delhi who lacked accommodation. We have taken this up as an urgent problem of the highest priority because we did not want any single refugee from Pakistan to be without a shelter at least. The problem has been a big one, made all the more difficult by more and more people arriving.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and the local Delhi Administration have worked hard during the past 10 days to make arrangements for providing this accommodation and shelter. Inevitably it is not possible to provide all the amenities that we should like to give but I am glad to say that some kind of accommodation and shelter is available now for these who lack it. No refugee at present in Delhi need be without this shelter which varies in quality.

It is important to remember, however, that Delhi cannot possibly absorb or accommodate fresh batches of refugees. If fresh batches come they will have to be sent on to Kurukshetra or other places.

We have provided additional accommodation during the past few days for about 10,000. Our first priority is to make this accommodation available to those refugees who have been residing in the mosques in Delhi, secondly those in the Railway Station, thirdly those at the Wavell Canteen. Any person who may have been absolutely shelterless will, of course, be given a high priority.

There are many camps in Delhi for these refugees. Among them the Kingsway Camp is the largest, and is meant for destitutes and others who are given free rations. In other places like Anandparvat and Purana Qila free rations are not supplied but foodstuffs are made available through shops, etc.

## **Temporary Arrangements**

Various other arrangements have been made to provide refugees with accommodation. These need not be detailed here. Any person desiring some kind of accommodation should register his or her name at the Town Hall.

I would earnestly request that no further refugees from Pakistan should come to Delhi as this will not help them in any way. They will merely add to their difficulties as well as ours. It is easier for us to help them in other places and we intend to do so.

These are temporary arrangements. The next step which we hope to take very soon is to begin to rehabilitate them in a more permanent way. A large number

of plots of land in the Shadipur area of Delhi will be reserved for refugees. Similar areas in other places are also under consideration. Within afew days I hope that the announcement of the new Capital for East Punjab will be made and no doubt many p-ople would like to settle down there.

The Cabinet has decided to entrust the whole problems of rehabilitation to a special Board called the Development and Rehabilitation Board which will he constituted soon. This Board will have wide powers so that it may be able to achieve results with speed and without the delays normally accompanying governmental procedure. It is proposed to combine as far as possible the process of rehabilitation with development and many of the existing schemes of development will be utilised for this purpose. The Board will plan for the whole of India and will have large executive powers.

This is a tremendous task and the Government seek the co-operation of all people including the refugees themselves in order to deal with it adequately and with speed.

## RECEPTION OF SIND REFUGEES

The Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, paid a visit in the last week of January to Ajmer, Deoli Camp, Marwar juneticn and Marwar Pali to find out for himself the arrangement in connection with the reception of Sind refuges. He found that there were about 20,000 refugees at Ajmer out of whom 2,000 were living in dharmsalas. In Deoli Camp there were 1150 refugees. This Camp was capable of taking another 5,000 and arrangements were being made to transfer refugees from Marwar junction to this place.

At Marwar junction, a transit camp, there were about 5,000 refugees. They were being accommodated in dharmalus, tents and temporary hutments of sirkin. At Marwar Pali there were about 4,000 refugees who have accommodated in military barracks.

Arrangements had been made for the distribution of free food to all refugees in the transit camp at Marwar junction and to indigent refugees in other relief camps. Quilts and blankets had also been despatched to Marwar junction.

At all these places, Mr. Neogy discussed their problems with the representatives of refugees. His visit had a reassuring effect

# PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister has issued the following appeal on Jan. 24.

At no time has the necessity of giving relief to vast numbers of our suffering countrymen been so great and urgent as it is today. This is not merely a humanitarian task but one affecting the future of India. We cannot permit the real wealth of India, as represented by the millions of men and women, who have been dispossessed and driven away from their homes, to waste away with no opportunity of settling down again and taking full part in the creative and constructive activities of the nation. We connot permit the growing generation to be deprived of home and education and opportunities of becoming efficient and productive citizens of India. We have passed through disaster and suffering on a colossal scale. The effect to overcome it and to rise superior to it must be on an equally extensive scale.

The Government of India are diverting their energy and resources to this end. But that is not enough; the co-operation of all our people, including those who have suffered, is essential in this vast enterprise. That co-operation has, to some extent, been forthcoming. Even more is necessary.

There have been many relief funds and generous donations have been given

to alleviate suffering. Many donors have sent me spontaneously their contributions for relief work. I feel that it will be desirable to have a central relief fund which can be used for any type of emergency relief of distress but which must now be especially used for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Pakistan who have come to India.

I am, therefore, starting a fund called "The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund" and I invite donations to this Fund. To begin with, this Fund will be managed by a committee consisting of the Pr.me Minister, the President of the Indian National Congress, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, a representative of the Tata Trustees and a representative of Industry and Commerce to be chosen by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.

Further particulars about the administration of the Fund will be announced later.

Donations, which will be announced in the Press, may be sent to the Central Bank of India, New Delhi, or any of the branches or sub-branches of the Bank. They may be earmarked for specific purposes such as medical relief, education and care of orphans.

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# SIGNIFICANCE OF JAN. 26 FOR INDIA AND AUSTRALIA

ROADCASTING from All-India Radio, Delhi on Independence Day (Jan. 26), Dr. Rajendra Presad, Congress President, said:

In the modern history of India January 26 is a day of great importance.

When the Lahore session of the Congross adopted full Swaraj as its goal and decided to launch a campaign, meetings were organised all over the country at which the Congress's pledge was repeated.

The people pledged themselves to secure freedom and we renewed our determination to do so every year till January 1947. Sometimes when our campaign gathered momentum and we were in the midst of a Satyagraha movement then on this day quite often we had to meet the force of Might and many of our brothers and sisters have laid down their lives and suffered other great difficulties. The movement which we began in 1930 continued till we had a glimpse of Swarai.

With the help of God and under the leadership of Gandhiji we have won the battle of freedom and gained our objective. It is, therefore, necessary to repeat that pledge now. If any pledge is necessary it is that we should be able

to safeguard the freedom which we have won and through that freedom we shall have peace and prosperity so that our nation may be able to face the world. It is unfortunate that today due to communal disturbances we have so forgotten ourselves that countless Hindus. Sikhs, and Muslims have lost their lives. If our freedom is to have any meaning then our aim should be that all inhabitants of this great nation whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Jews or of any other religion should be able to live and prosper in peace and self-respect. We should never allow ourselves to think that this country belongs to the followers of any one of religion and that the others have no rights here, for this is their way to destruction. It should be our endeavour to create confidence in the minds of Muslims especially and other minorities that they shall have the same rights as

If we undertook this pledge today then the 28th January will be for us as great a day as in the past. On this occasion let us pay our respects to the countless men and women through whose sacrifice we have secured this freedom. It is our duty to the memory of those who have brought us this freedom that we make our nation great and prosperous. Jai Hind.



Independence Day was calebrated in Delhi on January 26, when Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, gave a reception at his residence. His Excellency M. Nevikev, Russian Ambassador to India (centre) at the reception

# Sir Iven Mackay's Broadcast

Following is the text of a broadcast by Lt. General Sir Iven Mackay, High Commissioner for Australia in India, from A. I. R., Delhi on Jan 26.

It is a happy coincidence that on the very day on which India commemorates her Independence movement, we in Australia also celebrate one of our most important national occasions. For us, January 26th is known as Australia Day. It is a historical anniversary; for on this day, one hundred and sixty years ago, the first small group of settlers reached the end of their twelve thousand mile voyage from England, and came ashore in what is now famous as Sydney Harbour.

This landing was in no sense an invasion. Only 290 persons came ashore as settlers. They were accompanying a party of prisoners. For in those days so little was known of Australia, so little could be foreseen of her future, that the new country was thought of merely as a suitable place for a prison settlement. The aboriginal inhabitants of Australia were wandering, stone-age tribes who kept no cattle, grew no crops, and had no dwellings to live in. At most they numbered half a million, and they were scattered through a continent half as large again as India.

It was from this handful of European settlers that there has grown up today a young nation of some seven and a half million Australians. It is still a small nation, it is true; but we feel we are striving to make our mark in the modern world, and in the process we seek to make good friends amongst our fellow nations.

#### Historic Phase in India

To me it is a great privilege, therefore, as India's guest and representative of a sister Dominion, to speak to Indians and perhaps also to listeners overseas on this occasion of mutual celebration. It is irresistible, in the circumstances, to think of our two countries in terms of comparison and contrast. Australia is still very young in her history and her culture. She is young, too, as a nation. Yet in that one respect she is actually older than present-day India. While your Independence Day has been celebrated for a number of years, you have yet to celebrate the first anniversay of the actual realisation of that deal. I trust that on next August 15th you will do so with due rejoicing, and that you will continue to celebrate it in peace and harmony and grow in prosperity for many years to come.

Having attained that ideal of self-determination, India, it seems to me, now enters a new historic phase of nation-building. In Australia, our self-determination and our nation-building were perhaps more interwoven. From the very day when the pioneers landed in 1788—the occasion we are honouring

today-our nation-building really started. It was a hard and dreary battle against nature's resistance—against mountains and deserts, droughts and floods. But no sooner had the crops taken root, the herds begun to multiply, the hidden mineral riches of the country been unearthed, than the children of those prisoners began to feel that they must control their own destinies. It was their happy lot that self-determination came about, without strife, but by the peaceful assumption of responsibilities. When our six separate colonies federated in 1901 as the Commonwealth of Australia, we made our bow to the world as a brand-new nation-just 46 years ahead of the Dominion of India.

If, as scientists tell us, the continent of Australia, many millions of years ago, was cut adrift from Asia by some geological happening, times have so changed that today India and Australia are closer than ever. It is another happy coincidence that on this very day young Indians and Australians have met in friendly rivalry on the cricket field in Adelaide. This may not be on the highest plane of international relations, but it is something which you understand and we understand, a common heritage from Britain, which will certainly cement our friendship over the coming years.

## Australia's Greetings

To Indian listeners may I say that I offer Independence Day greetings on behalf of Australians; and that I pray Providence that your independence will be enveloped in that peace and goodwill already so wondrously set in being by Mahatma Gandhi. To Australians who may be listening, I send a fellow-countryman's greetings, and my wishes that, wherever you may be, you will celebrate many another joyous and prosperous Australia Day.

## PEACE PLEDGE SIGNED BY POLICE OFFICERS

The Chief Commissioner addressed today a meeting of all Magistrates and Senior Police Officers and reminded them of the pledge signed by him and the Deputy Commissioner along with the leaders of various communities in Delhi for presentation to Mahatma Gandhi on January 18, which led him to break his fast. The Chief Commissioner emphasised the important role which officers of Government, particularly Magistrates and Police Officers, have to play in maintaining peace and communal harmony. Each officer signed the following pledge:

"I solemnly affirm that I will sincerely endeavour to promote the cause of communal amity and in order to achieve that object I will honestly and truly do all I can in my official capacity to assist and enable the local administration to implement the pledge signed, amongst others, by the Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, for presentation to Gandhiji before he broke his fast on the 18th January 1948".

# Schemes Approved By Standing Finance Committee

Schemes for the setting up of a Bureau of Mines, construction of a major airport at Gauhati and aid to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences were among those approved by the Standing Finance Committee, which met in New Delhi on January 26 and 29 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance.

To serve as a "Brains Trust" for coordinated development of mineral resources in the Indian Union, the Bureau of Mines will be under an expert mining engineer or geologist and will have three technical branches, namely, Mining Engineering, Mines Inspection and Mineral Treatment, besides an Administrative branch. The desire for central co-ordination of mineral development and for creating machinery to aid it was expressed at a National Mineral Policy Conference held nearly a year ago by the Government of India.

The Bureau will in its early stages function primarily in an advisory capacity, without an executive or statutory powers nor will it undertake any actual mining or marketing of minerals. It will give advice on mining marketing and other problems to other Ministries and will collect information and statistics, organise training and research, formulate policy and coordinate measures for conservation and utilisasion of mineral wealth in the best interests of the country.

The scheme will cost about Rs. 3 lakks in the first year.

#### Civil Aviation

Civil Aviation featured on the Agenda. Sanction was obtained for the development of a major airport at Gauhati, in Assam, establishment of a Central Research Laboratory in Delhi and provision of adequate ground organisations at various airports in India. Expenditure on the proposals is estimated at about Rs. 3.7 crores in 1948.49.

Other schemes under this head include the construction of hangars and runways, residential and administrative buildings, workshops, and wireless stations, which are needed for expanding internal requirement and to meet India's obligations in accordance with international civil aviation conventions.

An expenditure of nearly Rs. 3 crores was agreed in to in respect of capital outlay on Posts and Telegraphs. There schemes include the establishment of a new tele-communications link between communications link between Assam and the rest of the Indian Dominion, expansion of the telephone system in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Ahmedabad, the opening of new exchanges in various places, installation of new equipment and renewals, and construction and expansion of building required by the Department. A major part of the scheme is in accordance with the 15-year development plan.

The Standing Fnance Committee also accepted the proposal of the Ministry of Education to give the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, established in 1936 by the Trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, a non-recurring grant of Rs. 7,00,000 (to meet part of the expenditure on land and a new building for the Institute) and a recurring grant, to be determined after scrutiny of the Institute's accounts. The recurring grant is subject to the following conditions: first, the Institute should train about 50 candidates a year in Industrial Relations and Labour Welfare subjects; secondly, it should train a reasonable number of medical social workers; thirdly, the Government of India will have the right to nominate if necessary, upto 15 students every year.

In order to meet the increasing demand for professionally trained social workers in the field of Industry as well as Social Services, the Institute proposes to strengthen and expand its training facilities. It is proposed to house the Institute in a new building at Worli. This will include residential accommodation for trainces and will also enable the institute to provide for 100 trainces, as against 40 at present. It is estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs.

# Restitution of Property Taken Under Duress by Germans

The Office of the Military Government for Germany (U. S.) has promulgated Military Government Law No. 59, an internal restitution law, providing for the restitution of identifiable property wrongfully taken from its rightful owners by the Nazis during the period January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945 through transactions under duress arising from discrimination because of race, religion, nationality, ideology and political opposition to National Socialism, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Jan. 27.

This law provides for the return of all identifiable property located in the American Zone and occupation including Land Bremen, but excluding the American Sector of Berlin.

Any persons now resident in India who suffered under the Nazi regime during that period may take steps to reclaim their property. All claims for restitution under the law must be filed on or before December 31, 1948, with the Central Filling Agency (Zentralanmeldeumt) establishment at Bad Nauhim, in the American Zone in Germany.

For further enquiries in the matter, the intending claimants may communicate with the Custodian of Enemy Property, Caltex House, Ballard Road, Bombay.

# NEED FOR RESTRICTION IN TRAVEL

## Railway Chief Commissioner's Appeal to Public

ROADCASTING from All India Radio, Delhi, on Jan. 19, Mr. K.C. Bakhle, Chief Commissioner of Railways, said, "We should revert to the war-time restriction of travelling only when we must, remembering that we have to accept austerity conditions for some time and that the facilities available in the country must be shared by everybody fairly.

He added: "We railwaymen promise to continue to do our best to improve service in every way, but we do seek a little of your consideration and a great deal of your active co-operation."

Here is the text of the broadcast:

On the last occasion when I broadcast from All India Radio in September, 1947, the subject was "The Task Before Railwaymen". Tonight, the title of my talk is "A Railwayman Speaks". I have been prompted to be the subject by the other side. place before the public the other side of the picture, because in the face of the constant and severe criticism expressed in the newspapers, on public platforms and even on the floor of the Assembly against Railways and Railwaymen, I consider that you should be informed that we are conscious of your difficulties, that we are making all efforts to improve what is unsatisfactory, and also because I wish to ask for your active help in consolidating every little improvement which Railwaymen in their hundreds all over India are endeavouring to make. While I hold no brief for the incivil, corrupt or indifferent worker, who merits and should receive due punishment, I should like the public to acknowledge the sincere, honest and good work which the vast majority of railwaymen are giving in their service.

## Effects of War

I suppose that one cannot really escape history, and that of the Railways has been particularly unhappy. Sir Ralph Wedgwood, the Chairman of the 1936-37 Indian Railway Enquiry Committee stated that the Railways were perhaps the most unpopular institutions in the country. Indian opinion regarded them as unfriendly, as indifferent to national interests, being largely European in direction and as possessing the attitude of the monoplist. Much of this was true ten years ago.

Then came the war, and with it heavy restrictions were imposed upon passenger and goods traffic, all the resources of Railways being almost entirely directed to the war effort. The commercial side of railway working was relegated to the background, and all the earlier intentions of developing amenities and better public relations had to be set aside for the duration.

The end of the war was followed by a period of intense political uneasiness before India became an independent self-governing country. That interval might be regarded as a semi-colon, if not a full-stop, in the change over of railway activities from war time to peace time footing, because during that period many factors, such as scarcity of essential stores and a general sitting-on-the-fence attitude, prevented real rehabilitation of much over-used and under-maintained assets, alike locomotives and rolling stock. With the 15th of August, 1947, came a sudden, different and a strange realisation that after all was said and done we were free. Indian railwaymen, with no less enthusiasm than other nationals celebrated the dawn of freedom.

### **Greatest National Undertaking**

But-and this is a great "but"the inertia which had been developing in the period immediately after the war, constituted a major problem to be solved before Railways could make real progress in the altered state of the country. In the years preceding the war, while resources at the disposal of the Railways were plentiful, the charge was that the Indian passenger especially third class, did not receive the amenities, service, or treatment which were his due. Even so, with progressive Indianisation in the executive grades, a spirit of understanding had already begun to develop: I know that there were cases where Indian officers did whatever lay within their limited sphere towards mitigating the shortcomings in respect of the third class passenger, and where commercial interests were properly and satisfactorily served.

It should be remembered that, in 1939, five major Railways were still under Company-management; it was only during the war years that Government acquired complete management of all major Railways, and, with the constitutional changes, the number of Indians in the higher administrative positions increased appreciably. day. Railways form our greatest national undertaking, in charge of an Indian Minister of Cabinet of a National Government not influenced by any considerations other than the good of India. I should like to quote to you some illuminating statistics. In the gazetted cadres, Indians today hold 63 per cent of posts in the administrative, and 87 per cent in the executive grades. In the Class II Services the percentage of Indians is 93, while the Class III and IV Services are almost 100 per cent

But, here is the irony of fate: when real progress was possible with plentiful resources, the direction of policy was not in our hands. When the reins of power did come to us, who had been waiting for the opportunity to serve and who are inspired with the will to improve, the resources had been depleted materially and, I regret to say, to some extent also morally. An all-out drive on the psychological front has been instituted: the staff are digging themselves out of the old grooves into which many had got set; they are being educated into making themselves self-respecting citizen-servants of the State. The weaning away of men who grew up n the earlier environments will take a little time; but already there are indications that many who understand have begun to act in the new spirit. There is, they realise, free scope for action and the old inhibitions are being shed rapidly.

A widespread and complicated public utility organisation like Railways cannot function in isolation, and the numerous factors that have added to the difficulties of civil administration and executives throughout India have also affected Railways to at least an equal extent. One of the main reasons for complaints now is the restiveness of the public at the inadequate service which Railways are in a position to offer. Often the complaints are genuine, but often too the public tries to the straining point the forbearance of the staff and seldom is the railwayman credited with the honest handling of a situation rendered difficult by the passengers' lack of understanding of the Railsway's case. We have to admit also that there is, in many places, an unfurtunate spirit of challenge to authority. This does not make matters easy. Discipline in public life is as escential for the welfare of the State as it is in service

## Railway Labour

From patronage by the Railway of the passenger, the situation has changed, and correctly so, to patronage by the passenger of the Railway. As a railwayman, I value that patronage and regard it as vital to our well-being, but, with it, I respectfully seek the consideration which a patron must give to his protege.

On the labour side, as the Minister for Railways remarked during the Budget speech to the Assembly in November 1947, the ugly chapter of ill-will and misunderstanding has ended. The relations between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation are now happily cordial and the representatives of the Federation and the Members of the Board now talk the same language. We speak without reservation at our meetings and we understand each others' points of view, the practical difficulties and limitations. We are agreed that discipline, increased output and efficiency for national needs are paramount considerations and that, while Government is prepared to do what is expected of it as a model employer, it cannot go so far as to upset the national economy of the country.

In certain circles the wage bill of the Railways is regarded as being exorbitant, and there are suggestions that this should be reduced. Ninety-four per cent of the total wage bill for all Railways represents the wages paid to Class III and Class IV employees. Their standards are as set by the Central Pay Commission scales to a very large extent

and Government cannot reduce these pays, nor has it any desire to do so. Real economy will come only when the output standard is improved, that is to say, when for every rupee paid in wages, the Railways and the country receive a full 16 annas worth of return. This is where the Labour Unions and railwaymen can really help. The number of Class III and Class IV employees on all Railways is about 8 lakhs. There is enough work for these persons for a long time to come because we have yet to catch up the arrears of work and the deferred maintenance, besides tackling the expansion, which we cannot at present consider because of our limited resources.

During the recent discussions in the Assembly, the point regarding overcrowding in passenger trains was emphasised by various members. I have had many persons ask me the straight question as to why we cannot put on more trains although the war has been over for some years now. The whole pro-blem hinges upon the availability of rolling stock, viz., locomotives and coaches. Orders have been placed for the manufacture of additional coaches with indi-genous industry and in Railway Workshops; we are bulding them as fast as material becomes available and our workmen work. But when we realise that passenger traffic has increased since 1939 by 96 per cent, and the additional coaching stock put on line during the same period has only been 10 per cent, it will be clear that overcrowding will disappear only when the difference between the shortage of stock and increase in number of passengers is reduced to zero.

These are times of decontrolling and far be it from me to suggest that passenger travel should be controlled. But decontrol involves a considerable amount of self-control. I would ask that we revert to the war-time restriction of travelling only when we must, remembering that we have to accept austerity conditions for some time and that the facilities available in the country must be shared by everybody fairly. Restricting travel, not under law, but by self-restraint, is perhaps the quickest solution.

#### Ticketless Travel

I should next like to refer to the question of ticketless travel. The loss to Government on this account is estimased to be of the order of Rs. 8 to 10 crores per year, and this is a very large slice of railway revenue. It is normally human nature to pay not something that one can get for nothing, but on the other hand, as good citizens of this country, we have got to realise that we cannot get anything out of the till unless there is something in it, and paying for one's journey honestly is helping to put something into the till. We cannot carry on with deficit budgets, and postpone provision of essential amenity works for the travelling public and for railwaymen. One thing leads to another and we should now move forward clockwise and not anti-clockwise as has been the direction for some

It has always surprised me that persons who regard themselves as honest and who would not stoop to picking up a cake of soap from a grocer's shop without paying for it, should consider it as no great a sin to defraud the Railway. There is only one other Department of Government, which, I think, is regarded in the same light. It is the Income Tax Department. With that happily I have no concern. The amount of ticketless travel which goes on now would be reduced considerably if there were less aiding and abetting of this civic offence by the public generally, and conditions would improve if good citizens would expose, instead of shelter, those who commit this civic offence against the State. When therefore next time you are challenged for your ticket, please do not misunderstand the Ticket Checker. He is performing his duty by the State and is not really wanting to make a nuisance of himself so far as you are concerned. Your personal cooperation while you travel as our passenger is requested.

The next point to which I would refer is the utilisation of wagons. The earnings from goods traffic are more than the earnings from passenger traffic; the goods earnings can be increased without imposing any additional burden on the consumer or the trader if wagondays for movement of general goods and merchandise can be reduced. We there-

fore ask the commercial and trading community of India to do what they can to unload and release wagons quickly. Increasing the speeds of goods trains or putting more wagons on the line is useless, if at terminals these are going to be used as warehouses, perhaps because some one interested is speculating for a higher price before he puts the commodity which has come to him by rail on to the market. After all, wagons are provided with wheels so that they may keep moving. The more wagons there are available for loading, the less is there scope for blackmarketing in wagon supplies.

## An Appeal

And that brings me to a very important point, namely, corruption. While on the Railways we are endeavouring to teach our staff that being corruptible is an anti-national act may I on behalf of railwaymen plead that the public should realise that giving graft for selfish purposes is an antisocial act? It is difficult to prove corruption and though I am informed by all kinds of persons that the railway service is corrupt, no one who has paid a bribe is prepared to come forward and admit it, because he has committed an offence as much as the bribe-taker. As an old Indian proverb says: "You cannot clap with one hand". We are

## **WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 1948-49**

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways met at New Delhi on Jan. 22 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways. The 1948-49 Works Programme for Railways was approved, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways on Jan. 22. Following are the main details:—

The expenditure approved was: Capital Rs. 24.82 crores; Betterment Fund Rs. 5.22 crores; Depreciation Fund Rs. 22.93 crores, totalling Rs. 53 crores. The main heads of expenditure are: Rs. 20 crores for open line works, Rs. 22 crores for rolling stock; Rs. 4½ crores for machinery in Workshop; Rs. 4 crores for new construction, restoration and purchase of branch lines; Rs. 1 crores for investment in road services, and the balance of Rs. 1½ crores for miscellaneous items.

The expenditure on open line works includes Rs. 6½ crores on new works, about 8 crores on works in progress and the balance on track renewals.

In the new construction programme, an expenditure of Rs. 2½ crores was approved for 1948-49 on the construction of the direct rail link to Assem.

For the establishment of the headquarters of the Assam Railway, which would include office and residential accommodation, an item amounting to Rs. 2.9 crores was approved, to be spent over a period of three years.

The provision of a combined hospital for the use of the G.I. P. and B. B. & C.

I. Railways at Bombay and the doubling of the main line over the Barkhera Ghat (between Itarsi and Bhopal, G. 1. P. Bailway) were two of the major item, aproved.

Expenditure to the exent of Rs. 22 crores under the Betterment Fund was also approved for the provision of amenities for the travelling public.

The programme included the provision of a large number of residential quarters for Class IV and Class III staff on various Railways. These will be constructed to the new standards in accordance with, the Mitra Committee's recommendations.

## WAGON TURN-ROUND TO BE SPEEDED UP

Measures to speed up the turn-round of wagons are being enforced with immediate effect, says a Press Note isued by the Ministry of Railways on Jan. 22.

These include reduction in the free time allowed to the public for loading and unloading wagons from nine hours to six hours, and placement of wagons for unloading within a maximum of three hours on arrival at terminal stations, Loading and unloading on Sunday is being introduced at all Goods Depots and large stations where this practice is not observed at present. Railways have been asked to make special efforts to reduce the average period of detention of wagons in marshalling yards and to see that the overall period does not exceed 24 hours.

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INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

trying to do what we can but we must get the public to learn to stand in the queue and take what is available in their own turn.

I wonder how many know that the number of railway staff who come into contact with the public forms only 10 per cent of the total staff employed by Railways. I am not prepared to accept that all this staff, whom I may call public relations staff, are corrupt, incivil, indolent or inefficient, because I know that a large number of them are honestly giving service. For them and the hundreds of others, whom the public does not meet, it is very hard to be given a bad name, because a small handful are had

Before I end, I would like to tell a story about Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher. Of the factors of Government he said: "The people must have sufficient to eat, there must be a sufficient army and there must be faith in the nation". Asked if he were forced to give up one of the three factors, what he would go without, Confucius answered that he would go without the army first. Asked again if he were forced to go without one of the two remaining factors, which he would give up, Confucius replied that he would go without sufficient food. "There have always been deaths", he said, "in every generation, but a nation without faith cannot stand".

We railwaymen have faith in our national institution, and we are determined to see that you shall not lose faith in the Indian Railways. We refuse to be defeated by difficulties, and we promise to continue to do our best to improve service in every way, but we do seek a little of your consideration and a great deal of your active cooperation, so that we may truly subscribe ourselves: your most obedient servants.

#### SARDAR PATEL'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 193)

tion, the composition of its people and its cultural and traditional tics with India are such that it cannot but be an integral part of India tied to it by the same bonds which characterise the relationship today between India and the acceding States. Accession in the case of Hyderabad is inevitable and will I hope come before long. Similarly democratication which will characterise the whole country cannot be delayed or withheld in Hyderabad. The people there must get their due and I would only appeal to His Exalted Highness the Nizam to appreciate this situation and to do the right thing in time.

The time at my disposal is short and the problem is vast but I have tried to give you a bird's eye view of the current tendencies as well as of the picture which the country is likely to take when this process of consolidation and democratization is completed as it should be in the next few months.

# FIXATION OF RAILWAY STAFF'S PAY

## Agreement With Railwaymen's Federation

number of anomalics in the application of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations to Railway employees will be removed as a result of the two-day discussions between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation which concluded on January 23, says a Press Communique issued by the Railway Board on Jan. 24.

Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, President, Mr. Guruswami, General Secretary, and 4 other members represented the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. The Chief Commissioner, Railways, and Members of the Railway Board represented the Ministry of Railways. The Minister for Railways attented the meeting for part of the time.

Agreement was reached on the two main issues—the fixation of pay of staff on pre-1931 scale electing for the Pay Commission's scales; and the removal of anomalies resulting from the application of Pay Commission's uniform scales to staff on varying scales of pay in different zones.

The number of adjustments which become necessary in fixing, on Pay Commission's scales, staff on various existing scales and grades of pay on different railways, brought out the need for some machinery to be set up by means of which the Federation could refer points which in their opinion require immediate investigation and consideration. The Railway Board on their side agreed that a small committee of the Federation so appointed could keep in constant touch with the Board for the purpose and it is hoped thereby that many of the questions will be more expeditiously investigated and settled.

## Pre-1931 Staff

The Federation represented that many of the more senior staff on pre-1931 scales would, if opting for Pay Commission's scales, find their pays fixed at a figure lower than their existing pay. Although Government had given such etaff the protection that the difference would be treated as personal pay to be absorbed in future increments, the Federation contended that this protection was inadequate and denied to such staff any benefit either now or in the immediate future. Government of India having considered this, the Minister for Railways announced on the second day of the meeting that, in such cases, the pay of pre-1931 staff would be fixed at the next stage in the Pay Commission's scale above their present pay plus interim relief and that future increments would be drawn in the normal way.

On the representation of the Federation, the Government have also agreed that the present pay of employees in the

different zones would be treated as the basic pay for the purpose of fixation in the Pay Commission's scales.

Other subjects discussed were:

- (a) Educational assistance for children of railway employees.
  - (b) Confirmation of temporary staff.
- (c) Enforcement of the Adjudicator's Award.
- (d) Extension of railway service privileges to employees engaged by Railway Station Committees, Institutes, Credit Societies and Staff Benefit Funds.
- (e) Reinstatement of those convicted for political offences and of those discharged for desertion of posts during the air-raids at Calcutta.
- (f) Staff problems arising out of partition.
- (g) Working of grainshops and grant of dearness allowance for 'B' and 'C' greas.
- (h) Uniform conditions of rervice on all railways within the Indian Dominion.

#### **Educational Aid**

The Federation requested that the Pay Commission's recommendations in the matter of grant of educational assistance to railway employees' children be implemented and that the present discrimination between Class IV and Class III employees in this regard be eliminated. The Railway Board pointed out that these recommendations were subjects of general policy to be decided by the Government of India before any action could be taken in respect of railway staff.

On the subject of confirmation of temporary staff, the Federation alleged that a large number of staff known as 'substitutes' or 'casual labour' kept in continuous emplo employment over a number of years but were not treated as permanent and given the benefits of permanent employment. It was also alleged that they were periodically discharged and immediately reemployed. The Railway Board pointed out that it would be impossible to avoid temporary posts which had to be created to deal with seasonal and traffic fluctustions and for special works. Instruc-tions had, however, been issued to Railways to convert temporary posts into permanent posts wherever justification exists. The Federation represented that casual labour, although not paid at market rates, were deprived of the dearness allowance. The Railway Board stated that casual labour were engaged at market rates and therefore were excluded from the grant of dearness allowance, but agreed to examine the matter further.

The Federation enquired about the progress in implementing the Award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the nine Indian Railways and their respective Labour Unions. The Railway Board stated that the Adjudicator appointed has been Ďу Labour Ministry to whom his report had been submitted and to whom enquiries on the subject should be addressed as they were the only competent authorities who could enlighten the Federation. It was added, however, that the most important part of the Adjudicator's recommendations referred to leave concessions which would affect the strength of leave reserve into the various categories of staff. The Report of the Central Pay Commission also deels with leave rules. As Government have not yet arrived at an overall decision on the subject of leave rules, as recommended by the Central Pay Commission, action on the Adjudicator's Award relating to Indian Railways could not be taken. The Federation, however, pressed for an early decision, although the President of the Federation agreed that the issue was complicated and that the implementing of the recommendations on this account might be delayed.

On the subject of extension of railway service privileges to employees engaged in Railway institutes, Credit Societies etc. the Federation wanted all such employees to be treated as regular railway employees on the ground that the activities of such Institutions were incidental to railway working. The Railway Board stated that such Institutions and Societies were run by the staff for their own benefit and it was for such Institutions to improve the conditions of service of their employees.

#### Reinstatement of Employees

The question of reinstatement of railway employees dismissed for political offences was next considered. References were made particularly to cases of men involved in the disturbances in 1942. The Railway Board stated that they had issued general instructions for the removal of the ban on re-employment of all persons discharged for political offences. The Chief Commissioner promised to have investigations made into specific cases sent up to him by the Federation.

On the Federation's proposal that a joint meeting be held between representatives of the Federation and the Railway Board to discuss their suggestions for improving the Working of grainshops, the Chief Commissioner stated that the reports of various Railways on these suggestions had been received and a joint meeting would be arranged in the near future.

Claims against nationals of enemy or ex-enemy countries in respect of property in those countries, or compensation for loss of or damage to such property should in future be registered with the Custodian of Enemy Property, Caltex House, Ballard Road, Bombay, and not with the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Jan. 20.

# POWER AND PROJECT ORGANISATIONS RECONSTITUTED

THE Government of India have decided that henceforth only three organisations will deal with their waterways and electricity development schenes. They will be the newly constituted Central Waterpower Irrigation and Navigation Commission, the Central Electricity Commission and the Damodar Valley Corporation, the last being an autonomous body which is being set up by an act of the Legislature.

The first two of the above-mentioned organisations are the results in each case of the amalgamation of two distinct bodies. Thus the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the Office of the Consulting Engineer on Irrigation have been combined in one case and the Central Technical Power Board and the Electrical Commissioner's Office in the other.

## **Apportionment of Duties**

This reconstitution of two bodies out of four carries with it also a clearer apportionment of functions and duties between them. Thus CWINC., as at present constituted, will be in sole charge

#### INTER-RAILWAY SPORTS

Mr. K. C. Bakhle, Chief Conmissioner of Railways, performed the opening ceremony of the 14th Annual Meet of the Indian Railways Athletic Association on Jan. 17, at the Irwin Stadium, New Delhi. A large and distinguished gathering of Railway officials and others was present.

Proceeding- began with a march past by the athletes taking part in the tournament. On Jan. 18, the second and concluding day of the Meet, there were sports, and the finals of the Inter-Railway Tennis Teams.

#### Prize-winners

Following were winners in th torunament:—

The Senior Railways Athletic Challenge Cup was won by the Bengal Nagpur Railway and that of the Junior Railways, by the Nizam's State Railway, Mesrs. K. L. Perret (Bengal Nagpur Railway) and C. G. Cleur (South Indian Railway) received Cups for Best Athletes.

Inter Railways Tennis Tournament: Sir Edward Benthall Challenge Cup was won by the East Indian Railway, defeating the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

Inter-Railways Tug-of-War Tournament: Eastern Punjab Railway defeated the East Indian Railway.

Mrs. Bakhle, wife of the Chief Commissioner of Railways, distributed the prizes to the winners.

of all multi-purpose river valley schemes except the Damodar Valley Project, and the Central Electricity Committee will be in charge of purely electricity projects.

This would mean in effect that while CWINC will be in charge of the hydraulic, hydro-electric and civil portions of the river valley schemes, the other Commission will undertake planning, lay-out, etc. for the transmission, distribution and switching system together with the utilisation problems such as load surveys, estimates of revenue from power sales and formulation of preliminary power structures. In this the Central Electricity Commission will assist all the Provincial and State Governments in the Indian Union as well as CWINC and the Damodar Valley Corporation. Besides, this Commission will advise the Central, Provincial and State Governments on the administration of electricity legislation and control of electric utilities. Its advice will also be available on all matters relating to electric power development and public electric utilities both private and State-owned.

#### **CWINC'S Functions**

CW INC retains all its old functions in respect of water-power generation, irrigation, navigation and flood control, and it may also be required, as before, to undertake the construction of any these schemes on behalf of the Government of India. At present CWINC is directly responsible for the construction of the Hirakud Dam Project, while in other river projects such as the Bhakra Scheme in East Punjab, Rihand Project in U. P., the Ramapadasagar Scheme in Madras, etc. it gives expert technical aid to the Provincial Governments concerned.

Another important function accrnes to CWINC, according to the terms of its reorganisation, by which it will be called upon to advise the Government of India, whenever necessary, in respect of water and water-power rights and disputes as between Provinces or Provinces and States. The Commission will report on the effect which any scheme for the conscivation and utilisation of water may have on the interests of the Provinces or States concerned and give an authoritative interpretation of any agreement existing between them in regard to such manners.

## MODERNISATION OF AIRFIELDS

Plans are being formulated for the rapid modernisation of Royal Indian Air Force airfields in India.

With a view to studying the planning, lay-out and construction of airfields in the United Kingdom, two Indian officers have already left for that country. They are Lt. Col. Partap Narain, Chief Engineer, Air Force Works, and Flight Lieutenant J. K. Koy of Air Headquarters (India).

INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948
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# STEEL PRICES RAISED BY Rs. 80 PER TON

THE Government of India have decided, it is learnt, to raise the price of steel purchased from Registered Stockists by Rs. 80 per ton, the increase coming into effect from Jan. 27, 1948.

The increase, though substantial being nearly 30 per cent over the existing price level, is on a par, it is felt, with recent increases in the prices of other commodities and not higher. Further, even with this increase, steel prices in India will continue to be the lowest in the world. Particularly as indigenous apply is to be supplemented by imports the step-up is inescapable.

It will be recalled that, consequent on the acceptance by the Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd., and the Steel Corporation of Bengal Ltd. of a reduction of Rs. 12-8-0 per ton in the price of steel on account of the removal of the Excess Profits Tax, it was possible for Government to effect a substantial reduction in the selling price of steel to consumers from April 1, 1946. Since then the liabilities of the Companies have increased because of the enactment of the Business Profits Tax Act and an increase in the Corporation Tax, the works cost has also risen on account of increases in the cost of labour and raw materials.

After considering the matter very carefully, the Government of India are convinced that if production is not to be adversely affected, some immediate relief to the Companies is called for. They have accordingly decided that, pending examination by the Tariff Board of the question of the fixation of steel prices on a long-term basis, the

cut of Rs. 12-8-0 referred to above should, as an interim measure, be restored to the Companies. Due to the recent increase in railway frieght charges, both on raw materials and finished goods, there will be an addition of Rs. 11-0-0 payable to the Main Pooducers; in other wards the Main Producers will get Rs. 23-8-0 per ton in all.

## **Imported Steel Costs More**

Government expect to import from the U. K. and the U. S. A. substantial quantities of certain categories of steel in 1948 but the price of this steel will be higher than Indian price. It is impossible to sell imported steel at a higher price than the indigenous price. Any attempt to do so would not only involve invidious discrimination among consumers, but would also in effect raise the price of all steel to the higher level. It has, therefore, been decided that the increased prices of imported steel should be spread over all categories of steel except billets, which are only used by re-rollers.

To equalise the high prices of imported steel with those of indigenous steel and to meet the additional payment of Rs. 23-8-0 to the Main Producers, the prices at which the consumers will purchase from the Registered Producers have been increased by Rs. 75 per ton.

The prices at which the Controlled and Registered Stockholders will sell have been increased by Rs. 80 per ton, the extra Rs. 5 to cover the Bihar Sales Tax.

#### KOREA STATE COAL PRICES

In the Gazette of India Extraordinary of January 31, 1948, the Government of India notified revised prices of coal produced in Korea State. In accordance with the Government of India's policy of improving the wages and working conditions of colliery labour, the Korea Durbar, in November, 1947, sanctioned centain wage increases and other concessions and also refixed the price of coal to enable collieries to meet the increased cost of production. The prices fixed by the State were Rs. 16-6-0 per ton of runof-mine, dust coal and the slack and Rs. 17-6-0 per ton of steam coal, rubble and smithy nuts.

These prices have since been reviewed by the Government of India, who have decided that a substantial reduction in the prices notified by the Kores Government should be made. The prices now fixed are Rs. 14-3-0 per ton of run-of-mine, dust coal and slack and Rs. 15-3-0 per ton of steam coal, rubble and smithy nuts; they took effect from January 31, 1948.

Difficulty is being experienced in the early settlement of outstanding pension gratuity or disability pension claims of ex-RIAF airmen or heirs of deceased airmen, owing to the lack of information regarding the present addresses of the individuals concerned, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 27.

Those affected are therefore, advised to apply with full particulars to the Officer-in-Charge, RIAF Record Office, New Delhi.

Heirs of deceased airmen should also specify full particulars of their present addresses and their relationship to the deceased.



The Textiles Conference was recently held in Bombay. Picture shows Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Conference

# RECRUITING MELA AT AMBALA

Thousands of villagers assembled at the Recruiting Mela held on Jan. 15, at Kurali, in Ambala Division, where India's Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, and East Punjab leaders were also present. The Mela was organised by the Recruiting Organisation to attract the right type of men for the Indian Armed Forces, to fill vacancies caused as a result of the partition of the forces, demobilization and other causes. Enthusiastic villagers had trekked more than forty miles to participate in the Mela.

Opening the Mela, Sardar Baldev Singh referred to Mahatma Gandhi's fast and asked everyone present at the Mela to pray for his long life. At this critical moment, he said, no effort should be spared to ensure perfect communal harmony in order that Mahatma Gandhi should live.

Sardar Baldev Singh assured the refugees that the Government were trying their utmost to rehabilitate them and make them happy. He appealed to all the young men of the country to come forward and assist in the building up of a strong national Army for India. Referring to Indian troops now fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, the Defence Minister praised their bravery and courage and added that so long as there was a single raider on Kashmir soil, the Indian Forces would not rest content.

Several leaders of different political groups in East Punjab also spoke at the Mela, which was a great success as was evidenced by the fact that a large number of young men volunteered for service in the Indian Armed Forces.

Earlier the National Flag was unfulred to the accompaniment of the firing of guns, while RIAF aircraft flew overhead in formatian and dipped in salute.

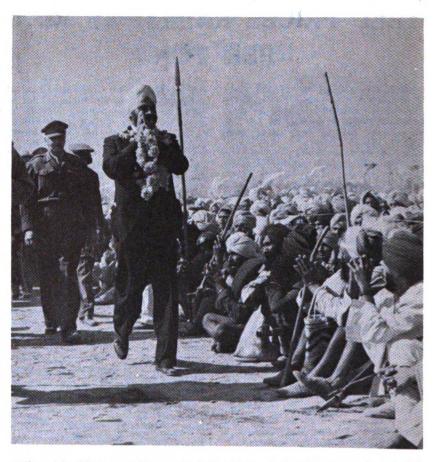
## APPEAL FOR AMENITIES TO TROOPS IN KASHMIR

An appeal for woollen garments and gifts of newspapers, periodicals, and light fiction, for the men of the Armed Forces of the Indian Dominion fighting in Kashmir, has been made by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Delhi-East Punjab, Command.

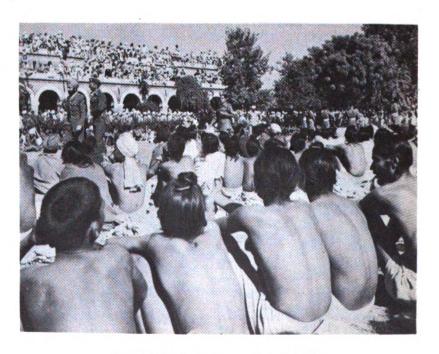
The G. O. C.-in-C., DEP Command, appeals to the ladies who so generously helped our troops with gift parcels in the last war to resume sending similar gift parcels of woollen garments such as pullovers, mufflers etc.

Newspapers, periodicals and light literature, in English and all provincial languages of India would also be welcome.

These parcels of woollen garments and periodicals, etc., are to be marked "gift parcel for troops in DEP Command" and sent to Brigadier-in-Charge, administration, H. Q., Delhi-East-Punjab Command, "F" Block, New Delhi.



A Recruiting Mela was held recently at Kurali, in Ambala! Division, where India's Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh and East Punjab leaders were also present. Picture shows Sardar Baldav Singh arriving at the Mela



A crowd of volunteers present at the Mela



The Prime Minister paid a surprise visit recently to the Combined Military Hospital, Delhi Cantonment. Here Pandit Nehru is seen talking to a patient undergoing treatment in the hospital



H. E. Lady Mountbatten also paid a visit to the Hospital on January 21. Picture shows Her Excellency talking to a patient wounded in Kashmir

#### R. I. A. F. CATERING SCHOOL

In order to ensure better food and messing arrangements for the men of the Royal Indian Air Force, a school of catering has been established by the RIAF.

Selected officers and men of the RIAF will receive training in cooking and catering administration at this school. The men will be taught to make intelligent use of the food ration and obviate waste by improved methods of preservation and cooking.

The Chief Catering Officer of the R.I.A.-F. Sq.-Ld. N. H. Gosden, who has had wide experience of catering in different theatres of war, will run the course.

#### R. I. A. F. FAMILIES WELFARE

Families of RIAF airmen will receive free medical aid, and ante-natal care under a scheme announced by Air Headquarters (India).

The scheme provides for the immediate setting up of 12 more maternity and Child Welfare Centres at RIAF Stations throughout the Indian Dominion and lady doctors and nurses will be made available at these centres for the treatment of families of airmen.

A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been made available for this purpose from the welfare funds of the RIAF.

## MILITARY HOSPITAL IN DELHI

## VISITS BY PRIME MINISTER AND LADY MOUNTBATTEN

Officers and men of the Indian Armed Forces under treatement in the Combined Military Hospital, Delhi Cantt. had a delightful surprise on January 20 when the Prime Minister visited the hospital and spent over two hours speaking to them.

Accompanied by Mrs. Bucher, wife of Gen. F. R. R. Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, and others, Pandit Nehru visited various wards and talked to the men. Among those for whose welfare the Prime Minister expressed solicitude were men wounded in the fighting in Jammu Province. He had a word of cheer for all of them.

Pandit Nehru on arrival was received by Brig. Mahdo Singhji, Delhi Sub-Area Commander, and Lt. Col. B. S. Sandhu, Commanding the Hospital.

Her Excellency the Countess Mount-batten of Burma visited the Combined Military Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, on Jan. 21. Lady Mountbatten was accompanied round the Hospital by Brig. Madhuvsinhji, Delhi, Sub-Arta Commander, Col. Tandon, Director-General Medical Services, Col. B. S. Sandhu, Officer Commanding and Acting Matron Miss John, and met all the members of the staff.

During Lady Mountbatten's tour of the hospital departments, which included the Families' Wards, she spoke to all the patients, most of the men having been wounded in Kashmir.

Afterwards Her Excellency took refreshments with the Medical and Nursing Staff and congratulated them on the fine work which they are doing.

## KING'S COMMISSIONED INDIAN OFFICERS

The Government of India have issued an Ordinance—Indian Army Act (Application) Ordinance—making King's Commissioned Indian Officers subject to the Indian Army Act in the same way as Indian Commissioned Officers, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 27.

This has become necessary because before August 15, 1947, KCIOs were subject to the Army Act but due to the promulgation of the Indian Independence Act they ceased to be governed by that Act from that date. The Ordinance is effective from August 15, 1947.

The pilgrim ship Alavi which sailed from Jedda on the 26th January 1948 arrived at Karachi on the 5th February 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Feb. 9, 1948. After disembarking about 349 pilgrims at Karachi she proceeded to Bombay on the same day.



The Defence Minister presided over the fifth meeting of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmon's Board, which met in New Delhi on January 24. A view of the meeting in progress

## Rehabilitation Of Ex-Servicemen

THE question of rehabilitating exservicemen, who had migrated from Pakistan to India, was actively considered at the fifth meeting of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board held at New Delhi, on Jan. 24. The Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, presided.

To those unfortunate displaced exservicemen and their families from Pakistan the Defence Minister expressed his sympathy. He mentioned that over a million of such men were displaced, leaving behind crores of rupees of property. In East Punjab and the western districts of the United Provinces there are a large number of ex-servicemen who have migrated from Sind, Baluchistan, the N.-W.F.P. and West Punjab.

To contact ex-servicemen and their families in villages and to look after their welfare and offer general assistance it was agreed that better local liaison should be maintained with ex-servicemen.

## Soldiers' Welfare

The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board was constituted in 1919, to advise on questions affecting the interests of serving, discharged and deceased Indian soldiers and non-combatants and their dependants. In course of time, it has been entrusted with certain executive functions in the matter of welfare of soldiers' families.

Those present at the meeting were: Mr. P.V.R. Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence: Maj-Gen. S.M. Srinagesh, Adjutant General, Indian Army; Mr. A. K. Chanda, Financial Adviser, Detence and Supply; Capt. H. G. Hopper, R. N. Naval Headquarters, India; Wing-Commander Sondhi, Air Headquarters, India; Mrs. Hannah Sen; Mr. M. K. Kripalani, Ministry of States;

and the provincial representatives, Maj. D. P. Banerji (West Bongal); Sardar Lal Singh (East Punjab); Sri D. K. Mardaraj (Orissa); Capt. R. C. Mahanta (Assam); Capt. C. S. Bhatnagar (United Provinces); Capt. Samadar Singh (Rajputana); Mr. A. N. Misal (Representative Kolhapur State) and Mr. L. G. Mirchandani, Secretary of the Board.

## PASSAGE FOR NON-VOLUNTEER BRITISH PERSONNEL

All non-volunteer British Personnel i.e., officers and their families and ORs and their families whose services terminated on Dec. 31, 1947, (this includes all British personnel who applied for extended service with the Dominions of India and Pakistan, but who were not accepted by either Dominion), who are still awaiting passages to U. K. and other countries will report at HBID Deolali between Feb. 1 and 11, says a Press Note, issued by the Ministry of Defence, on Jan. 21.

Personnel, who do not report at HBTD Deolali between Feb. 1 and 11 will have to make their own arrangements for passage through civil Shipping Agents at their own expense, and their release leave will commence from Feb. 1, 1948.

The Government of India have arranged to divert the following steamers for evacuating non-Muslim refugees from Sind: Shivala, Karapara, Akhar, Khosran, and Jaladurga, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on I to 8.

The possibility of diverting more shipping to Karachi is being investigated.

## Pakistan Military Personnel Amnesty Ordinance

THE grant of general archesty to certain military personnel accused or convicted of offences in connecton with internal defence duties is announced in an Ordinance issued by the Government of India, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence on Jan. 18.

This is consequent upon an agreement between the two Dominions that a general amnesty should be granted to certain military forces of the two Dominions who were convicted of diverse offences in the course of discharge of their duties connected with internal defence or protection or evacuation of refugees.

The Ordinance further says:

- (1) No legal proceeding shall be instituted in any civil court, criminal court or court-martial in India against any member of the military forces of Pakistan who was engaged in duties connected with internal defence of the protection or evacuation of refugees in any part of India, in respect of any act done or purporting to be done between the 15th day of August, 1947 and the 10th day of January, 1948;
- (2) If immediately before the commencement of this Ordinance any legal proceeding is pending against any such person in respect of any such act as aforesaid, the proceeding is hereby withdrawn;
- (3) If any such person as aforesaid has before the commencement of this Ordinance been convicted by a criminal court or court-martial of an offence in respect of any such act as aforesaid, the sentence or punishment ordered by such court is hereby remitted, and the person shall, if under confinement, be released forthwith and any forfeiture or penalty imposed shall be set aside and fine realised from him shall be retunded;
- (4) Any person who immediately before the 15th day of August, 1947, was a member of His Majesty's military forces in India shall be deemed to be a member of the military forces of Pakistan if in accordance with or by virtue of any orders issued before the said 15th day of August, he has opted for service in the military forces of Pakistan or has been assigned for such service.

## RIAF LIAISON OFFICERS IN U.K.

Squadron Leader K.N. Gocal and Squadron Leader M. Malhotra have been appointed R.J.A.F. Liaison Officers in the United Kingdom.

The appointments follow the Government's decision to establish the R.I.A.F's liaison with important countries. A start has been made with the United Kingdom.

The two officers wife are now ontheir way to the U.K. will function under the High Commissioner for India in London.

ENDIAN ENFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

# Banks In Disturbed Areas: Arrangements BANKS PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING FRESH DEPOSITS

S a result of discussions, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 22, between representatives of the Governments of Pakistan, India, West and East Punjab and the Reserve Bank and other banks the following arrangements have been made for facilitating resumption of business by banks which have closed their offices owing to disturbances, or which find themselves unable to carry on their normal functions owing to paucity of staff:

Reopening of Branches in Labore: The West Punjab Government have agreed to make all the necessary arrangements for the protection and housing of non-Muslim staff of banks in Lahore and also to provide guards at bank premises in Lahore at the expense of the banks. Arrangements have also been made for the training of Muslim candidates in Lahore for recruitment to banks service Banks should therefore arrange to get back as much of their staff to Lahore as possible and supplement it where possible with locally recruited staff.

The West Punjeb Government have nominated Mr. Habib-ur-Rahman, Under Becretary, Finance, Lahore (Telephone No. 4572) to assist banks in arrangements for the protection and accommodation of staff in Lahore reopened. Representatives of banks in India with branches in West Punjab should approach him for this purpose. They may also contact Mr. K. L. Panjabi, (Officer on Special Duty) Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Lahore, in case they need any assistance or advice locally.

Consolidation of Branches: -- If on account of staff or other difficulties, banks are unable to carry on business except at one branch at Lahore or a limited number of branches at a few centres, they will be allowed, if they so desire, to close the remaining branches and to remove their business to such of their offices as are functioning, after giving due notice of such removal to their local constituents through newspapers or otherwise. On being satisfied that such notice has been given, the Custodian of Evacuee Property (Mr. Justice Rahman) will give them the necessary permission to remove all their valuables, cash, securities, accounts, records, etc., to the branches at which the business is to be consolidated. On obtaining such permission they should approach Mr. Habib-ur-Rahman, Under Secretary Finance, West Punjab Government, who will make the necessary arrangements with the Deputy Commissioner of the Districts to assist them in the removal.

Transfer of Accounts:—There are many complaints by evacuees in both Dominions about cheques and matured fixed deposit receipts being returned by banks with trivolous objections and about applications for transfer of accounts being refused on similar flimsy grounds, such

as non-return of unused cheques. In order to avoid inconvenience and distress to the evacuee depositors, and in their own interests, banks are requested to desist from such practices and to co-operate by giving all possible facilities to their constituents. To the extent that the difficulties in regard to transfer of accounts from one Dominion to the other are due to the non-functioning of banks and difficulties of communication, these will largely disappear when the business of banks is consolidated and some of their branches start functioning properly and when communications improve.

To facilitate transfers it is suggested that each bank should designate one office in India and one in Pakistan for clearing claims for inter-Dominion transfer of accounts. The means of these offices, which should be properly manned for handling this business, should be announced in the Press so that constituents may refer their applications for transfer and any complaints in this regard to these offices. In this connection it may be mentioned that both Dominions have agreed not to place any restrictions on transfer of accounts or remittance of funds by banks in connection with such transfers. Only in the case of accounts of companies which continued to function in Pakistan, the Pakistan Government have stipulated that their previous permission should be obtained.

Registration Claims: - The West and the East Punjab Governments have issued Evacuees (Administration of Property! Ordinances under which all the property of evacuees is vested in a Custodian; and other Provincial Governments concerned are taking similar action. Where banks have any claims, whether in regard to their own property or the property of their debtors pledged, hypothecated, assigned or otherwise charged as security for loans advanced by them, they should take early steps to register their claims with the Custodian of Evacuee Property of the Province in which the property is situated.

Survey of Financial Position—The West Punjab Government bave also agrreed to give facilities to banks in making a survey of their financial position. For this purpose it is necessary that where possible banks should depute their staff to tour the affected areas after obtaining the necessary help, from Mr. Habib-ur-Rahmer. The Reserve Bark staff at Lahore will also assist them in making an appraisement of their financial position.

These arrangements will go a long way towards enabling banks to resume their normal working. They will be, however, of no avail unless the banks themselves take the initialize in this matter and make a determined effort to secure their staff, respen their branches and start functioning. It is only if they

(Continued in next column)

The Government of India some time ago directed the Reserve Bank of India to conduct an inspection of the Mutual Banking Corporation. Ltd. Calcutta, under the provisions of the Banking Companies (Inspectical) Ordinance, 1946, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on Jan. 24.

Having received and considered the inspection report of the Reserve Bank of India and the explanation offered by the Mutual Banking Corporation, Ltd. the Government of India are satisfied that the affairs of the Mutual Banking Corporation Ltd. are being conducted to the detriment of the interests of its depositors.

In exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 5 (1) (a) of the Banking Companies (Inspectical) Orders 1946, the Government of India have accordingly issued an order prohibiting the Mutual Banking Corperation, Ltd., from receiving fresh deposits with effect from January 26, 1948.

A Similar Press Note was issued by the Ministry of Pinance on Jan. 31 with regard to the Discount Bank of India Ltd.

## CLAIMS ON SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS IN PAKISTAN

It is notified for the information of the public that claims in respect of Savings Bank accounts standing open at post offices in Pakistan and postal Cash, Defence Savings and National Savings Certificates standing registered there can be made at all head and sub-post offices in India, says a Press Communique, issued by the Directorate-General, Posta and Telegraphs on Jan. 17. Special forms have been prescribed for the purpose and may be obtained from any head or sub-office.

Those depositors or holders of certificates who have already applied for transfer of their accounts or certificates but who have not received back their pass books or certificates should also submit claims in the prescribed forms.

Depositors and holders who have their pass books or certificates in their presentation need not submit claims in the forms now prescribed. Action for transfer of deposits and holdings of such persons will be taken by post effices as the pass books or certificates are presented for availing of the concessions announced last month.

## (Continued from previous column)

try to help themselves by such efforts that they would be able to overcome their present difficulties. No improvement can take place if they do nothing. It is earnestly hoped that in their own interest and that of their creditors banks will lose no time in taking action on the lines as indicated above.

INDIAN INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 15, 1948

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## INDIAN CRICKETERS IN CANBERRA





#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

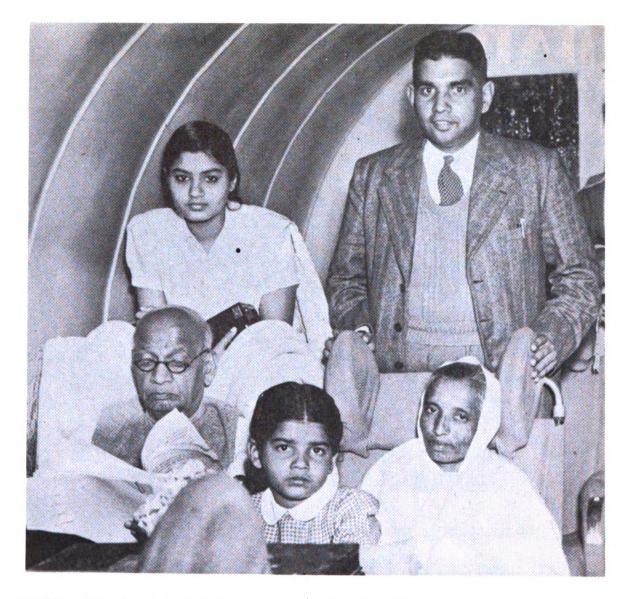
## COINAGE-RUPEE IN DOLLARS AND POUNDS

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UNITED STATE OF KATHIAWAR



Busy Deputy Prime Minister: The daily programme of the Deputy Prime Minister is so heavily crowded that even on a plane important files need his attention. This photograph was taken during the flight of Sardar Patel from Patna to Delhi on January 27

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FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

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Cover Picture: The Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, Raj Pramukh of Saurashtre, takes his Oath of Office on Feb. 15, in the presence of Sardar Patel.

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The new State of United Kathiawar came into being on February 15. The picture shows the Jam Sahib of Nawamagar, Rajpramukh, swearing in the Council of Ministers in the presence of Sardar Patel, who can be seen sitting on the left

## GANDHIJI'S DREAM COMES TRUE

## Sardar Patel Inaugurates United State of Kathiawar

NAUGURATING the United State of Kathiawar in Jamnagar on February 15, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for States, said that the dream of Mahatma Gandhi about Kathiawar had come true. History had no parallel of 400 and odd States coming together so peacefully fusing into the unity of population as well as territory. If the way pointed out by Gandhiji were followed by the Princes as well as the people of Kathiawar, he was sure, they would set an example for the whole country and leave a precious legacy for the coming generations.

Sardar Patel paid a warm tribute to the Jam Sahib and other Rulers and said that without their patriotism, wisdom and willing co-operation the present achievement would not have been possible.

Present at the oath-taking ceremony were Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister; Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary, States Ministry; Mr. C. C. Desai, Additional Secretary; Mr. N. M. Buch, Regional Commissioner, Western India States and many Princes and leading citizens of Kathiawar.

Earlier, Sardar Patel administered the oath of office to the Rajpramukh, who, in turn, administered the oath to four other Princes, forming the Presidium and also to the Prime Minister and other members of the Interim Ministry.

Addressing the Rajpramukh, Ministers and the people Sardar Patel said that the present occasion was unique in India's history. All of them had played their part worthily towards this most great achievement. The present occasion would have appeared incredible even to the most optimistic among us a few months ago. But now it was a fact. It was a saint's dream come true. But for the hearty co-operation of the Jam Sahib and his brother Princes in fulfilling their "Rajdharma" this happy realisation would have been impossible. Sardar Patel said he had always believed that freedom from thraldom for the Princes would mean freedom for their people also and he was glad that after August 15, the independence of India had such happy repurcussions on Kathiawar. Without bloodshed and unrest, he continued, so many rulers had voluntarily

agreed to surrender their age-old privileges and sovereignty to their people. Even the history of Europe, considered to be the most civilised part of the world in recent history, has failed to provide an illustration of unification of such a magnitude.

#### Non-Violent Revolution

In Europe and elsewhere their plans of unification were prompted by the desire for conquest through fire and sword against their neighbours. But India's cultured heritage, left to us through Gandhiji's life and work, had taught us to bring about in India a nonviolent revolution. Gandhiji had departed and left Kathiawar as well as the whole country forlorn but the rich heritage which he had given, should be their guide at all times of stress. By doing this India would provide an object lesson for the whole world. Referring to the Jam Sahib's observations about pre-partition conditions in India, Sardar Patel said that the British had announced that after 200 years their paramountcy had lapsed. There was a vaccum and many of them wondered what was in store for them. There was a probability of more than two partitions dividing the country. In such an eventuality the plight of the country would be most miserable. But patriotic Princes like the Jam Sahib came forward and joined hands with the leaders of the people with

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the result that despite partition India is strong and fully defended. The amputation of any limb from the body was a painful process, but hacking the human body would be unbearable and would leave only a corpse. But today India is alive and alert even after partition.

The oaths of office taken today had placed tremendous responsibility on the shoulders of members of the Presidium and the Ministers, continued the Deputy Prime Minister. He had assurance, however, that they would depend on everybody to fulfil their duties. The Jam Sahib was a brother to him and he would trust him to keep the oath like himself. Their aim should be the unification of the Kathiawar administration and the protection of the interests of its people. India's ancient civilisation is respected throughout the world but, he said, behind its enchanting facade, were many evils which tended to bring India into disrepute before the eyes of the world. The evil of untouchability was one such problem against which Gandhiji had fought throughout his life. It was up to the people of Kathiawar, now free, to mould their future according to their desire and remove this curse of untouchability from their midst so that India's name may shine all over the world and a happy memory of the great saint may be perpetuated.

Sardar Patel advised the Ministers that they should always bear in mind sacred oath they had taken, to treat one and all equally with justice and save them from fear or favour. The untouchables should also receive a square deal along with the downtrodden agriculturists of Kathiawar after the popular Ministry took charge of the administration.

### **Natural Resources**

Referring to the vast but untapped natural resources in Kathiawar, Sardar Patel said that if these resources were developed scientifically he was sure this beautiful land would prosper once again and be the centre of attraction for its migrant sons and others, throughout India.

Concluding. Sardar Patel announced that in the recognition of their valuable services the Jam Sahib had been promoted as Lt.-General and the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, to the rank of Commodore in the Indian Navy. He also announced that the obnoxious customs of cordon at Virangam would be abolished in the near future when a Customs Agreement had been reached with the new State.

### SERAIKELLA AND KHARSAWAN STATES

In accordance with the decision already announced the Government of India have appointed Mr. Justice Bavdekar of the Bombay High Court to act as the Tribunal to enquire into and report on the Province with which the States of Seraikella and Kharsawan should be integrated, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of States on Feb. 9.

# LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S MESSAGE

Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General in a message to Rajpramukh on Feb. 15 on the occasion of inauguration of the United State of Kathiawar said: "I send heartiest congratulations to Your Highness on your installation as Rajpramukh and your new Government on the inauguration of the State of Kathiawar.

"The statesmanlike action you have personally taken and the leadership you have shown will, I believe, bear fruit in years to come. The new State will, I am sure, play its full part in the future progress of India and I wish you and your colleagues and the new Government all possible success".

In his reply the Jam Sahib said:
"On behalf of my Government and
myself I thank Your Excellency most
sincerely for your telegram of congratulations and good wishes which all here
appreciate. We fully share Your Excellency's hopes that the step we are
taking will prove beneficial to Kathiawar
and India".

# HYDERABAD PREMIER'S TALK IN DELHI

Mr. Laik Ali, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad, immediately on his arrival in Delhi on Jan. 29 had long conversations with the late Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel over the general political situation in the country and issues concerning Hyderabad, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of States on Feb. 2.

His subsequent conversations with H. E. the Governor-General, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took place under the gloom cast by the death of Mahatmaji. In the final meeting between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Mr. Laik Ali it was agreed that both the Governments should work in close harmony to remove all causes of suspicion and distrust and to bring about immediately complete mutual confidence and goodwill and build up solid and lasting friendly relationship between Indian Union and Hyderabad. Such developments are also likely to contribute to the removal of communal tension and distrust throughout the country and ensure a healthy atmosphere.

# SARDAR PATEL'S ADVICE TO KATHIAWAR PEOPLE

Addressing a mammoth meeting in Jamnagar, on Feb. 15 Sardar Patel congratulated the people of Kathiawar on their success but reminded them that the freedom which they had won entailed responsibilities. The Ministers chosen were the representatives of the people and were his trusted colleagues. Sardar Patel referred to the passing away of Mahatmaji and said how deeply Mahatmaji was interested in the unification of Kathiawar. He was anxious to meet the Jam Sahib and Her Highness soon after he learnt of the Covenant. Gandhiji did not seek mere political Covenant. unification but unity in every sense of the word. They must eradicate untouchability and foster inter-communal unity and serve to bring about complete prohibition. They should try to follow in the footsteps of Mahatmaji in every walk of life. That would be a glorious tribute to the departed leader.

Sardar Patel revealed that certain portions of the Barcda territory which were in Kathiawar had to be integrated into the State of Kathiawar. The Rulers of Kathiawar and the Ministers would shortly negotiate with Baroda Durbar in this regard. The small territory Island of Diu under the Portuguese sovereignty had also to be acquired through negotiations.

Concluding, Sardar Patel said that one dream had been realised, namely, the United State of Kathiawar. The next objective should attract the neighbouring States, including Cutch, and thuspave the way for the ultimate realisation of the greater dream, Maha Gujrat which could be done by making Kathiawar strong and self-reliant.

Replying to an address of welcome in Jammagar the same day, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said now that Kathiawar, the birthland of Mahatma Gandhi, had emerged as Saurashtra, its people had a unique opportunity of perpetuating Gandhiji's memory by realising his ideals of "Ramraj".

He urged the people to maintain the traditional ties of mutual love and regard which existed between, the Panchayats and the Princes in ancient India. They were taught by Gandhiji that the people could be won over by love. The Jam Sahib and his brother Rulers were already converted to this way and he hoped that their co-operative efforts would take the new Saurashtra a shining example to the world.

The days of rule by force had ended, Sardar Patel said, and the people too should shed their fear while not feeling any hesitation to tell the truth. Their address to Princes should come from their hearts. The odd atmosphere of distrust should disappear, transforming Kathiawar into a Saurashtra. The change of hearts on the part of the Princes of Kathiawar after the advent of freedom was forescen by Gandhiji and he was glad to be in Jamnagar today to fulfil Gandhiji's incomplete dream of ovolving a new Saurashtra, through mutual regard and affection.

Concluding, Sardar Patel said that Saurashtra was Gandhiji's birthland. Therefore the best way of perpetuating his sacred memory was to undertake the experiment of "Ramraj" as desired by him through the same spirit of love which had bound the Jam Sahib and other Rulers with their people on this auspicious occasion.

# MAHARAJA AND PREMIER OF ALWAR ASKED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE STATE

NOTIFICATION in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated New Delhi, February 7, 1948, says:

All available members of the Negotiating Committee of the States which have individual representation in the Constituent Assembly, having been individually consulted by the Governor-General, and having considered the material placed before them in regard to the activities of the R. S. S. S. in Alwar State, the possible complicity of this organisation in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and other serious crimes with the support or connivance of the State administration, agree that there are prima facts grounds for:

- 1. asking His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar and Dr. Khare, Prime Minister of alwar, to remain outside Alwar State temporarily in order that there should be no question of the investigations of the allegations being in any way prejudiced: and
- 2. the Administration of the State being carried on, as a temporary measure, by an Administrator appointed by the Ministry of States.
- 3. The Government of India accept the above advice and have decided that His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar and Dr. Khare, Prime Minister of Alwar, should remain outside Alwar State and have appointed an Administrator to carry on the administration of the State as a temporary measure. Arrangements have been accordingly made with immediate effect.

(Sd.) V. P. MENON, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of States.

# Ruler's Communication To States Ministry

The Maharaja of Alwarin a communication to the States Ministry says:

New Delhi, February 7, 1948.

Government of India Ministry of States Notification No. F. 200-P-48 dated February 7, 1948 has been handed over to me by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of States, in the presence of the Governor-General and the Hon'ble the Minister for States. I am shocked to note the contents of this document referring to the activities of the R. S. S. in Alwar State, the possible complicity of this organisation in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and other serious crimes with the support or connivance of the State administration. It is extremely painful for me even to think that such an allegation should have been made against my State. As however the allegation is so

( Continued in Ool. 2)

## ADMINISTRATOR FOR ALWAR STATE

It was announced on Feb. 7 that Mr. C. S. Venkatachar, I.C.S., Regional Commissioner, Indore, is proceeding to Alwar to assume charge of the administration of Alwar State. Meanwhile, Mr. K. B. Lall, I.C. S. (of the Partition Office) has taken over charge of the administration temporarily.

## ORDER SERVED ON DR. KHARE

The District Magistrate passed the following order which was served on Dr. Khare:—

WHEREAS I am satisfied from information received that Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister of Alwar State, at present residing at Keeling Lane, Delhi, has acted in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and maintenance of public order by furthering or promoting in Alwar State the activities of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh which has been declared an unlawful orgainsation.

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or maintenance of public order;

NOW THEREFORE, I, M. S. Randhawa, District Magistrate, Delhi, in exercise of the powers vested in me by section 4(1) (b) of the Punjab Public Safety Act, 1947, as made applicable to Delhi Province hereby make this written order directing the said Doctor N. B. Khare to reside or remain within the area of Delhi Province for a period of one month from today.

This order shall take effect immediately and has been passed ex-parte in face of an emergency.

(8d.) M. S. RANDHAWA,
7-2-48 District Magistrate Delhi.

#### (Continued from Col. 1)

grave, I do not wish to interfere in the least in the proposed investigations of the allegations and wish the position of my State to be cleared as best and as soon as possible. It is therefore ordered that the services of Dr. Khare, the Prime Minister of the State, be dispensed with. The administration of the State will be carried out by an administrator appointed for the period of the inquiry. The Administrator should be given full cooperation by the Services, both civil and military. I shall voluntarily reside outside Alwar State during the period of the inquiry which should not in any way be prejudiced.

(8d.) TEJ SINGH,
Alwarendra.

# Administrator for Bharatpur State

As a result of conversation between the States Ministry and His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur in which His Highness was apprised of prima facie evidence of complicity of the Bharatpur administration in R. S. S. S. activities, His Highness while feeling shocked at the report has agreed for the purpose of clearing the name of the administration and his own position to the appointment of an Administrator for the State who is expected to take charge forthwith, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of States on Feb. 10.

His Highness has assured that the Administrator, and the head of the Police Administration to be appointed by the States Ministry, will have the fullest cooperation of His Highness, the popular Ministers, the army and the police in their work.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN

With a view to facilitating the resettlement in life of refugee girls and women from Western Pakistan, the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, has sanctioned a scheme of Vocational Training for them, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment on Jan. 28. To start with, training will be given in six principal trades, namely, spinning and weaving, calicoprinting, tailoring and dress making, stenographly. clerical and commercial work and typing.

For the present, seats for 115 refugee girls and women have been reserved at the ex-Service women's Training Centre, New Delhi. On the expiry of the term of the scheme for the training of ex-Servicemen on the 31st March 1948, the Centre will be engaged exclusively on the training of refugee girls and women, with a capacity of 300.

Besides free medical treatment, a consolidated allowance of Rs. 45 per mensem, will be paid to each trainee in lieu of board, lodging and stipend.

The period of training will vary from trade to trade and individual to individual, but, on an average, it will be about eight months.

The trainees will be selected by a Selection Committee appointed by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, and will be posted to the Centre by the Director of the Women's Section of that Ministry.

Mr. S. S. Vasist, Chief Transportation Superintendent, G. I. P. Railway, is appointed to officiate as General Manager. G. I. P. Railway, in place of Mr. Hood, O. B. E., who proceeds on four months' leave from March 15, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on Feb. 17.

# STANDARDISATION AND QUALITY CONTROL CONFERENCE

### Shri Rajagopalachari's Address

DETERMINATION to pursue Mahatma Gandhi's ideals by practical work in the sphere of constructive activities which were so near his heart was reflected in the deliberations of the Conference on Standardisation and Quality Control which commenced its seven-day session in Calcutta on February 8.

In his inaugural address Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, pointed out that it was throughout Gandhiji's life his principle that on an occasion of mourning no work should stop. He felt, the Governor continued, that he himself should set an example by coming to inaugurate proceedings of the Conference as has already been fixed, in spite of the overwhelming grief and mourning throughout the country as a result of the tragedy. By his presence at the Conference in this hour of sorrow His Excellency also wanted to impress upon the public that the Conference represented solid work. The application of statistics and quality control methods to Indian industry was a matter of supreme importance as it was expected to improve the standard of production both in quality and quantity. Standardisation which supplied patterns was as essential as was culture to social life. An actual survey of the best and worst goods were needed to bridge the gulf between the two. Such a survey would also be an inducement for reaching the goal. Unless the country produced quickly and properly India would loss in the race of economic progress and the newly achieved freedom might then prove a mere cause of anxiety to the people, he concluded.

### Dr. Mookerji's Message

In a message of good wishes to the President of the Conference, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, and President of the Indian Standards Institution, also emphasised that people must carry on constructive activities even though their hearts were heavy and heads bowed. India has begun to appreciate the benefits that might accrue to her newly growing industries by adoption of quality control methods. Dr. Mookerji expressed his satisfaction at the enthusiastic manner in which the vast body of industrialists and technologists engaged in industry were showing a keen desire to explore new fields of knowledge which would help to accelerate the pace of industrial development.

Dr. W. A. Shewhart, American expert known throughout the world as Father of Quality Control, presided over the Conference. In his address he said that as a free nation, India was really in a certain sense just starting on her own. The object of industry and applied science in India should be to satisfy the wants of 400 million people. But one could not even find out what these wants were without the help of statistics nor could one take the final step on research concerning the design, specifications, and techniques on each of these fundamental aspects of production.

He emphasised the importance of the science of statistics to various industries which depended on one another. He referred to the problem of food in India as an instance and said that increased production of food involved the use of fertiliser which in its turn meant machinery and equipments. Similarly the accommodation problem of 4 million refugees involved new houses which could not be constructed without building material. The improvement of quality and the maintenance of proper standard were essential in making these different branches of production fit in into one

complete whole. There were many research organisations, plants and industries in India but what was lacking was co-operation between various groups India could not develop, Dr. Shewhart continued, her vast resources unless science laboratories and industrial concerns worked together as a co-ordinated whole, Quantity control would enable them to do this making different parts fit in and go together properly.

Earlier Dr. L. C. Verman, Director, Indian Standards Institution, in explaining the object of the Conference said that the Indian Statistical Institute and Indian Standards Institution, joint organisers of this Conference, had come together to take first step in initiating the introduction of statistical methods into India's industry on the lines which have been tried and proved a success in other parts of the world. Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Director of Statistical Institute, also addressed the Conference.

A technicolour film on quality control made by Mr. Johns Hyphen Manville of U. S. A. for training their own workers and sent on loan by the firm to India through Dr. Shewhart was shown at the Conference.

Nearly 200 representatives from various industries and research organisations all over India attended the Conference.

### INDIA'S SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMME

THE total coastal shipping tonnage in India is nearly 3 lakhs gross (including British tonnage) and the whole of it was built in overseas yards. The Government of India are considering the question of developing shipbuilding industry so as to enable India to build within the next five years a minimum of 50,000 gross tons per annum.

While giving this information in the Indian Parliament on Feb. 10 in reply to a question, the Hen'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, re-affirmed the intention of the Government of India to encourage by all possible means the building in India of as many ships as possible. Government are releasing steel required for building ships and steel and cement for the extensions of shipbuilding yards and shipbuilding berths.

The total coastal shipping tonnage in India is approximately 3 lakhs gross (including British tonnage) and the whole of it was built in overseas yards.

There are 5 main shipbuilding concerns in India, who during the years 1944, 45 and 46 built small launches of a total tonnage of 10,270, 8,503 and 18,544 tons, respectively. These launches are not suitable for coastal shipping. Figures according to financial year are not available.

To build a 50,000 gross tons of shipping per annum it is estimated that three more ship-yards will have to be constructed and the existing ship-yard of Mesers. Scindia Steam Navigation Co., is being extended so that about 50 more shipbuilding berths may be added within the next 5 years. The allocation of the three new ship-yards is likely to be Calcutta, Bombay and Kathiawar Coast.

In this connection it may be pointed out that in a Government of India Resolution dated July 12, 1947, it has been stated that it is the Government's intention to assist Indian shipping as far as possible to attain the target of 2 million tons within the next 7 years as recommended by the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping. Apparently the intention is that the difference in tonnage between the target and our shipbuilding plan should be purchased from foreign countries.

### TELEGRAMS TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

Senders of telegrams to Persian Gulf, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia are advised to route their telegrams via OCS instead of via Karachi, says a Press Note issued by D. G., P. and T. on Feb. 7. The telegrams via OCS for these places will be charged for at the same rates as hitherto for via Karachi.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 1, 1948

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# DISPOSAL OF WAR SURPLUS MATERIAL

REPLYING to a question in the Indian Parliament on Feb. 6, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, explained Government of India's concern in disposing of war surplus material in the best interests of the nation. He said: "The prime objective of present disposal policy is to ensure the most beneficial use of surplus goods. For that reason disposals have recently been considerably slowed down to enable Government to ensure that the maximum use of surplus stores is made for the purpose of relief and rehabilitation.

"In order to assist Government in ensuring that suitable use is made of disposals stores for industrial purposes, it is proposed to establish a committee to inspect and examine surplus plant, machinery and raw materials and advise Government on the best methods of their utilisation in industry.

"The general policy regarding disposal is that the requirements of the Central and Local Governments should have first claim; that disposal of commodities which are subject to a Government control should be effected in the same way as obtains under the control system in operation; and that otherwise all.

disposals articles should be sold by auction or through open methods of tender with fixed reserve prices.

"The new Government, shortly after they took office on the 2nd of September 1946, appointed a Disposals Enquiry Committee. A copy of the Resolution setting up this Committee is tabled. Under the previous disposals policy, speed of disposal and the obtaining of the maximum price were the chief consideration, and considerable quantities of stores were sold on the basis of negotiation. As a result of the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee, the method of negotiation has been to a large extent given up. and the policy now is to give the greatest possible publicity to the stores available.

There have been many vague allegations of corruption. But the Disposals Enquiry Committee reported that they found no definite indications of it, and Government are satisfied that the revised methods of disposal now being adopted have reduced the possibilities of corruption to the minimum possible. When complaints of corruption are received they are investigated, but so far no case has ever been substantiated."

## **Results of Cloth Decontrol**

Enquiries have been made as to how the decisions regarding the control over cotton textiles announced in the Government of India Press Communique of the 20th January affect the public. The following are the main results of the relaxation of control as regards the ordinary consumer.

Consumers will now be able to purchase cloth without a ration card, unless the Provincial or State Government concerned decides to maintain a cloth rationing system after prior consultation with the Government of India. No Provincial or State Government has as yet taken such a decision.

As regards prices, statutory control will no longer be exercised. Mills have undertaken to see that cloth is sold to wholesalers at fair ex-mill prices fixed by the Industry and stamped on the material. The trade will be expected to sell to the consumer at a price not exceeding the retail price, also stamped by the mills on the cloth. These price marks are an indication to the consumer of the reasonable price which he may be expected to pay.

A cess has been collected on the cloth delivered by the mills during January and on this cloth the marked retail price may be enhanced by 25% in the case of coarse cloth, 12½% in the case of medium cloth, and 12½% in the case of fine cloth. Prices on cloth Texmarked in February 1948 and onwards will be the correct ones. The success of this

experiment of decontrol will be judged from the manner in which the undertaking given by the Industry to fix fair ex-mill prices, and to deliver cloth to wholesalors at these prices is implemented by the mills; and the extent to which the promises made by the trading community that they will give the consumer a fair deal, are kept.

Provincial and State Governments are being requested to send reports periodically on the levels at which cloth is being retailed and the effects of the new textile policy will be reviewed from time to time.

### IRRIGATION MAP OF INDIA

The Central Board of Irrigation, India, has recently issued a chart showing the development of irrigation in India prepared in the Board's Office and printed at the Survey of India Press, says a Press Note issued by the Central Board of Irrigation on Feb. 18.

The chart which is 301 inches by 40 inches shows in multi-colour development of irrigation from 1892-1944 in India of 1946 (provinces only). Areas irrigated from various sources viz., Government canals, private canals, tanks, wells, and other sources together with the total area cultivated during each year are plotted one above the other in different colours.

### SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

The Government of India will award during 1948-49 scholarships to students of the Scheduled Castes of the Dominion of India who wish to pursue their studies in scientific, technological and some of the professional subjects, beyond the Matriculation stage, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on Feb. 10.

The Scholarships are tenable in India only. The amounts awarded will include tuition fees and maintenance charges admissible under the rules, excepting the courses of shorthand and telegraphy for which short period stipends of small value will be awarded. The courses for which awards will be available are: (1) Intermediate in Science, (2) B. Sc., (3) M. Sc., (4) Engineering, (5) Technology, (6) Medicine (7) Agriculture, (8) Teachers' Training, (9) M. Ed. after obtaining B. T. degree, (10) Commerce, (11) Geography (Hons. & Post Graduate courses, (12) Telegraphy, and (13) Shorthand and Typewriting.

Women students offering Arts subjects in the Intermediate, Graduate and Post-Graduate courses will be eligible for the award of scholarships, provided the give an undertaking that they will pursue a Teacher's Training Course at the end of their approved course or study.

Applications for scholarships should be submitted in the prescribed form through the Head of the Institution of which the applicant is or was a student and should reach the Scretary, Scheduled Castes Scholarships Board, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi—3, not later than April 30, 1948.

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SUGAR TECHNOLOGY

The following candidates have passed the Final Examination held in October 1947, in the courses mentioned below, says'a Press Note issued by the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology on Feb. 8. The names are in order of merit and the figures in brackets indicate the divisions secured:—

#### Chemical Control

B. N. Shukla (2); D. S. Gore (2); S. B. Singh (2); Onkarnath Maewal (3).

#### Bacteriology

Indrajit Bagai (1).

#### Pan Boiling

Dewakar Prasad (2); Bishnu Dutt Bajpai (2); Girish Chandra Sharma (2); Daulat Ram (2) Sri Chand Bhatia (2); S. M. Rao Huddar (3).

#### Fuel and Boiler Control

Chandra Kumar Srivastava (1).

### Milling Plant Operation

Mohindra Nath Sharma (2); Kulkarni Shankar Ram Chandra (2).



A view of the University Grants Committee which met in New Delhi on Fob. 13. From (L to R.) Dr. M. R. Jayakar (Chairman), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sir S. S. Bhatnegar, Mrs. Hansa Mehta and Dr. M. N. Saba (Members)

# UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETS

THE University Grants Committee met on Feb. 13 in the Council Chamber, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon'ble Dr. M.R. Jayakar.

Before delivering his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, said that the Committee was meeting under the shadow of Mahatma Gandhi's tragic death. He called upon the members to stand up in silence for a minute in memory of the Father of the Nation.

After this brief adjournment Maulana Asad addressed the Committee and said that the reorganized University Grants Committee, which had been formed in December 1947, had great responsibilities. The whole field of university education in the Indian Dominion was within the scope of the new Committee whereas their predecesor had looked after the three Central universities only. Maulana Azad added that when he took over charge of the Ministry of Education, the work of the University Grants Committee was one of the first questions that had come up for his consideration. He had felt that the terms of reference of the old Committee did not fulfil the purpose of its formation. Continuing Maulana Azad said it was the intention of the Government of India that this Committee should work on the same lines as the University Grants Committee in the United Kingdom. It should develop and co-ordinate university education all over the country. It should not merely meet once a year to approve grants for proposals that may be put up to it, but the Committee should keep in touch with the working of the universities all round the year and co-ordinate their activities. He hoped that the deliberations and advice of the Committee would initiate new and important schemes in our university education which are necessary in the new political set-up.

Maulana Azad pointed out that before partition, the old Committee had sanc-

tioned several schemes and grants for the three Central Universities of Delhi, Benares and Aligarh. The Committee woud have to examine all these schemes ds noop.

In conclusion, Maulana Azad wished all success to the Committee. The Committee will now meet again in the first week of May next in Bombay.

Among the members who attended the Session of the Committee were: Mrs. Hansa Mehte, Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Dr. M. N. Saha, Sir Homi Mody and Mr. K. Zacharia. Other members are the Hon'ble Dr. B.C. Roy, the Hon'ble Dr. P. Subbarayan and Dr. Zakir Hussain.

Mr. B. B. Varma, Officer on Special Duty, Railway Board, is appointed to officiate as General Manager, M. & S. M. Railway, in place of Mr. W. G. W. Reid, who proceeds on 8 months' leave from the beginning of April, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on Feb. 21.

### OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

It is the policy of the Government of India to give every possible assistance to the expansion and improvement of facilities for university education in the country, but Government have been advised by the Overseas Scholarships Committee that it is necessary for some time yet to send selected students abroad for advance studies and training.

This was announced by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, in reply to a question by Mr. R.K. Sidhwa in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on Feb. 5. The Education Minister added that the whole question of sending scholars to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other foreign countries for technical training in the present year is still under consideration in the light of the interim report submitted by the Overseas Scholarships Committee which was appointed to examine the Overseas Scholarships Scheme in all its aspects.

Regarding the selection for these shoolarships, the Education Minister stated that some scholars were selected by the Provinces and others by the Central Government directly according to whether they are intended to serve a Provincial Government or the Central Government on their return.

### Two Higher Technical Institutions To Be Set Up

The Government of India have decided to establish within the first quinquennium commencing from 1947 two of the four higher technical institutions recommended by the Higher Technological Education Committee (Sarker Committee). These will be located in or near Calcutta and Bombay respectively. This information was given by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Government of India, in answer to a written question by Shri V. C. Kesava Rao in Parliament on Feb. 13.

Maulana Azad added that these institutions will cater to the needs of the country as a whole. He said that while the Government of India had not formulated any definite policy governing the location of the higher technical institution, they had accepted in principle the need for the establishment of four such institutions, one each in the East, West, North and South, the locations to be determined from the point of view of establishing and maintaining the right relationship between the public, industry and education. The Government will of course be guided by the advice of the All India Council for Technical Education which has been set up with a view to co-ordinating plans for the improvement of Technical Education in this country.

Asked as to whether the Government proposed to give priority to areas deficient in technically trained personnel when locating these institutions, Maulana Azad replied that all relevant factors including the deficiency in technically trained personnel will be given due consideration at the appropriate time.

# REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION BILL

THE Hon'ble Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance moved on Feb. 3 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) that the Bill to establish the Rehabilitation Finance Administration be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Shri Khurshed Lal, Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Prof. Yashwant Rai, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Shri Jainarain Vyas, Kazi Syed Karimuddin, Diwan Chaman Lall, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, and the Mover. Also, the Committee be instructed to report on or before February 10, 1948, and the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee should be five.

#### The Finance Minister said:

Honourable Members might remember that when we were discussing the motion to refer to a Select Committee the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill, I indicated that it was my intention to take up the question of setting up a separate Finance Corporation for the purpose of giving financial assistance by way of loans to refugees to enable them to settle down. We have been faced with the tremendous task of rehabilitating over four million refugees, a task probably unparalleled in the history of the world, because it did not face any Government in the form in which it has faced us.

The problem of the rehabilitation of the refugees must be considered from two aspects. (1) the rehabilitation of rural refugees, and (2) the rehabilitation of urban refugees. So far as the settling of refugees on agricultural land is concerned, this is essentially a problem for the provincial Governments to undertake. In fact the East Punjab Government which has been chiefly affected by this problem has already taken concrete steps to solve it and, as a matter of fact, a large number of refugees have already been settled on the Agricultural land available in the East Punjab.

### Urban Refugees

The problem of settling the urban class of refugees is somewhat more difficult and complicated. These refugees consist of professional men, artisans, traders and those who were engaged in industry. The task of enabling them to settle down is beyond the resources of individual provincial Governments. The Central Government have therefore to step in and undertake this responsibility. In helping even these refugees the East Punjab Government have already taken certain steps in their effort to give outright grants not exceeding Rs. 500 and to give loans not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in any one case to these

urban refugees. But the grant of loans up to Rs. 5,000 will not really solve the problem of a vast number of these people. In fact credit facilities on a very much larger scale are absolutely essential, if this class of refugees is to settle down in any useful occupation.

It is not obviously possible for the ordinary commercial banks to grant the necessary loan facilities to these people for the obvious reason that the loans to such persons must necessarily be for fairly long periods and an ordinary commercial bank is not expected to advance loans for such long periods. The active intervention of the Government of India therefore becomes necessary in this respect.

#### Small-scale Industries

It might be asked whether the Industrial Finance Corporation which we are going to set up very shortly cannot really-serve this purpose. Honourable Members will realise that the Industrial Finance Corporation is intended to be set up mainly for the purpose of helping large scale industries. It will be entirely outside the activities of this Corporation to advance loans for the setting up of cottage industries and for the setting up of small-scale industries which will probably be the aim of most of these refugees. The need for a separate organisation for providing this kind of finance is therefore very keenly felt. When I examined this problem it appeared to me in the very first instance that a shareholders corporation is not an appropriate means of establishing an organisation which will meet this purpose. I have therefore decided that the Central Government must take up the direct responsibility of setting up an organisation which will depend upon the Central Government for its financial resources. It is because of this peculiar feature that I have called it the Rehabilitation Finance Administration.

In drafting my proposals I had consultations with my Honourable colleague, the Minister for the Rehabilitation of Refugees, with Ministers from the East Punjab Government and also with officials of the Reserve Bank. As a result of these consultations, we have drafted the measure that is now before the House and which I want to be sent to a Select Committee. From the date indicated in my motion for the report of the Select Committee, Honourable Members would realise that I would like this House to deal with this measure in a spirit of urgency. We expect that the Select Committee will submit its report before the 10th of this month and we would make every endeavour to place it on the statute book during the current session and set in motion the organisation.

I, shall indicate at this stage some of the salient features of the measure that I have presented to the House. This Administration will be on an all-India basis. Even though the problem of the rehabilitation of refugees is experienced in its most acute form in the Province of East Punjab, Honourable Members will agree that other Provinces also are faced with this problem, more especially with the evacuation of refugees from Sind. The Province of Bombay and certain adjoining provinces will also be faced with this problem. The funds for this Administration, as I said, will be entirely provided by the Centre. It would, however, be a semi-autonomous body carrying on its operations on commercial and business lines as far as possible.

We have confined the jurisdiction of this Act to the Provinces of India be. cause it is competent for this Legislature to enact legislation applicable only to the Provinces and not to the States except in matters to which the States have acceded. But it is my intention that refugees, wherever they are settled, whether in a Province or in an Indian State, should get the benefit of this Administration. It has therefore been provided that such of the Indian States as would agree to provide the necessary facilities for the recovery of the loans in accordance with the provisions of our measure will also come within the opera-tion of this Bill. The Administration will be carried on by a Chief Adminis-trator and a Board of six Members to assist him. It is our intention that three of these should be officials and three non-officials—all nominated by the Government.

### **Advisory Body**

With a view to assisting the Board and to enable them to assess the needs of individuals and regions, it is also provided that there will be an advisory body consisting of not more than fifteen This Administration is members. empowered to grant direct loans to the extent of Rs. 7 crores. It can also re-discount bills of exchange to the extent of Rs. 1 crore. Over and above this the Administration is empowered to guarantee to banks and similar lending institutions against losses to the extent of 50 per cent in any individual case in respect of loans and advances that those institutions might grant to refugees. It will therefore be realised that the total resources that we place at the disposal of this Corporation will be Rs. 10 crores. So far as the limits of loans to individuals are concerned, it is the intention that the loans advanced by this Corporation should be Rs. 5,000 and above but not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh to any one single individual or party. The Administration will give 3 per cent interest on the monies that it draws from the Government, and in lending money to the refugees it is not permitted to charge anything more than 6 per cent by way of anything more than o per cent by way of interest. That, I think, is very satisfactory. The repayment of the loans granted should be for a period not exceeding ten years. These, Sir, are the salient provisions of this Bill.

It is my intention that in its actual operation this Administration will keep in close touch with the Provincial Governments and other bodies that tackle the problem of rehabilitation and as far as possible lend monies or grant assis-

tance to individuals who might be sponsored by the Provincial Governments and other various hodies, though the Administration will not be precluded from granting loans directly to individuals who may not be sponsored by Provincial Governments or the other bodies.

Sir, the Bill that I am now placing before the House is only one step among the various steps that Government have already taken and intend still to take in tackling this great problem of the rehabilitation of refugees, and I have no doubt that if worked in the spirit in which we have conceived it, this Rehabilitation Finance Administration will be a blessing to all these unfortunate brethren of ours who stand so much in need of help and assistance. Sir, I commend the motion to the House.

#### **REPLY TO DEBATE**

Replying to the debate, the Finance Minister, said:

I am glad to note that this Bill has been welcomed on all sides of the House It is as it should be because this is one of those ameliorative measures intended to do something to enable some of the refugees at least to settle down in useful occupations. A great deal of criticism has been made that this measure does not include loans or any form of assistance to agriculturists. My answer is very simple; it was not intended through this Agency to give loans or advances to Agriculturists. Sir, I have not introduced a comprehensive measure to set up one agency for dealing with every problem connected with the re-habilitation of refugees. In fact it will not be possible for one agency, however big or powerful it might be, to deal with all the manifold problems that arise in connection with the refugees. I thought after a great deal of consultation with some of the Provincial Ministers, the authorities of the Reserve Bank and my own colleague, the Minister for the Rehabilitation of Refugees, and his Officers that there is a need for a separate agency to give assistance to the middle class people who want to set up some business or industry. Those who think that we are again introducing a measure which will help the large industrialists are entirely in the wrong. Industry does not necessarily and always mean large-scale industry. There are a great many refugees, lakhs of them, belonging to the middle class who are after all the mainstay of society who require small advances ranging from Rs. 10 to 15 thousand in each case. Unless we set up a definite agency which will concentrate its action in giving relief to this large class of persons, whatever you do will be ineffective. I would therefore very strongly suggest that no attempt should be made in the Select Committee to enlarge the scope of this Bill so as to include Agriculturists.

My honourable friend Mr. Neogy gave some account of what is being done in the direction of giving help to agricultrists. What I would submit is this; if it is found that what is being done for the agriculturists already and what is contemplated are not enough and do not go long enough, by all means ask for another Corporation or Administration for this purpose.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: The need has already arisen.

THE HON'BLE SHRIR. K. SHANMU. KHAM CHETTY: If the need has already arisen we will certainly look into it. But if you overlap this agency with this work you are going to fritter away the energies of this organisation. I would therefore very earnestly urge that the scope of this Bill should be strictly limited to what it was intended to be, namely to give loans and to give assistance to the middle class people who want to set up some business. If there is one measure that can be considered to be a non-capitalistic measure, if there is one measure which is purely a nationalistic measure it is this one that I have brought before this House. It is hundred per cent a state concern. It is not intended to benefit the capitalists. It is not intende to enable individual to accumulate large fortunes. And I think, Sir, I should legitimately take credit that the first measure of that kind to be introduced in this House is by myself.

#### Rate Of Interest

There was some suggestion made that the rate of interest that we have suggested for the loans, namely, 6 per cent. is too high. Here again I would ask Honourable Members to bear one very important point in view. I hope it is not the intention of this House that the taxpayer should in any case be burdened as a result of the operation of this agency. We want that as far as possible it should be a non-profit-making agency, but at the same time a self-supporting agency. If this agency would give 3 per cent interest to all the money that it draws from Government. that means Government. ment would cover itself against the interest that it has to pay on loans that it has to borrow from the market. This margin of 3 per cent. is necessary for building up the administrative system necessary for the purpose.

SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYY-ANGAR: 6 percent is only the maximum.

THE HON'BLE SHRIR.K. SHANMU-KHAM CHETTY: That is so. I would suggest if you don't want to put a burden on the taxpayer and if you want this Administration to work on a self-supporting basis you should not prevent the fixing of 6 per cent as the maximum for interest on loans to be advanced.

Some criticism was made about the definition of the word 'displaced persons'. There was also criticism that there is a lacuna in the Bill in that the word 'displaced persons' did not occur in any of the clauses of the Bill. My honourable friend Mr. Chaudhury said that he can also obtain a loan through this Administration. But let me tell him that he cannot, because if Honourable Members will please refer to another definition, namely (e) 'loan' means a sum of money advanced by the Administration to a displaced person. In other words, every loan advanced under this Act or any loan referred to in this Act which may be given by a private bank must necessarily be a loan advanced to a displaced person. Instead of repeating the word 'displaced person' in a number of places we thought it more convenient from the drafting point of view to put it in this form and define 'loan' as meaning a sum of money advanced by the administration to a displaced person. We shall further examine this point and if we really find

that it will enable my friend Mr. Chaudhury to get a loan I will see that it is provented.

Another suggestion was made that the benefit of this Administration must also be available to persons who might migrate from one province of India to another. I have got the fullest sympathy with such persons who out of fear may have to migrate from one province of India to another, but I would submit that if you are going to include within the scope of this Bill all persons who may move from one Province to another, or from one place in the same Province to another place, you will be placing upon the Administration a responsibility which it will be very difficult to discharge. How are you going to distinguish a person who moves, for example from Delhi to Meerut from one who is actually a displaced person in the sense in which we intended? Here again the scope was expected to be restricted. There are, as my honourable friend said 55 lebbs of may be made as my honourable. friend said, 55 lakhs of people who have displaced and who have come from another country. Let us look after them. If really there is a case for giving some help to persons who have to move from one place in India to another for reasons not within their control, then that problem will have to be faced in an entirely different manner.

SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR: Does a person include a bank?

THE HON'BLE SHRI R.K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: I am coming to that.

### Banks

With regard to the class of persons who were intended to be benefited, one suggestion that was made by my honourable friend Mr. Santhanam is that you must give these loans not to individuals but only to public limited companies. Well, I suggest, Sir, that you will entirely defeat the purpose of this Bill if you attempted to do anything of that kind. Is every refugee to take steps to form a public limited company before he comes to this institution for any assisance? Obviously it is impossible.

Again, my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam suggested that this Administration should also be enabled to come to the help of the Banks that have been put to some loss or trouble on account of the disturbances. There again it is a problem which this Administration cannot deal with. We have already taken steps in that direction. As a matter of fact the moratorium that we declared and the undertaking that we gave to supply funds to these banks to meet their obligations for their depositors are evidence of our anxiety to help such banks, and if there are still banks of that category which require further help we certainly would do what lies in our power after a careful examination of the position by Reserve Bank.

Another question was asked "How was this figure of 10 crores arrived at, and is it adequate?" I am free to confess that it is an arbitrary figure and it is not possible for us to make any accurate estimate of the number of people that may want assistance of this kind

(Continued on Page 252)

## SPEEDY, EFFECTIVE AND PROPER that is, we want as little obstruction as REHABILITATION

### Prime Minister's Statement

SPEAKING in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Fab 2 debate on the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill, the Prime Minister

Sir, I beg leave to say a few words not directly connected with this Bill which my Hon'ble colleague has placed before the House, but rather with the question of Rehabilitation. I should like to inform the House of certain steps that Government intend taking in regard to this matter.

Government attach the greatest importance to speedy, effective and proper rehabilitation of the large numbers of people who have been displaced in Northern India. So far, a very great deal of our attention has been absorbed, firstly in evacuation, and, secondly, in giving relief. But obviously that is not good enough. In fact, the whole process of relief, unless it is accompanied by certain constructive and creative aspects of it, is likely to have unfortunate psychological and financial results. The proposal now is—which the Government is considering, and in fact it has come to a decision—to appoint a Rehabilitation and Development Board. The idea behind this Board is that it should be not only a planning body but an executive body, that it should have large powers; that, in fact, it should be able to work much more speedily than the average Government Department works. Governmental machinery sometimes-indeed very often—is rather slow; all manner of sanctions are necessary; all manner of references have to be made to various Departments, and hence there is delay. Meanwhile, we have deal with a human problem affecting millions of people, so that this Rehabilitation and Planning Board will survey, plan and execute and implement the plans in so far as it can.

#### **Board and Advisers**

Naturally, a general policy will be laid down by Government, the general sanction for various large schemes will come, but apart from that, they will be free to go ahead. We propose to appoint a Board—a relatively small Board-working whole time, which will consist of three persons to begin with. I said 'to begin with', not that we need necessarily be adding to that, but it may be that owing to developments we may have to add one or more members, but we would like to keep it a small Board. This Board of three will be assisted by Technical Advisers—for instance, an Engineering Adviser, a instance, an Engineering Adviser, a Financial Adviser, a Statistical Adviser, and may be one or two others.

This Board will consider first of all the existing development schemes. You will notice that we call it the 'Rehabilitation and Development Board', meaning thereby that we are combining the two functions, or, rather, looking at the two problems—relief and developmenttogether. We have been thinking of development for a larger number of years, and I am sorry that so far all our thought has resulted in schemes rather than anything more definite and practical. But many schemes are ready, and this new Board that we set up ought speedily to run through those schemes, specially from the point of view of rehabilitation and choose such as can be put into operation quickly.

The Board should also consider any fresh schemes from the point of rehabilitation, that is to say, schemes which gainful employment. It may be that we may have to set up certain techniques in areas which are ready for development, such as river valley schemes and development of ports and others. The Board will consider the whole country and will function in the whole country.

Naturally it will have to function in many parts of the country in co-operation with Provincial Governments. Generally, we expect it to have free play even in the areas under the Provincial Governments if the finances come from the Central Government. Where the Provincial Government and the Central Government share finances then they will co-operate.
Where the Provincial Government itself co-operate. provides the finances, then this Board will function in an advisory capacity. We would like naturally to have the fullest co-operation from the Provincial Governments. At the same time, we should like the Provincial Governsame time, ments to give this Board full play also;

possible. We suffer very much from checks so that Government cannot be carried on speedily, and we would like this Board to function with speed and efficiency. Therefore, we have chosen persons who we think will be able to function in that particular way.

#### Smaller Industries

We would like this Board again to concentrate to some extent on the development of smaller industries. Major industries, of course, are in the big plans and they would have to look into them. The major industries take a considerable time. We should like them to consider cottage and small-scale industries which can be developed almost immediately in those town-ships.

That is the information I should like to give to the House. I am sure the House would approve of this, and I hope this Board will lead to a fairly rapid rehabilitation of large numbers of people who are at present lacking in accommodation and sometimes home and shelter. The present scheme includes both town dwellers and agriculturists, but primarily this Board will deal with urban people. They will no doubt deal with others but most of the rural refugees or a large number of them have necessarily to be settled in the East Punjab. This Board will advise and will help in every way it can. But the very large number of urban refugees find it difficult to settle down and most of the Members know that Delhi is full of these urban refugees from other towns. So the problem for this Board primarily is one of rehabilitating urban refugees, secondly agriculturists.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Is not a Bill likely to be introduced?

HONOURABLE THE PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, there is no occasion to introduce a Bill. The Government appoints a Board and gives it power to function.

### MR. NEOGY ON REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION BILL

Speaking on the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on February 3, the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, said:

The present measure, important and vital as it is, is only one of a series of measures that Government have either undertaken or have under contemplation in furtherance of the rehabilitation of refugees.

Let us consider the numbers that are involved in this question. Roughly speaking, the total number of refugees who will need to be rehabilitated in India would be about 55 lakhs. It is a very rough guess and I include in this figure those Hindus and Sikhs who have yet to be evacuated from Wewtern Pakistan. Out of this 55 lakhs very nearly 30 lakhs are likely to be followers of agriculture as an occupation or who follow other rural means of livelihood. The remaining 26 lakhs would be represented by people who would follow non-agricultural occu-pations more or less of an urban character.

So far as the 30 lakhs of agricultural

population are concerned this Bill deliberately and definitely excludes them from its purview. It is not as if the question of giving financial aid in regard to the rehabi-litation of agriculturists among the refugees has not received adequate attention. On the other hand, we have set no limits to our liability in regard to giving financial assistance in the matter of rehabilitation of agriculturists. We have advised the Provincial as well as the State Governments to grant taccoviloans on a liberal scale for this purpose. We have assured them that if they need the assistance of the Centre in this matter. the Central Government would be prepared to advance loans to the Provincial and State Governments.

Indeed, the East Punjab Government have already provided Rs. 1,57,00,000 by way of taccavi grants in their current budget. Take again the 25 lakhs of urban refugues. I imagine a large proportion of this figure would not need the assistance of the machinery that my honourable colleague is setting up.

(Continued on next Page)

They would be people who would require assistance of perhaps less than Rs. 5,000 each or free grants of smaller amounts. For these parties again. Government have already set apart adequate funds for giving necessary assistance. They would qualify for loans directly from Government and they would not need the assistance of the Administration that is now proposed to be set up.

There are certain specific loans which are contemplated, for instance loans to men following certain professions or other callings who would not come within the scope of any measure intended to benefit either agriculturists or industrialists or business men, loans which would benefit lawyers for instance or members of the medical profession and so on.

We have a definite scheme for granting financial assistance to these categories of refugees, and these schemes are already in operation. They are being operated by the Provincial Governments concerned on the basis of the scheme that has been propounded by the Cantral Government.

### Aid to Students

A mention was made about students. Now there again we have a scheme for granting financial assistance to students which is already in operation. In the Province of Delhi they have set up a committee specially to administer the loans that we have sanctioned for the benefit of the students among refugees. Sir, incidentally I might mention that we have also urged upon the authorities concerned in Delhi the urgency and the importance of giving the utmost facilities to the student community among the refugees. There was a reference to this point perhaps in the speech made by my honourable friend Mr. Kamath. That holds good in regard to Delhi and I dare say the same policy is being followed

elsewhere, but then the position of East Punjab is somewhat exceptions! In East Punjab all the available accommodation afforded by all the various educational institutions is at present being utilised for the housing of refugees, to which naturally the highest priority was given. These educational institutions are expected to open from the beginning of March next.

#### Prime Minister's Announcement

The Honourable the Prime Minister made an announcement of the appointment of a Rehabilitation and Development Board. He referred in connection to the many plans that were framed and to many reports that were written on those plans. I happen to be one who was associated with one such report at one stage. It has regretfully to be admitted that although there have been a number of plans and a number of reports on plans, very little practical action has so far been taken. On a previous occasion when I had the honour of addressing this House, I pointed out that the problem of rehabi-litation of the so-called refugees could be solved only as a part of the problem of the general development of the country. It is in pursuance of this idea that the new body, the formation of which was announced by the Prime Minister, will be charged with not merely planning but also the execution of the plans which they may either frame themselves or which they may adopt from those already in existence.

We may have to be grateful to the refugees for having drawn our attention to the urgency of the problem of planning for the development of this country, and perhaps future generations will acknowledge their gratitude to the so-called refugees for having furnished the man-power which is necessary for the purpose of developing the resources of the country as a whole.

### PAY OF PRE-1931 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Government have further examined complaints that the rules sanctioning revision of pay in the case of pre-1931 employees of the Government of India operate inequitably when such employees olect the Pay Commission's scales of pay, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on Feb. 4.

A concession was recently announced that such employees finally electing the new scales will be allowed personal pay equal to the difference between the pay they were actually drawing before the election and pay to which they would be entitled on fixation in the prescribed scales under the present rules where it is lower. It has been brought to the notice of Government that in regard to a large number of categories where the option is exercised the absorption of personal pay in future increments would take several years, resulting in stagnation of such employees on the same rates of pay. In the case especially of persons with long service and those due shortly to retire the concession involves very little advantage from the general betterment of scales of pay.

As the improvements in the pre-1931 scales of pay have been sanctioned by the Pay Commission only on the basis that such scales were inadequate even for the pay levels at which they were sanctioned, Government have on further consideration agreed to grant a liberal concession both to promote contentment in the services and to encourage all employees to come on to uniform scales of pay in future. It has accordingly been decided to modify the existing rule and allow, in the case of pre-1931 entrants, fixation of initial pay in the prescribed scales on the same basis as for post-1931 entrants, i.e., the former category will also get their pay fixed in the prescribed scales at a stage not lower than their present basic pay and draw regular increments in the scale thereafter. This concession will however be limited to holders of posts which are not non-permanent posts for the purpose of the pay rules.

Government have also under consideration the extension of the above concession in a suitable manner to employees on the unified scales of pay.

# INCOME-TAX EVASION INQUIRY

The Commission appointed by the Government to investigate cases of income-tax evasion began its work on December 1, 1947, stated the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, at question time on Feb. 5 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).

In reply to supplementaries, the Minister said that the Central Board of Revenue had submitted a number of cases to the Government, and the papers were being examined by the Commission which had already paid a visit to Bombay. Probably 80 or 90 cases had been referred to the Commission. "What is contemplated," he added, is that as each case is completed by the Commission, it will forward a report and then Government will take action."

The Minister also said that he proposed to introduce in this session a Bill to amend the Income-Tax Act under which the Commission had been constituted. "The object of these amendments," he added, "is to make the work of the Commission really effective and to enable the Government to bring to book tax-dodgers. We have left the entire investigation to the Commission, and the Commission can ask anybody to appear before it and it can enquire in any manner. The Commission is being invested to call upon anybody to appear before it."

## ORDERS REGARDING GOVT. APPOINTMENTS

The Government of India having constituted an Economy Committee, departmental instructions have been issued that all further appointments should be on a temporary basis and all proposals for the conversion of existing temporary posts into permanent ones should be deferred.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, announced this on Feb. 5 at question time in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative). He added that fresh appointments were being made only against posts sanctioned after due scrutiny and with reference to the implementation of approved schemes and activities "which are in pursuance of accepted policy". All such appointments would be subject to review by the the Economy Committee.

## PRICES OF CONTROLLED FERTILISERS

The prices of Government Controlled Fertilisers f. o. r. main Indian ports are as follows, according to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on Feb. 15:

Sulphate of Ammonia; Rs. 271 per ton, Ammonium phosphate Rs. 308 and Ammonium Nitrate Rs. 371 per ton.

These prices will remain operative till March 31, 1948.

### INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION BILL

# Finance Minister On Changes Made By Select Committee

MOVING that the Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, as reported on by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration, the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shamukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, said in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on Feb 9:

In making this motion, Mr. Speaker, lmust at the outset express my grateful appreciation of the very thorough manner in which the Honourable Members of the Select Committee dealt with this measure. As I said on an earlier occasion the draft of the Bill that I placed before this House was prepared some time back by the previous Government, and I expressed the hope that with the help of the Select Committee I would bring before this House a measure which would be more acceptable to the Honourable Members. I feel that that expectation has now been realised. In commending this motion I shall just say a few words regarding the main changes that have been made in the Select Committee.

### **Extent of Bill**

So far as the extent of the Bill is concerned, in the original draft it was intended that this measure would apply only to the provinces of India. In the course of the debate in this House expression was given to the feeling that the Indian States also must be in a position to get the benefits of this measure. The scope of this Bill has accordingly been amended by the Select Committee so as to include those acceding States who by their Instruments of Accession accept the subject matter of this Bill as a matter with respect to which the Dominion legislature may make laws for such States. If any of the acceding States are prepared to accept this obligation, then the citizens of these States will also obtain the benefits of this measure.

With regard to the actual scope and operation of this Corporation, the Select Committee thought fit to provide that the financial aid of this Corporation should be available only to public limited companies and to co-operative societies. I welcome this change that has been made by the Select Committee. We ought to encourage the formation of public limited companies in the matter of the development of industries, and by our restricting the help that this Corporation might extend only to such institutions there would be a direct incentive for the starting of public limited companies.

With regard to the capital structure, the Select Committee thought that while the grant provided in the original Bill, namely, Rs. 5 crores, was sufficient for the present, the Act itself must contain provision for the expansion of the

capital, if and when found necessary. It has accordingly been provided that the authorised capital of the Corporation will be Rs. 10 crores, of which Rs. 5 crores will be immediately issued for subscription and the balance may be issued by the Corporation as and when found necessary with the previous consent of the Central Government.

Amongst the class of institutional investors who would be eligible to become shareholders in this Corporation, the Select Committee has included Cooperative Banks also. It is a change which I am sure the House will welcome. After including the Co-operative Banks amongst the shareholders, the Select Committee came to the conclusion that the share capital should be confined to institutional investors and not to private individuals.

The Central Government has undertaken to guarantee the return both of the capital and the payment of a certain minimum dividend. In the Bill it was provided that the guaranteed dividend should not exceed 21 per cent. The Select Committee thought that the actual fixation of the minimum will depend on the conditions of the money market at the time that the shares are issued, and they have therefore left it to the Central Government to fix such rate of dividend as guaranteed as may be considered appropriate at the time of the issue of shares. I can assure the House that in fixing the guaranteed minimum, the Government will take into consideration the prevailing conditions in the money market and will guarantee only a minimum which is considered necessary to attract the necessary capital.

### Managing Board

The management of the Corporation will be entrusted to a Board of twelve members, including the Managing Director. Six out of these will be nominated by the Central Government and the Reserve Bank and the other six will be elected by the shareholders. I think from the point of view of safeguarding the interests of the public, the proportion is one which must be welcomed.

It has also been provided that the administration might appoint advisory committees. The main idea underlying this change is that before lending money to any industrial concern, it may become necessary to obtain technical advice and assistance regarding the various aspects connected with that industry, and these advisory committees, it is expected, will be composed of men with sufficient technical knowledge to advise the Corporation about the feasibility of lending money to particular individual concerns.

With regard to the powers of the

Corporation the Select Committee has provided that the maximum limit would be five times the paid up capital and the Reserve Fund of the Corporation. And with regard to the long term deposits that the Corporation is allowed to take from the public the Committee thought that the period of ten years originally fixed in the Bill was a bit too long. It has therefore now been previded that fixed deposits of the maturity of five years might be taken by the Corporation.

The Corporation is also given wide powers to prescribe the necessary conditions on the borrower and one of these conditions might be, in appropriate cases, that a nominee of the Corporation will be appointed to the Board of Directors of the borrowing company.

### Power to make Loans

The Corporation is empowered to make loans either in Indian currency or in any foreign currency if it is thought appropriate. This provision is necessary because in the present state of affairs industrial concerns in India would be requiring capital abroad for the purchase of plant and equipment, and in view of the difficulties of foreign exchange, which are bound to persist for some time to come, it may be difficult for an individual company to obtain the necessary exchange for the purchase of capital goods. A Corporation of this kind which would be enjoying the patronage of the Government of India might be in a better position to make arrangements for the supply of the necessary foreign exchange for this purpose. For example, the International Bank for Development and Resettlement or the Import and Export Corporation of the United States are bodies which are more likely to lend to a Corporation like the Industrial Finance Corporation of India than to any private individual or Corporation. In other words, this Corporation would, in the very nature of things, enjoy greater facilities for raising loans abroad than any private individual company. It has therefore been provided that in appropriate cases the Corporation may advance loans in terms of foreign currency also, and with regard to repayment the borrower will be at liberty to pay either in Indian currency or in the foreign currency at the rate of exchange then prevailing. This prevents any possible loss of exchange which might otherwise fall on the Corporation.

One of the important amendments made by the Select Committee is that for purposes of taxation this Corporation will be considered as a company as defined in the Indian Companies Act and the Indian Income-tax Act. I attach very great importance to this provision. As I have said on more than one occasion both on the floor of this House and outside, I consider that if the Central Government in India is to have ample resources for taxation it would be necessary that it should have powers to tax not merely private companies and individuals but corporations owned and managed by the State or partly owned by the State and partly by private individuals.

There is in the country a large volume of opinion which wants the large-scale nationalisation of our industries. Now if our Industries are to be nationalised

and if the Central and Provincial Governments are to pursue a policy of progressively bringing under state control and dwnership the whole industrial and productive mechanism of this country, then unless an obligation is placed upon these state enterprises to contribute to the Central revenues an amount equivalent to the income tax and corporation tax which these bodies would have paid if they had been privately managed concerns; it will be found in course of time that the most fruitful sources of the Central Government's revenues, namely income-tax, will disappear altogether. It must be remembered that the whole financial structure of the Central Government is very largely based on the receipts from income-tax and corporation tax. I hope, therefore, that this particular salutary principale that we have enunciated under this Bill will be followed in Bills of a similar nature. Apart from the need not to disturb the most fruitful source of central taxation, even from the point of view of ensuring business and commercial standards in these state corporations, it is necessary that they should undertake the obligation to pay tax as if they were private individuals or companies. It is then and then alone that these public corporations and state corporations will be impelled to apply sound commercial principles and will begin to realise whether their concerns are working at a profit or at a loss.

### Special Clauses

It was in fact with this object in view that the framers of the 1935 Government of India Act provided that the railways of India should be managed by a Statutory Railway Authority. Today the railways, though they may make a contribution to the Central revenues (the wisdom of which is questioned in certain quarters) are not making any contribution to the Central Government by way of taxes. If our railways, in which we have employed over 650 crores of rupees as capital, were a private concern, the Central Government would be receiving by way of income-tax and super-tax alone anything between 15 and 20 crores of rupees per year; and I hope when the constitution-making is taken up by the Constituent Assembly, appropriate steps will be taken to see that the railways and all other similar state-owned and state-managed concerns are placed under an obligation to pay to the Central revenues an amount equivalent to the income-tax and corporation tax.

Though the Government has under the Bill, even as originally drafted, ample powers to control the administration of the Corporation, the Select Committee thought it necessary to incorporate special clauses, under which the Central Government is empowered to issue from time to time directions to the Corporation on matters of policy. There are a great many things about which it might be necessary to issue such instructions. For instance, the desire was expressed in the Select Committee, and very rightly too, that the operation of this Corporation should help the industrial development of the more backward provinces and areas. It is very difficult to incorporate in a Bill of this kind appropriate provisions to ensure that result. But it is an appropriate subject to form the code of instructions that the Central Government may issue from time to

time. It was also thought that, in the distribution of shares, the tendency for the accumulation of shares in one big place like Bombay or Calcutta should be prevented and that the shares should be distributed as widely as possible throughout the country. It was also thought necessary that in certain cases where the Corporation lends money to a company, one of the conditions imposed should be that the borrowing company should limit its dividend to a particular rate until the loan is repaid. Matters covering such subjects are appropriate for instructions from the Central Government and I might take this opportunity of giving an assurance to this House that I shall see that when the Corporation starts functioning we will issue instructions to the Corporation along these lines.

Sir, these are the main changes that have been made by the Select Committee, and I hope that the House will be satisfied on the whole with the Bill as it has now emerged from the Committee. If this Bill is placed on the Statute Book, and when the Corporation comes into existence, it will fill a big gap in our industrial economy. Today we have not got the necessary agencies for helping industries with long term and medium term loans. That want has been felt for a very long time in this country. The want of an institution of this kind was pointed out by the Central Banking Commission which reported many years ago, and I hope that with the inauguration of this Corporation this gap will be filled and by the assistance and the advice which this Corporation will be in a position to give we should see a largeof industry in this scale expansion country as speedily as possible. Sir, I move.

### REPLY TO DEBATE

Replying to the debate on the motion on Feb. 10, the Finance Minister said:

Sir, the main discussion on the motion has practically centred round the question whether the proposed Corporation should be a completely State-owned Corporation, or whether the capital structure should be in the form in which the Select Committee has intended it to be.

Some Hon'ble Members have raised the wider question of the policy of nationalisation. I do not think, Sir, that this is the appropriate moment to call upon the House to give a verdict on that wider policy. The Hon'ble Member Mr. Karimuddin went to the extent of saying that a vote in favour of this policy as it is would be considered as a vote against the policy of nationalisation. I have no doubt that the House will not agree with this point of view of the Hon'ble Member. The Government of India have not yet formulated the policy of industrial and economic development of the country, especially with reference to the policy of nationalisation. I have no doubt that the Government, when they consider this question, will take into account the desire expressed both in this House and outside, the Resolutions of the Industries Conference and also the Report of the Economic Sub-Committee of the A. I. C. C.

I do not know if it is the intention of that Sub-Committee's Report that

the State should straightsway launch out on a policy of complete hationalisation of all the means of production and distribution. Hor'ble Members have placed different interpretations on that document. Reading that document myself, I interpret it to mean that the policy of nationalisation is recommended as the ultimate aim to be achieved and that the pace and the progress of nationalisation should be determined by the needs of the country, and more especially of the resources of the Government. If my interpretation of that document is correct, then whatever concrete shape a more definite enunciation of that policy might take, I feel that there would be scope for private enterprise in certain fields, and so long at that scope exists for enterprise, the need for a corporation of this kind is clear.

### State-owned Corporation

The more practical question which this House should take into consideration is whether in the present circumstances it is advisable to have a Corporation completely owned by the State. The most cogent and convincing answer to that question was given by my Hon'ble friend, Dr. Pattabhi. He himself at one stage of the discussion in the Select Committee strongly advocated consideration of the question whether we should not have a completely State-owned Corporation; and after consideration of the various points of view, he and the majority of the Select Committee came to the definite conclusion that, for the present, the structure of the Corporation as they have evolved it, was most suitable under the circumstances.

After all, when you come to analyse the various clauses of the Bill, the House will be convinced that the control exercised on this Corporation is indeed very rigid and there will not be the slightest scope for any group of private individuals to manipulate the operations of this Corporation to the individual advantage of any one person or group of persons. Forty per cent of the shares will be held by the Government and the Reserve Bank. The Co-operative Banks will hold 10 per cent of the shares, and as soon as we nationalise the Imperial Bank the shareholding of the Government will probably become 51 or 52 per cent altogether, including the shareholding of the Reserve Bank. The balance in the Board is such that Government can exercise very effective control. Over and above this, we have made a provision that Government would be entitled to issue, from time to time, directives to the Board on the question of policy and that Government will be the sole judge as to what are questions of policy and what are not.

With regard to the payment of dividends, it has been provided that until the Reserve Fund becomes equal to the share capital and until all subventions granted by the Government in virtue of their guarantee are repaid, the dividend declared shall not exceed the guaranteed rate of the Government dividend, which really means, Sir, assuming that the guaranteed rate is somewhere round about the marked rate of Government securities

(Continued on Page 249 Col. 8)



# NATIONALISATION OF RESERVE AND IMPERIAL BANKS

### Government of India's Policy

THE Government of India intends to take steps aimed at the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank of India as soon as possible after September 30, 1948. As regards the Imperial Bank of India, the Government accepts the policy of nationalisation, but before that policy is implemented relevant technical questions will be examined.

These points were made by the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister of Finance, in his reply to a short notice question on Feb. 4 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, the questioner, asked:

- (a) What steps have Government taken to implement the decision announced in the Budget speech for 1947-48 by the then Finance Member to nationalise the Reserve Bank?
- (b) Is it the intention of the Government to nationalise the Imperial Bank of India which manages the treasury business of Government all over the country as Agents of the Reserve Bank?
- (c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative can the Government give an indication of the basis on which compensation will be paid to the existing shareholders of both these Banks?
- (d) Is it the intention of Government to nationalise the other Commercial Banks also?

In reply, the Finance Minister said:

- (a) Nationalisation of the Reserve Bank can be effected only after September 30, 1948 when the Reserve Bank ceases to be common banker to India and Pakistan under the terms of the Pakistan (Monetary and Reserve Bank etc.) Order, 1947. Government propose to take steps to see that the nationalisation of the Bank is effected as soon thereafter as possible.
- (b) Government accept the policy of nationalising the Imperial Bank of India but as the Bank has branches outside India, Government propose to examine carefully the various technical questions that would arise in connection with the nationalisation of the Bank before the policy is implemented.
- (c) As regards the Reserve Bank, Government's intention is to acquire its shares at the average of the monthly market value of the shares during the period March 1947 to February 1948, taking the opening quotations for each month, and to issue in lieu thereof to the shareholders 3 per cent long-dated stock of equivalent value of appropriate maturity. In regard to the Imperial Bank of India, Government propose to

adopt a similar basis for the acquisition of its share capital. The period for which the average of the market value of the shares is to be taken will be determined at the time of nationalizing the Bank.

- (d) It is not the intention of Government to nationalise other Commercial Banks. The Imperial Bank of India, which has been incorporated by a Special Act of the Indian Legislature, stands on a separate footing.
- "Since the Government have accepted the policy of nationalising the Imperial Bank of India, all the various technical and other problems involved in the process will now be taken into consideration and whatever action is necessary will be taken", said the Finance Minister, replying to supplementaries which followed the short notice question.

The Minister declared that every possible step necessary to safeguard interests of the Government and the shareholders would be taken. Many questions would arise concerning the safeguarding of the Imperial Bank's assets, and unclaimed deposits if any, would be one of the assets to be safeguarded. "When we nationalise a bank," he continued, "the Government takes over the entire assets and liabilities of the bank, including the Reserve Fund, and we compensate the shareholders on the basis that I have explained".

Asked whether the management of the Imperial Bank would be advised to stop all foreign recruitment, and also recruitment in India until the Bank was taken over, the Minister said: "I think that recruitment of foreigners to the Imperial Bank has been stopped now for many years".

### SUPPLY OF TEA TO U. K.

It is understood that India has agreed to supply 300 million pounds of tea this year to the United Kingdom by the bulk purchase contract system.

This is an increase of 40 million pounds on last year's figure and has been agreed to by India on H. M. G.'s representation that shortage and irregularity of supplies may upset the U.K. tea rationing system.

The cost of tea production in India has risen in recent months, and it is expected that the U.K. will pay more per lb. this year than last year.

# INDIA TO PARTICIPATE IN MILAN FAIR

The Government of India has decided to participate in the Fair to be held at Milan, Italy, from April 12 to 27, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 4. It is proposed to collect exhibits of the following Indian manufactured goods and raw materials for inclusion in the Government of India Pavilion:

Paints and varnishes, silk and wool, toilet requisites, leather and canvassware, jute goods, sports goods, oilseeds and nuts, shellac and mica, electrical goods, cotton textiles, Fine Art, toys, cottage industries products, surgical goods, tea and coffee and tobacco.

Intending donors are advised immediately to contact the Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Commerce, 96-Council House, New Delhi, or the Directors of Industries of their respective areas for further particulars.

### R. L. A. F. CADETS' PARADE

The customary celebraticns were absent at the passing out parade of cadets of the Advanced Flying School, R.I.A.F., which took place in Ambala on Feb. 6 under the shedew east by the tragic death of Gandhiji in New Delhi. Men of the R. I. A.F. on parade stood in silent homage to the Father of the Nation for two minutes.

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Air Marshal Commanding the Royal Indian Air Force, in his address to the cadeta announced the Government of India's decision to grant permanent commissions in the R. I. A. F. to cadeta passing out creditably. He emphasised the need for discipline and team work among all ranks.

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala took the salute and presented the wings. He complimented the R. I. A. F. on its fine achievements in Kashmir and called upon the cadets and the men of the R. I. A. F. to set a high standard of efficient and loyal service to the country.

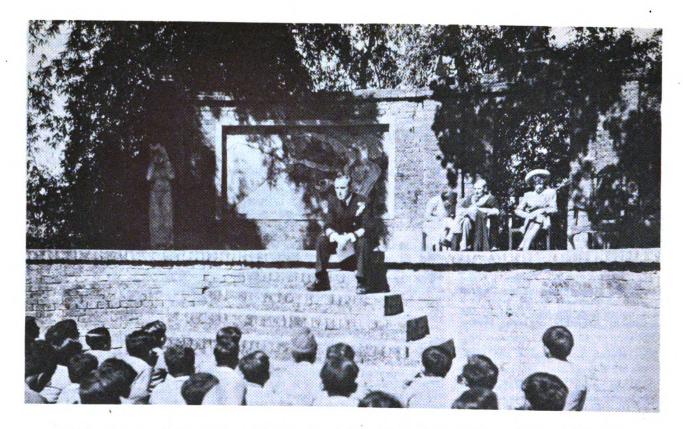
The Patials Trophy and the Jodhpur Sword of Honour were awarded to Officer Cadet O'Brian who was adjudged the best service pilot and all round pupil. The Nabha Trophy was won by acting Filot Officer Michael.

### FINANCE CORPORATION BILL

(Continued from Page 248)

the dividend cannot exceed that rate for at least ten years to come, and even after that period, the maximum dividend permissible is 5 pér cent. I put it to you, Sir, whether anyone could have reasonable apprehensions that in spite of these rigid controls there is any chance of this Corporation being manipulated to the advantage of private individuals or groups. I have no doubt in my mind on this point.

Taking all factors into consideration, and more especially the present resources of the Government, I feel, Sir, that to set up a Corporation on the basis of the Bill that is now before the House would be the wisest thing to do and I hope, therefore, that the House will accept this measure.



His Excellency Lord Mountbatten addressing the students of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, during his visit on February 13

### Lord and Lady Mountbatten Visit Dehra Dun

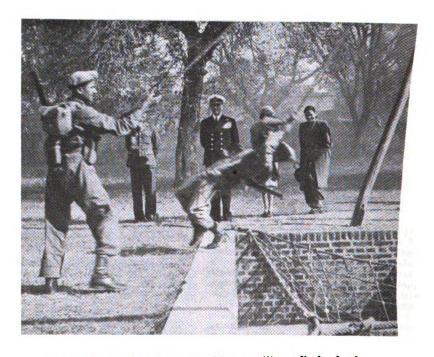
Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess Mountbatten of Burma paid a one-day visit to Dehra Dun on Feb. 13. They visited the Indian Military Academy, the Royal Indian Military College, the Doon School and St. Dunstan's Training Centre for Indian War-Blinded.

His Excellency addressed the men and spoke individually to a number of those who had served under him in Burma. They were informed that 314 men had passed through St. Dunstan's hands, and resettlement in their villages was now in full swing, St. Dunstan's attending to matters of housing, land, marriage and equipping the men for the trades they had learnt. A fund is being held in reserve with which to give them lifelong after-care service. Their Excellencies were also told that Indian and Gurkha troops had responded splendidly to the training.

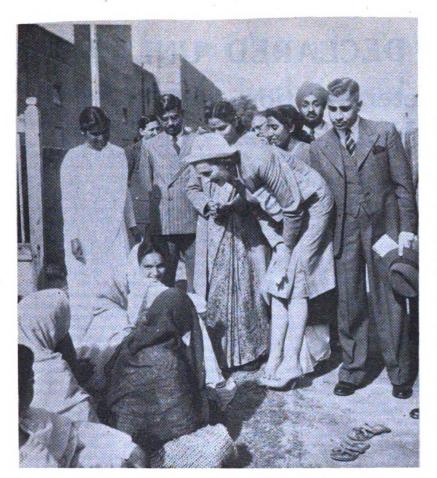
Her Excellency remained on to visit the Combined Military Hospital and the Red Cross Disabled Soldiers' Home. She had met many of these men previously at Sialkot, from where they had recently been moved.

Lady Mountbatten also visited blinded women and children from the Sharp Memorial Home who sang songs for her and showed the handiwork they had been doing.

Before leaving for Delhi, Her Excellency paid a visit to the refugee camp at Prem Nagar.



Lord and Ledy Mountbatten watching a military display by the students of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun



### LADY MOUNTBATTEN VISITS MATERNITY CENTRES

Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma visited on Feb. 11, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at Reading Road and Chandni Chowk in Delhi. Lady Mountbattan was accompanied by Colonel Narain, Director, Health Services, 'Delhi Province; Major M. S. Chadha, Medical Officer of Health, New Delhi and Dr. M.C. Passi, Medical Officer of Health, Delhi, and met the officials, lady doctors and lady health visitors at both these Institutions. Her Excellency was much impressed by the excellent work which was in progress and expressed the hope that it would be possible to extend the Centres which are of the highest national importance.

### LEGISLATORS VISIT INDIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL

Some members of the Standing Committee of the Legislature for the Ministry of Defence and members of the Constituent Assembly visited on Feb. 14 the Indian Military Hospital at Delhi Cantonment where the sick and wounded of the Jammu and Kashmir Force are undergoing treatment.

The members spoke to the patients in the wards and were much impressed by the spirit and high morale of the Jawans who all expressed a desire to go back and fight. They made detailed enquiries of the amenities that are available at the hospital and inspected the kitchen and the patients' mess. The quality of the food given to the patients was also examined by the members.

Earlier the members paid a visit to the Central Ordnance Depot at the cantonment and saw how ordnance stores are kept, accounted for and issued to units.

The party consisted of members of the Standing Committee of the Legislature for the Ministry of Defence, Shri C. M. Poonacha, Pandit Thakur Dass Bhargava, Shri H.V. Kamath, Shri Mohanlal Gautam, and Sardar Gurmukh Singh Musafar, Shri R. K. Sidhwa and Shri Junjunwala, members of Constituent Assembly of India. Mr. R. K. Ramadhayani, I.C. S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, accompanied the party.

(Above) Countess Mountbatten, who visited the Child Welfare Centre, New Delbi, on February 11, is seen talking to an out-patient in the Centre.

(Bottom Left) Lady Mountbatten with Mrs. Handoo, Organiser of the Refugee Women's and Children's Home at Subzimandi which Her Excellency visited on February 4.

(Bottom Right) Lady Mountbatten and Mrs. Ambrose Diehl, President of the National Council of Women of the United States, who is on a world tour, visited the Harijan Sewak Sangh Industrial School on February 4. The distinguished visitors took great interest in the Carpentry Section





## R. S. S. SANGH DECLARED UNLAWFUL

# Government's Determination To Root out Violence

THE following resolution of the Government of India was published in a Gazette of India Batraordinary issued on Feb. 2:

The manner of Mahatma Gandhi's death is a grim and urgent reminder of the forces of hate and violence that are at work in our country and which imperil the freedom of the nation and darken her fair name. These forces must be swiftly controlled and rooted out. Only thus can India proceed along her appointed path and fulfil her destiny. Success in this endeavour demands the willing help of her people. Government have no doubt that the great majority of the Indian people demand that this action be taken and this duty performed. Government will, therefore, act with determination and justice, and they trust that the people, while offering their co-operation, will not take the law in their own hands.

There is no place today in India for any organisation preaching violence or communal hatred. No such organization will, therefore, be tolerated. No private armies will be permitted. Government call upon all citizens, and particularly those serving Government in any capacity, to abide by these standards of behaviour and to act strictly in accordance with the declared policy of Government in this respect.

## SANGH'S DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES

In their Resolution of 2nd February 1948, the Government of India declared their determination to root out the forces of hate and violence that are at work in our country and imperil the freedom of the nation and darken her fair name, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Feb. 4.

In pursuance of this policy, the Government of India have decided to declare unlawful the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces. Similar action is also being taken in the Governors' Provinces.

As democratic governments, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments have always been anxious to allow reasonable scope for genuine political, social and economic activities to all parties and organisations including those whose policies and purposes differ from, or even run counter to, their own, subject to the consideration that such activities should not transgress certain commonly recognised limits of property or law. The professed aims and objects

of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh are to promote the physical, intellectual and moral well-being of the Hindus and also to foster feelings of brotherhood, love and service amongst them. Government themselves are most anxious to improve the general material and intellectual well-being of all sections of the people and have got schemes on hand which are designed to carry out these objects, particularly the provision of physical training and education in military matters to the youth of the country.

### Acts of Violence

Government have, however, noticed with regret that in practice members of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh have not adhered to their professed ideals. Undesirable and even dangerous activities have been carried on by members of the Sangh. It has been found that in several parts of the country individual members of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh have indulged in acts of violence involving aron, robbery, dacoity and murder and have collected illicit arms and ammunition. They have been found circulating leaflets exhorting people to resort to terrorist methods, to collect fire-arms, to create disaffection against the Government and suborn the Police and Military. These activities have been carried on under a cloak of secrecy, and Govrnment have considered from time to time how far these activities rendered it incumbent on them to deal with the Sangh in its corporate capacity.

The last occasion when Government defined this attitude was when the Premiers and Home Ministers of Provinces met in Delhi in conference towards the end of November. It was then unanimously agreed that the stage when the Sangh should be dealt with as an association had not yet arrived and that individuals should continue to be dealt with sternly as hitherto. The objectionable and harmful activities of the Sangh have, however, continued unabated and the cult of violence sponsored and inspired by the activities of the Sangh has claimed many victims. The latest and the most precious to fall was Gandhiji himself.

In these circumstances, it is the bounden duty of Government to take effective measures to curb this reappearance of violence in a virulent form and, as a first step to this end, they have decided to declare the Sangh as an unlawful association. Government have no doubt that in taking this measure they have the support of all law-abiding citizens and of all those who have the welfare of the country at heart.

### SARDAR PATEL'S APPEAL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Pâtel, Deputy Prime Minister issued the following appeal on Feb 1.

I am much distressed to find that in some places, particularly in the Province of Bombay and in the Kolhapur State, some misguided members of the public have indulged in acts of goondaism against members of the Hindu Mahasabha and the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and their offices. Some minor incidents are reported to have occurred in Delhi also. We shall prove ourselves unworthy of Gandhiji's teachings and his trust in us if we yield to feelings of anger and revenge. I should like to assure the members of the public that Government are fully alive to their responsibilities in bringing to book those who are guilty of this dastardly crime. They would leave no stone unturned to unearth any conspiracy that may have proceded this most tragic and cruel outrage. It behoves the public, however, to leave this task, to Government and not to take the law in their own hands, even in the face of gravest provocation. I hope they will heed the advice I gave in my broadcast on the 30th January and avoid letting anger get the better of their judgment. Any outbreak of violence on this occasion would be most unbecoming and would be quite contrary to the life-long teachings of our great and revered Leader whose loss we ull mourn. I would appeal to all sections of the people to keep calm and peaceful and to let each one of us settle down as quickly as we can to our normal tasks. Let them allow the law to take its course and not resort to the unlawful acts of private revenge or public out. bursts of frenzy.

### FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 244)

and the total amount of money that may be required. I personally think, Sir, that if an administration with resources amounting to Rs. 10 crores starts its business, a very large class of persons will be materially benefited. and in the light of the experience that we gain, we may consider further whether we might place at the disposal of this administration further funds. After all when you ask me to place larger funds at the disposal of the administration, Honourable Members should not forget that it is the taxpayers' money that is to be placed in the hands of the administration. No private shareholder is connected with this administration, and when we who are trustees of the public funds have to place such funds at the disposal of a semi-autonomous administration for the purpose of granting loans, we have to be extremely cautious.

I have no doubt that the numerous other points that were referred to in the course of the debate will be looked into by the Select Committee, but I would once again most earnestly urge that whatever might be done, I hope the Select Committee will not try to extend the scope of the activities of the administration and thereby endanger its effectiveness.

MIDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 1, 1949

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## Muslim League National Guards And Khaksar

## Organisation Declared Unlawful

Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Feb 8. says:

In pursuance of their policy of rooting out the forces of hate and violence that are at work in our country, announced in their resolution of February 2, 1948, Government, as a first step to this end, declared unlawful the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh. The resolution also announced Government's decision not to permit private armies.

organization known as the Muslim League National Guards must share the blame for creating a poisonous atmosphere in the country which it is the determination of the Government to eradicate. The organisation is communal and semi-military and is disposed to resort to violence. With the inde-pendence of India, members of this organization could have been expected to settle down as loyal and peaceful citizens of the country. Government, however, regret to have to say that this expectation has proved to be ill-founded. Members of the Muslim League National Guards are still persisting in their propagands of communal hatred and violence. They have been carrying on secret propaganda for fostering amongst the Muslim citizens of India extra-territorial loyalty with the object of disintegrating the country and, this end, they have been secretly collecting arms, training its members in the use of arms and fomenting agitation in liaison with members of the organization across the border. In the light of recent events, Government cannot tolerate any longer this potential menace cannot to the security and integrity of the country and have therefore decided to declare unlawful the Muslim League National Guards in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces, and similar action is being taken in Governors' Provinces.

The organization of Khaksars has been equally wedded to communal hatred and violence. On several occasions members of the organization have been guilty of violent acts. It convened an all-India rally of their members at Delhi last year. Soon after, the organization was officially disbanded by its founder but his followers have refused to abide by his mandate. They congregated in large numbers in various places, particularly in Delhi, and made no secret of their ambition of disintegrating the country. As a result, the organization was declared unlawful in the Delhi Province. They are, however, still carrying on underground propa-ganda on the same lines as the Muslim League National Guards. They have been circulating posters exhorting people to collect arms, to extricate certain parts of the country from the clutches of the Congress and to make preparations for iehad to this end. Members have been known to be also collecting arms. The threat to the peace of the country

from this source in the present orisis is obvious and there is no place in India for an organization of this kind. Government have, therefore, decided to declare the Khaksar organization to be unlawful in the remaining Chief Commissioners' Provinces and similar action is being taken in Governors' Provinces.

Government wish to make it clear, and are certain that all right-minded Muslims will recognise that, this action is not aimed at the Muslim community in any way. India has now gained independence and all sections of her people must now rely, for the protection of their life, property and civic rights, on the forces of the State and not on any private armies. Government have repeatedly declared that India is to be a secular State in which all communities, irrespective of their strength, religion and culture, shall enjoy equal rights. Government repeat their determination to afford to all minorities in India the fullest possible protection against any unlawful activities. They are confident that this further measure taken up by them towards eliminating the evils of hate and violence would be regarded by the Muslim community as a decisive step towards ensuring that protection and not as a measure that will impair it.

### **FOREIGNERS'**

The Foreigners' Order, 1948, published in the Gazette of India dated February 14, 1948, says that no foreigner shall enter India without the leave of the civil authority.

The Order which is issued under Section 3 of the Foreigners' Act of 1946 and in supersession of the Foreigners' Order of 1939 and all notifications amending the same, shall come into force immediately. It specifies conditions under which leave to enter India shall be refused. Leave to enter India may be made conditional or even prohibited in the interest of public safety and a foreigner who is refused leave to enter may be detained.

The Order also lays down the conditions under which seamen or members of the crew of an aircraft, who are foreigners, can enter India. The Order further says that no foreigner shall leave India without the leave of the civil authority and leave to depart shall be refused if the foreigner has failed to comply with the prescribed procedure or if his presence is required to answer a criminal charge or if his departure is otherwise prohibited by a competent authority.

The Order further specifies the liability incurred by the master of a vessel or a pilot of the aircraft in which a foreigner has arrived, to remove a foreigner

## COMPENSATION CLAIMS AGAINST RAILWAYS

The Bill to amend section 80 of the Code of Civil Procedure passed on Jan. 30 by the Dominion Parliament, will help expedite the disposal of cases relating to suits, which concern compensation claims against railways.

Introducing the Bill the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways said that section 80 provides for notices of suits against the Central Government being served on a Secretary to that Government, and against the Secretary of State or a Secretary to the Central Government, the Political Secretary, or a Secretary to the Provincial Government of the Province where the suit is instituted. At present notices under this provision relating to the affairs of Indian Government Railways, a major portion of which concern compensation claims, are received in the Railway Board's office either direct or through other Ministries of the Central Government and in a few cases from Provincial Governments. Notices have then to be forwarded to the Geheral Managers of the Railways concerned for disposal.

This procedure entails considerable avoidable work in the office of the Ministry of Railways, and delays the receipt of notices by Railway Administrations, in some cases with prejudicial results. Hence the need to amend section 80 C. P. C. to provide for notices of suits relating to affairs of a Government Railway being served on the General Manager of the Railway concerned.

### **ORDER 1948**

who has been refused permission to enter India.

The Order further says that foreigners entering India shall obtain from the Registration Officer a permit indicating the period for which they are authorised the period for which they are authorised to remain in India and shall, unless this period is extended, depart from India before the expiry of the said period. The Order also prohibits foreigners from visiting or residing in any prohibited place or protected area. It also prohibits employment of foreigners without written permission in any undertaking for the supply to the Government or to the public of light, petroleum, power or water or any other undertaking which may be specified by the Central Government. The Order empowers military authorities to direct any foreigner to remove himself from a cantonment and the civil authorities are given power to close any public resort or place of entertainment or club frequented by foreigners if it is conducted in a disorderly or prejudicial manner. Civil authorities may also impose restrictions on foreigners about their movements, place of residence, etc.

The Order further lays down that in the interest of public safety any foreigner may be arrested without a warrant or detained by the civil authority, a report of such arrest or detention shall be forwarded forthwith to the Central Government with a statement of reasons.

# NEARLY 43 MILLION NON-MUSLIMS LEAVE WESTERN PAKISTAN

Pakistan and crossed over to India, and there are still more than half a million non-Muslims awaiting migration from Western Pakistan, according to a Note on the progress of relief and rehabilitation for the three weeks ending January 22, 1948, issued on Feb. 7.

Before the rioting in Karachi on January 6, there was a large movement of Hindus and Sikhs out of Sind. This unhurried evacuation received impetus when disturbances broke out. Up to January 5, the total number of non-Muslims who left Sind by air, sea and rail was 4,78,000. Since then all the available shipping space from Karachi to Bombay and Kathiawar has been requisitioned for refugee transport, and considerable movement by rail is taking place from Hyderabad (Sind) to Marwar Jn. in Rajputana. It is estimated that from January 6 to 26 about 35,000 refugees were brought to India by sea and another 35,000 by rail. There is also some movement of refugees by foot from Southern Sind to Cutch State.

### **Motor Transport**

The Military Evacuation Organisation (India) continued to clear non-Muslims from pockets in West Punjab and N. W. F. P. from January 7 to 22, about 4,731 non-Muslims were evacuated by motor transport to India. Among them were 274 abducted women and children. Rescue operations in West Punjab and N. W. F. P. extend to outlying villages where refugees are stranded in small pockets. In West Punjab, refugees from pockets are brought to transit camps in Sialkot, Gujranwala, Chuharkana, Montgomery, Lahore, Sargodha, Multan, Jhelum, Lyallpur and Sheikhupura, where they are guarded by Indian Troops and eventually sent under escort to India. Non-Muslims rescued from pockets from January 7 to 22 numbered, 2,859, including 271 abducted women and children. In N.W. F. P. there are still about 25,000 non-Muslims awaiting evacuation. Most of these refugees are in tribal areas, D. I. Khan and Bannu. Small numbers of non-Muslims are still left at Peshawar and Mardan. The responsibility for evacuation in N. W. F. P. is that of the Government of the province and after the recent attack on non-Muslims in Parachinar, the Pakistan authorities have agreed to evacuate people of that area as well as those from D. I. Khan. Evacuation by train from Bannu has been temporarily held up after the Guirat tragedy but one train which left Bannu soon after, carrying 2,500 non-Muslims has reached India safely.

The number of non-Muslims still awaiting evacuation from West Punjab and N. W. F. P. is estimated to be 50,000. From Bhawalpur, nearly 1,50,000 non-Muslims have reached India safely, but there are still about 70,000 awaiting evacuation apart from a large number of those non-Muslims who have been forcibly converted.

To cope with the fresh influx of refugees from Sind, the Government of India have set up an organisation in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, under the charge of a Director-General. He is assisted by a Director of Evacuation and Movement and a Director of Relief (Transit Camps and Supplies) at Delhi and by a Director of Evacuation each for Rajputana, Kathiawar, Bombay and C. P. with headquarters at Marwar, Rajkot, Bombay and Nagpur respectively. With the setting up of this Directorate-General, the work of evacuation from Sind as well as of reception and temporary shelter for refugees has been taken well in hand. It is also proposed to increase the staff of the High Commissioner in Karachi to enable him to facilitate evacuation of those non-Muslims who are anxious to leave Sind.

The Government of India's decision to give all possible facilities for evacuation from Sind was the result of recrude-scence of attacks on Hindus and Sikhs. It was felt that facilities for evacuation should be provided to those who wanted to come away to the Indian Dominion. The total population of Hindus and Sikhs in Sind in 1941 was 12½ lakhs and it was estimated to be 14 lakhs at the time of partition. Of this 4,78,000 had left Sind up to January 5, 1948. Inspite of the Sind Government's apparently strong, effecting and sincere action to restore order after the Karachi riots, Hindu and Sikh opinion is unanimous that it will not be possible for the Sind Government to create conditions of safety for non-Muslims. Measures are being taken to provide all available shipping for the refugee movement and special trains from Hyderabad (Sind) to Marwar Jn. to evacuate those who want so leave for India in safety. It is estimated that already 4,00,000 non-Muslims are awaiting evacuation.

#### Camp at Rohri

Arrangements are being made to establish a camp at Rohri from where special trains will be run to Hyderabad (Sind) to Karachi.

To receive refugees, immediate action is being taken to arrange for reception facilities at Marwar, Bombay and Kathiawar ports. A proper plan for dispersal movement from these receiving points to transit camps and for movement from the transit camps to ultimate destinations is also being worked out. At present refugee ships docking in Bombay are met by officers of the Relief and Rehabilitation department and the Sind Hindu Sewa Samiti. Free hot meals are given to them, their destinations ascertained or fixed and those unable to support themselves are sent to Government Relief Camps.

Evacuation by rail which was progressing satisfactorily was suddenly disrupted by an ugly incident on January 12, 1948 at Gujrat when a refugee train bringing 2,400 non-Muslim refugees from

Bannu escorted by a V.C.O. and 60 other ranks of the Bihar Regiment was attacked by armed pathans on the Gujrat railway platform. Survivors were brought to Gujranwala and Lahore and refugees who ran into neighbouring fields for cover were traced. These survivors were later brought by road up to Atari under escort, and will be accommodated at Kurukshetra. Apart from the original list of 1473 survivors, it is believed that another 500 refugees have been traced. Likewise 31 women from among the refugees considered to be lost have now been rescued and brought to India.

A later train which left Bannu carrying 2500 non-Muslims reached India safely and the refugees were taken to Kurukshetra.

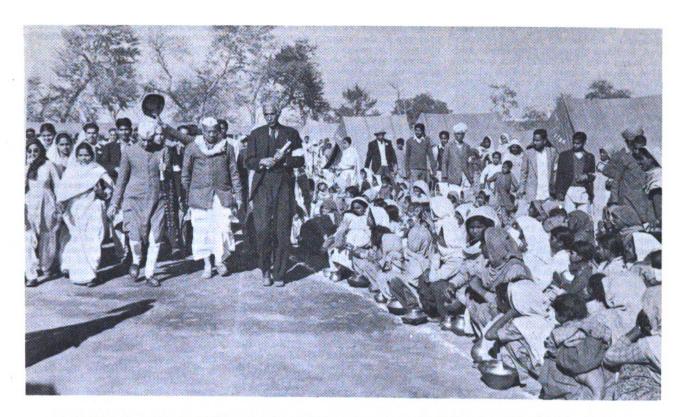
### Recovery of Women

Concerted efforts continued to be made for the recovery of abducted women and forcibly converted persons during the fortnight January 7 to 22. Nearly 1000 such persons were brought to India from the districts of Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat and Montgomery. Four women and three children were rescued from the Nowshera and some have been brought from village Mankisharif in N. W. F. P. There are still a large number of abducted women and forcibly converted persons to be rescued. The Pakistan Government, however, have placed fresh obstacle in the way of implementing the decisions arrived at between the two Dominions in early December that mixed parties of troops and police accompanied by women social workers would launch operation for the recovery of abducted women and converted persons. The Pakistan Government now maintains that troops should not be allowed to accompany the police and social workers to villages for recovery of abducted persons and desire that the troops should be restricted to guarding transit camps and provide escort for transport of recovered persons to their own Dominion. The Pakistan Government have even gone further and have stopped the entry of Indian troops in some of the districts of West Punjab.

One of the main obstructions facing our rescue parties today is the fear harboured by the majority of abducted Hindu women that they may not be received again into the fold of their own society, and the Muslims being aware of this misgiving have played on the minds of these unfortunate women to such an extent that they are reluctant to come away from their captors back to India. It has been mutually agreed between the two Dominions that in such cases they should be forcibly evacuated.

Mahatma Gandhi appealed to all Indians that 'these Hindu and Sikh sisters who have been abducted, molested or converted by Muslims should be received with open arms and given the same place which they occupied before in society.' This appeal has been reinforced by similar statements by the Prime Minister and other Indian leaders.

Under the auspices of the Women's section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Miss Mridula Sarabhai and Mrs. Premawati Thapar are leading



Pandit Nehru during his recent visit to Amritan visited a refugee camp with the Premier of East Punjab and others

rescue parties for recovery of abducted women both in West Punjab and East Punjab.

Transit Homes for the recovered women have been established at Jullundur, Amritsar, Kurukshetra and Delhi. The Transit Home in Delhi will accommodate nearly 400 women. There are at present in this Home 100 destitutes and unprotected women and children. This Home is meant primarily for giving shelter, but work of various types will be taught and corporate community life will be emphasised.

Three Relief and Work Centres are already functioning in various parts of Delhi where literary and work classes are being conducted. Women work here on payment and at the same time learn tailoring and embroidery.

The Marriage Bureau set up by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have registered a large number of names of men willing to marry destitute refugee girls.

The Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has recently taken photographs of unattached children now in a Transit Home at Amritsar and has placed them on view at Kingsway and Kalkji Camps in Delhi, and also in its main office at 'P' Block. There were over 23000 enquiries received by this section for missing persons from Pakistan. It helps to establish contact between missing persons and their relatives, and has already succeeded in several cases. The section works in close conjunction with the Indian Red Cross and has searchers spread out throughout

the refugee camps in Delhi, East Punjab and elsewhere.

Nearly two to three thousand refugees from Kashmir are arriving daily in East Punjab. Most of them are coming by lorries from Pathankot. It is estimated that already about 1,00,000 people have come over to East Punjab from Kashmir. These refugees are being given temporary shelter and immediate relief in East Punjab and it is proposed to open a camp outside the Province at Muttra in the United Provinces.

#### Relief and Reception

Of the 4½ million refugees who have come over to India, nearly one million are in refugee camps where they are being given shelter, food, clothing and medical attention at government expense. A large majority of the destitute refugees is in East Punjab, about 456,000 in camps scattered in its eleven districts and about 200,000 in Kurukshetra camp which is run by the Central Government. Threre are a number of small camps in the U.P., Bombay, Madras, Bihar and some of the Indian States. Here the refugees are not under canvas and have been accommodated in buildings.

The immediate problem facing Government is the provision of roofed accommodation before April to all those refugees who are at present under canvas. The two-crore scheme for the construction of some permanent accommodation in 25 towns of East Punjab is being put into operation. It can be hoped that there will be roofed accommodation for the two lakhs of refugees before next April. Simultaneously, dispersal of refugees from towns to the interior of East Punjab is proceeding. Loans are being advanced

for repair of houses which have damaged by Muslim evacuees. district officers are also making efforts to requisition large buildings which might be used for housing refugees without shelter. In Delhi, a vigorous drive has been launched to find roofed accommodation for those refugees who are without shelter. Officials of government have been asked to make available spare accommodation to deserving refugee families. At Purana Qilla, repairs have been carried out and water and electricity have been laid in order to receive nearly 6000 refugees. The Bela Road barracks and Anand Parbat barracks have also been placed at the disposal of homeless refugees. Outhouses of large buildings and all other available accommodation is being requisitioned. First priority is being given to those who have no shelter at all and those who were preoccupying mosques. In the viously case of destitute refugees, accommodation is being enlarged at the Kingsway Camp.

### Cloth and Garments

Distribution of cloth and garments among refugees by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation continues. Up to January 22, 1948 this Ministry had despatched approximately 15,00,000 ready-made garments such as cotton kurtas, great coats and shorts (mazri) to various refugee camps in East Punjab.

In addition, the Ministry also sent about 23,00,000 yards of various kinds of cloth like China sheeting, malmal, drill dyed, cameric, dasuti, calico and cellular shirting.

Cloth and garments actually received up to January 22, 1948 in refugee camps

in East Punjab, including Kurukshetra, Amritsar, Jullundur, Ambala, Ferozepur, Phillaur, Gurgaon, Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana were 3,84,200 Kurtas (cotton) 8700 Shorts (mazri) 1,66,6600 shorts (khaki drill) 10,000 great coats, 2,40,000 yards of China sheeting, 1,27,000 yards of malmal, 29 bales of drill dyed 'A' grade, 67,400 yards of drill dyed 'B' grade, 1,06,000 yards of drill dyed 'B' grade, 1,06,000 yards plus 2 bales of clasuti (various shades) 31,000 yards of Calico and 1,78,000 yards plus 44 bales of cellular shirting.

The total number of blankets and razais despatched to various refugee camps up to January 22, 1948 was 15,02,021. Kurukshetra received 3,41,104 and Delhi 9230 and the rest were distributed to East Punjab camps. Bundies supplied to all camps totalled 2,75,000 and jersies 1,50,000. Tents and tents (bivouc) so far supplied to East Punjab refugee camps, including Kurukshetra is 1,90,948.

### **Medical Supplies**

Kurukshetra, where there are over two lakhs of refugees, received special attention of the Health Ministry. From February 15, 1948 the administration of the camp now under the Central Government will pass from military hands into those of the civil authorities. Arrangements are accordingly being made to replace military medical personnel and ambulances at the Camp by civil personnel. To supplement the medical staff, authorities have opened up a training school where refugee girls are being taught nursing and public health. This step will aid considerably in staffing the expansion that is proposed to be made in the hospitals. Four more dispensaries are to be opened and X-ray and Dental centres are being started. The eye and E. N. T. laboratories are being expanded. The Infectious Diseases Hospital is to be expanded to hold 300 more beds. The total strength of the medical personnel at Kurukshetra at present is 1023 functioning in 14 dispensaries.

Recently 180 hospital beds were obtained from the American Surplus Disposal Directorate. Another 200 iron bedsteads have been obtained from the American Disposals and kept in reserve.

One million tablets of M & B and two million tablets mluti-vitamin were also supplied from the Medical Store Depot, Bombay. 16,705 lbs. of drugs and 54,570 doses of vaccine were issued during the last month.

1912 lbs. of drugs and 9,92,595 doses of vaccine were sent to East Punjab during December 1947. In the same month Delhi received 2466 lbs of drugs and 1,08,070 doses of vaccine. 42,208 lbs. of drugs and 13,000 doses of vaccine were despatched to Kashmir.

The West and East Punjab Governments have issued Evacuee (Administration of Property) Ordinances under which all the property of evacuees is vested in a Custodian and other provincial governments concerned are taking similar action. Where banks have any

claims whether in regard to their own property or the property of their debtors, pledged, hypothecated, assigned, or otherwise charged as security for loans advanced by them, they should take early steps to register their claims with the Custodian of Evacuees' Property of the Province in which the property is situated.

The East Punjab Ordinance excludes cash deposits in banks from the scope of evacuees property and defines "Evacuee" as a person ordinarily resident in or owning property or carrying on business within the province of East Punjab, who on account of civil disturbances or the partition of India left the said territory for a place outside India or cannot personally occupy or suprvise his property or business.

The Ordinance also deals with transfers of Evacuee Property. No sale, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange or other transfer of any interest or right in or over any property made by an evacuee or by any person in anticipation of his becoming an evacuee, or by the agent, assignee or attorney of the evacuee or such person on or after 15th August 1947 will be effective so as to confer any rights or remedies on the parties to such transfer or on any person claiming under them, unless it is confirmed by the Custodian of Evacuee Property.

Applications for confirming such transfers must be made before the Custodian by March 31, 1948, or within two months from the date a transaction is entered into, whichever is later. The Ordinance prescribes a procedure for a summary enquiry into such applications by the Custodian, who may confirm a transcation unconditionally or subject to such conditions and terms as he may consider proper.

The Government of India have also in view the promulgation of an Ordinance on the lines of West Punjab Ordinance V. By this Ordinance the defini-tion of 'Evacuee' and 'Evacuee Property ' will be reconsidered to secure that all prospective transfer of urban property of intending evacuees are effectively stopped for the centrally admin-istered areas, Provinces and States. It was felt in this connection that the volume of urban property was so large that it would be well nigh impossible for the Pakistan Dominion to meet it. And in this respect, however, it would be an advantage if free exchanges of urban property were allowed. The result would be that after some time a great deal of property would have become automatically liquidate. There was another difficulty that most of the disposal of property in this way would take place after March, 1948, when the Pakistan Dominion would have its own currency. It would not then be possible for our people to bring their money from Pakistan. On the other hand, Muslims in India were quickly disposing off their property and taking away money. It was therefore thought fit that it would be advantageous if all exchange and sale of property could be stopped during this intervening period by the promulgation of the Ordinance.

As regards agricultural land a subcommittee will take up the matter with the Pakistan Government when the question of the exchange of urban property will also be discussed.

Arrangements have been made for the registration of claims of non-Muslims who have lost or left property both immoveable and moveable in Western Pakiskan. In Delhi, upto January 26, over 90,000 claims were registered with the Registrar of Claims. Similar arrangements have been made in the Provinces.

In the United Provinces the Deputy Commissioner, Refugees, has been appointed Provincial Registrar of Claims. The District Magistrate in each district will be the District Registrar of Claims. The Refugee Office and the District Collector in Bombay have been authorised to register claims of the refugees. The Special Deputy Collectors for Madras City and the Collectors of the districts in Madras province have been authorised to register claims. They will forward the claims to the Special Officer and Protector of Emigrants who will consolidate and submit the claims to the Government of India. The Central Provinces Government have issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners to get sworn declarations in duplicate from each claimant. In Orissa it is proposed to authorise Collectors of districts to register claims. In Bihar, sub-divisional officers have been appointed as registrars of claims. In Assam the Assistant Director, Re-settlement and Employment Exchange has been appointed as the Registrar of claims. In Ajmer, claims will be claims. In Ajmer, claims will be registered by the Deputy Director of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Agreement was recently arrived at between India and Pakistan that claims in respect of Savings Bank accounts standing open at Post Offices in Pakistan and postal cash, Defence Savings and National Savings Certificates standing registered there can be made at all head and sub-post offices in India.

#### Amnesty

Claims can also be made by depositors or holders of certificates who have already applied for transfer of their accounts or certificates but have not received back their pass books or certificates.

Depositors and holders who have their pass books or certificates in their possession need not submit claims, but action for the transfer of their deposits and holdings will be taken up by post offices as the pass books and certificates are presented.

Consequent upon an agreement arrived at between the two Dominions that a general amnesty should be granted to certain military forces of the two Dominions who were convicted of diverse offences in the course of discharge of their duties connected with internal defence or protection or evacuation of refugees, an Ordinance has been issued by the Government of India which states that no legal proceedings shall be instituted in any civil court, criminal court or court-martial in India against any member of the military forces of Pakistan who was engaged in duties connected with internal defence or the protection or evacuation of refugees in any part of India, in respect of any act done or

purporting to be done between August 15, 1947 and January 10, 1948.

The Ordinance further clarified that any legal proceedings pending would be withdrawn, and in respect of those who have been convicted the sentence or punishment ordered would be remitted. If the person was under confinement he would be released and any forfeiture or penalty imposed shall be set aside and fine realised shall be refunded.

From January 13, 1948 it was agreed between India and Pakistan that the programme of exchange of under-trial and prisoners would begin between East and West Punjab. This agreement however, has not worked as the Pakistan Government have taken the attitude that the question of repatriation of prisoners from the States in the Indian Union should be first settled. In the meantime nearly 4,000 Muslim prisoners have all the same been collected in the jails of Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana, and Ambala, while the West Punjab Government have brought nearly 6,000 non-Muslim prisoners to Lahore.

#### Non-Muslim Banks

As a result of discussions between the representatives of the Governments of Pakistan and India, West and East Punjab and the Reserve Bank and other banks, arrangements have now been made for facilitating resumption of business by banks which have closed their offices owing to disturbances, or which find themselves unable to carry on their normal functions owing to paucity of staff.

The West Punjab Government have agreed to make all the necessary arrangements for the protection and housing of non-Muslim staff of banks in Lahore and also to provide guards at bank premises in Lahore at the expense of the banks.

Notice has been taken of complaints made by evacuees in both Dominions about cheques and matured fixed deposit receipts being returned by banks on flimsy grounds. In order to avoid inconvenience and distress to the evacuee depositors and in their own interests, banks are requested to desist from such practices and to co-operate by giving all possible facilities to their constituents. To the extent that the difficulties in regard to transfer of accounts from one Dominion to the other are due to the non-functioning of banks and difficulties of communication, these will largely disappear when the business of banks consolidated and some of their branches start functioning properly and when communications improve. facilitate transfers, it is suggested that each bank should designate one office in India and one in Pakistan for clearing claims for inter-Dominion transfer of accounts. Both Dominions have agreed not to place any restrictions on transfer of accounts or remittances of funds by banks. Only in the case of accounts of companies which continue to function in Pakistan, the Pakistan Government have stipulated that their previous permission should be obtained.

### REHABILITATION LOANS SCHEME

Under the general scheme of rehabilitation loans for displaced persons belonging to urban areas, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have announced that the maximum limit up to which advances may be granted to traders, shopkeepers and those persons wishing to start their own workshops or cottage industry will be Ks. 5,000.

Exceptions already announced cover the cases of doctors, including dentists, radiologists, vaids, hakims and hor eopaths, and legal practitioners in whose case the maximum limit has been fixed at Rs. 3,000. In the case of Delhi, it has been announced that displaced persons wishing to buy a tonga and a horse to ply the vehicle on hire may be granted loans up to Rs. 1,000.

Other displaced persons, who do not come under the categories mentioned above, are covered by the general loan scheme under which the maximum limit has been fixed at Rs. 500.

### Fer Displaced Persons Only

The grant of loans under the scheme has been extended all over India and the Indian States, and it has been laid down that the grant of loans should be confined to displaced persons who decide to settle finally in a particular town or place and who can be fitted into the economy of the area.

The advances will be paid by the District authorities of the district in which the displaced person decides to settle finally. The amount of advance

will be determined according to individual requirements.

Those who wish to apply for the advance are required to produce proof of their having been registered as refugees and affidavit to the fact that they have not previously received similar advance from any other source. The advance will be free of interest for the first year, but interest will be charged at 3 per cent for subsequent years. No recovery will be made in the first year. Instalments for repayment in the subsequent years will be fixed by the sanctioning authority in each case, subject to the condition that the advance should be completely repaid within four years from the date it is given. Payment will be subject to an undertaking to repay, and two sureties will be taken. If default is made in repayment of any instalment the whole advance will become recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

The authorities sanctioning the advance will ensure that it is utilized for the purpose for which it is granted, and will also keep a watch on the displaced person's resettlement. The authorities concerned will give every assistance to persons to whom loans are sanctioned to obtain the necessary equipment, raw materials, stock-in-trade, premises etc. so that the loan is utilized to the best advantage. Where there are no reasonable prospects of an applicant being able to secure the requisite facilities either through his own effort or with Government assistance it would obviously be wasteful to sanction the loan.

## GRANTS FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS

Under the scheme for the grant of financial assistance to displaced students from Western Pakistan recently announced by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, a displaced student in need of a loan should apply for the same through the head of the Educational Institution concerned to the sanctioning authority nominated by the Government of the Province where his guardian is now residing. The heads of the institutions are authorised to sanction immediate financial relief to a student up to Rs. 200.

Displaced students whose guardians are new residing in the centrally administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg should apply through the heads of their institutions to the Chief Commissioner concerned. The application forms can be obtained from the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, or from Mrs. E. Rudra, Special Officer to assist Refugee Students, Ministry of Education, Government of India in Room No. 44, 'M' Block, New Delhi.

### REFUGEE'S GIFT TO RELIEF FUND

A cheque for Rs. 20 and an offer of a day's pay every month is made by a refugee from West Punjab, Mr. Bhagat Ram Datta, to the National Relief Fund in a letter to the Prime Minister.

"I am a refugee from Western Punjab", he says, "but by the grace of Almighty Father I feel better placed than millions of refugees from that area. The task of rehabilitating refugees is great and our donations, whatever the amount may be, are far less, to do anything to console them for the losses incurred and tortures inflicted".

Regretting that he is not able to send more, he recalls, "the services of a little squirrel were appreciated by Rama when he was preparing for an attack on the mighty Ravana".

## CONCESSION TO REFUGEE CONTRACTORS

Refugees from Pakistan who desire to start their career in India as contractors for C. P. W. D. will be allowed a special concession.

The Government of India have decided that no security in cash will be demanded from those persons, who produce a certificate of their being bona fide refugees from the Ministry of Reliet and Rehabilitation, and apply to Chief Engineer, C. P. W. D. for enlistment as class IV and V contractors, provided they submit a personal bond signed by two persons of known probity and wealth for the amount required to be deposited under the rules.

This concession will be allowed up to December 31, 1948.



# SCHEMES FOR REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

THE East Punjab Government are setting up a Development Board which will be entrusted with the over-all task of stepping up industrial development of the Province, according to a Note on the progress of relief and rehabilitation for the three weeks ending January 22, 1948 issued on Feb. 8. Simultaneously plans for the development of Simla Hill tracts and Kulu Valley are under consideration.

There is close co-operation between the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and the Provincial Government in the framing of these schemes for the rehabilitation of displaced persons and their progress is reviewed every fortnight at the meetings of the Joint Rehabilitation Board, presided over by Mr. K. C. Neogy, and attended by representatives of both the Centre and the Province.

According to latest information, about 17 lakhs displaced persons have already been resettled on land in East Punjab on about 27 lakh acres. There is still about 5 lakhs of cultivated land available for allotment. To re-establish village economy, the East Punjab Government is expediting dispersal of refugees in villages, specially those who have been allotted land or shops and others who are essential artisans and those who wish to go to the villages. Hutted accommodation is being provided for the new settlers and grants are being made for the purchase of food. Taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 1,66,50,000 have also

been sanctioned by the East Punjab Government for distribution among rural settlers for the purchases of bullocks, seed and fodder. Repair of wells and houses in villages is also being financed from these loans. Another Rs. 5,00,000 have been sanctioned for distribution as loans to destitute refugees settling in villages in the districts of Hissar, Karnal, Ambala, Ferozepur, Rohtak, Hoshiarpur Jullundur, Gurgaon, Amritsar and Gurdaspur.

#### In Patiala

In Patiala, 135,671 refugees have been settled on land available in 640 villages. The Ruler has placed a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs at the disposal of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner for the grant of taccavi loans to those settlers who need financial assistance. The Patiala State authorities have also absorbed 700 refugees in their various departments. A large number have also found employment in factories and business concerns. The target for resettlement on land in Patiala is two lakhs.

Over 10,000 men have been sent to the Bharatpur and Alwar State by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for settling on land. More are being sent.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation are setting up a co-ordination body representing the Ministry, the Ministry of States, East Punjab Government and

### Rehabilitation And Development Board

THE Government of India have had under examination for some time a number of Post-War Development schemes for the economic development of the country, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 7. The objective is to promote, as early as possible, the planned development of the country as a whole. It has not been possible so far to make much progress with execution of these schemes for want of capital goods and other reasons. The necessity of rehabilitating a very large number of refugees who are without any gainful occupation now emphasises the urgency of the economic development of the country. For this purpose the Government of India have decided to set up a Rehabilitation and Development Board consisting of the following:

- Mr. Aftab Rai
   Mr. Mehr Chand
   Khanna.

  Chairman.
  Member.
- 3. Colonel G. N. Naidu Member.

Mr. D. R. Kohli will be the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. C. G. Kale will be the Technical Adviser and Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis the Statistical Adviser. The functions of the Board will have particular reference to the rehabilitation of refugees and will include both planning and execution of schemes suitable for this purpose. The Board should make a quick survey of the resources of the country from this point of view, examine the schemes already in existence, and prepare such other schemes as may be found suitable. The Board should also consider the development of cottage and small-scale industries and where possible their integration to major industries.

The Board will assist the Provincial and State Governments in expediting the execution of schemes financed wholly by these Governments. In regard to schemes financed partly by the Centre, the Governments concerned will function in close collaboration with the Board. In regard to schemes financed wholly by the Central Government, the Board will seek the co-operation of the Provincial and State Governments in order to achieve quick results. For these purposes the Provincial and State Governments will be invited to appoint liaison officers or to set up some other suitable agency to ensure effective collaboration.

The Board will function under the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

representatives of Indian States to secure concurrence on rehabilitation schemes and to organise machinery for implementing these schemes.

For the resettlement of displaced persons coming from Sind and Bahawalpur and who wanted to settle on land, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation are examining possibilities of resettlement in Bastar and Tripara. It is stated that in Bastar there is a population of 7 lakhs but the total cultivable land is 14000 square miles.

Further details are now available of the U. P. Government scheme for absorbing refugees on 10,000 acres of land in the Nanital Terai region. The present plan envisages a system of co-operative farming so that co-operative enterprise may develop into Joint Farm Manageme t. No sub-letting or fragmentation will be allowed. The area will be divided into four farms of 1500 acres each. For each colonist who settles on land, the Government of India will pay a subsidy of Rs. 500 and a similar sum will be paid by the provincial government. In the initial stages all possible facilities will be given to the new settlers such as free fencing, use of tractors, building of roads, drainage, hospitals and water supply system. Short-term loans will be advanced and plans are also in hand to encourage industries in the area.

In Bihar, an ambitious rehabilitation scheme for resettlement of refugees on land in Purnea and Bhaga has been evolved and the total expenditure on the scheme is estimated to be Rs. 82 lakhs.

In Bombay, the Collector of Karwar, at the instance of the Provincial Government made 2000 acres of land available to those displaced persons who would move there and take to farming. Other District Collectors have also been asked by the provincial Government to keep arable land open for refugees.

In Delhi Province, about 125 'gardens' covering an area of approximately 640 acres are being leased out to those refugees who have experience and have lett similar gardens in Pakistan. These gardens have fruit trees such as mangoes, lemons etc.

### Urban Rehabilitation

Recently the Government of India senctioned a scheme for the grant of loans up to maximum of Rs. 500 to those displaced persons belonging to urban areas who wish to settle down in trade or any profession in a particular town or place they are likely to be absorbed permanently. Exception has been made in the case of Doctors including dentists, radiologitls vaids, hakins and homeopaths, and legal paractitioners, raising the maximum limit of the loan from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3000. Similarly in Delhi the Central Government has announced that those displaced persons who wish to acquire a tonga and/or a horse to ply on hire, the local authorities might grant loans up to a maximum of Rs. 1000. The general scheme of giving loans up to Rs. 500 and the exceptions which have been announced have been communicated by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to all Provinces and States where displaced persons seek resettlement.

The East Punjab Government have decided to allot a large number of industrial concerns left by evacuees to deserving displaced persons from Western Pakistan at reasonable rent. It is estimated that nearly 4000 factories, both registered and unregistered, have been idle in the province since August 15, involving about 100,000 workers.

The expanded industrial training facilities in the Province are expected to provide facilities to about 8000 refugees to receive training in vocations which were previously carried on by Muslims.

#### 250,000 Settled in Bombay

In Bombay, about 250,000 displaced ersons have already been settled, including about 100,000 absorbed in the Bombay city alone. Most of the refugees in Bombay Province are from urban areas of Western Pakistan where they were engaged in trade or commerce or employed in mercantile and commercial houses. About 15,000 to 20,000 have been accommodated in Government established townships in Powai, Chembur, Mulund and Borivili where schools, hospitals and other civic amenities have been provided. About 775 have secured admission in the different colleges in the Province and 570 have been enrolled in Science and Arts Institutes. 130 students have been admitted in the three Medical Colleges in Bombay.

The U. P. Government have plans to absorb refugees in small and medium size industries in which both men and women will be employed. Special attention is being paid to sports and allied industries. A number of firms having workshops in Sialkot in Western Punjab are being helped to establish themselves in Meerut and Agra where they will undertake manufacture of sports and leather goods. The Provincial Government are also considering schemes of dairy and mixed farming. Manufacture of surgical apparatus, steel trunks, buckets, agricultural implements and domestic utensils is being taken up at Allahabad, Lucknow and Kanpur. Nine Khadi centres for weaving, spinning and soap-making classes are shortly to be opened in its various districts. Investigations among refugees have shown that 2,275 trained workers could take up spinning, embroidery, tailoring and oilcrush-industries. Others, nearly 1,100, were being trained to take up handloom, hosiery, mechanical Gur and sugar making industries.

In Delhi, a Rehabilitation Board has been set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner to help in the resettlement of refugees. The Board will explore employment opportunities created by the exodus of Muslims and utilise them for resettlement of refugees after training. Efforts will also be made to help refugees who want to shift their trade and commerce previously concentrated in Amritsar and towns of West Punjab. The Board is also responsible for providing accommodation to refugees and a Rehabilitation Commissioner has been appointed charged with the responsibility of finding roofed accommodation for refugees and for giving them financial and other assistance which have been sanctioned by the local authorities.

The Delhi Improvement Trust has framed a Town Expansion Scheme which

will help in the rehabilitation of a large number of refugees. It is proposed to expand townships in Mehrauli, Kalkaji, Tehar and Sheikh Sarai in the supurbs of Delhi. These will cover a total area of 3,425 acres and will include 16 villages. Sites are also being reserved for refugees in the Shadipura extension scheme of the Improvement Trust.

The Fruit Development section of the Ministry of Agriculture have reserved 20 seats for women refugees in their fruit preservation course to be held in February, 1948.

The Ministry of Education have addressed all provincial governments not to charge capitation fees from refugee students who are obliged to join Indian Universities after leaving Pakistan.

With a view to ameliorate the difficulties of refugee holders of insurance policies, the Government of India have addressed letters to insurers doing life insurance business and Provident Societies requesting that such refugees should be given generous treatment. A favourable response to this request has been received by the Government of India from the Insurance and Provident Societies.

The Government of India have pointed out the difficulties of the policy holders which prevented them from paying either premia, and have requested that such policy holders be given the benefit of having the surrender value adjusted in each policy towards the payment of outstanding premium and interest calculated on overdue premium at the lowest practicable rates. In cases, where owing to inadequate surrender value, the policy had lapsed, the Company should be prepared on application to revive the policy at the previous rates of premium for full sums assured without medical examination or with an appreciably easier one.

#### Indian States' Offer

A number of Indian States have offered to employ refugee contractors in the various nation-building schemes. There are openings for contractors in electrical works, roads and buildings, and irrigation projects. Such projects are awaiting construction in Baroda, Bikaner, Kapurthala, Rewa, Nabha, Benares, Alipura, Datia, Rajgarh Darbar, Orissa States, Chhattisgarh States, Narsinger, Jhallagar, Kotah, Rajkot, Dharangbhara, Bundi, Indore, Banswara, Ratlam and Suket.

To assist refugee employment seekers in finding employment the Director. General of Resettlement and Employment have sent out an officer on a tour of East Punjab. He has been entrusted with the task of ensuring that employment opportunities are being adequately exploited by the Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices and to initiate steps to combat the reluctance of refugees to take up manual employment. The ad-hoc Committee set up to advise the Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, Delhi, also considered all matters relating to the employment of refugees. Arrangements were also made for the maintenance of close liaison with the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in connection with the resettlement of women through the Employment Exchange Organisation.

The month of December saw the high est placement figure recorded in the Employment Exchanges and District Employment offices of the Ministry of Labour in the Indian Union. 24,631 refugees registered themselves and 3,899 involving 15,697 dependants were placed in employment. The total number of refugees so far, who have registered themselves with the various Exchanges, was 64,224 of whom 10,566 involving 47,342 dependants have been placed in employment.

In the technical centres established at Jullundur, Ambala, Ferozepore, Ludhiana and Delhi 881 persons have been placed under training.

An All-India statement shows that up to December 15, 1947 in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara 15,820 persons have registered themselves and 848 were placed in employment. In East Punjab 27,592 registered and 5,695 were given employment. In West Bengal and Assam 23 were registered and one was given employment. In Bihar and Orissa 234 registered and 10 got employment. In Bombay out of 3,255 registered, 610; in Central Provinces and Berar out of 320 registered, 44; in Madras out of 69 registered, 5: and in the United Provinces out of 5,908 registered 954 were placed in employment.

### Refugees Registered

The following shows the number of refugees who have registered themselves in Employment Exchanges throughout the Indian Union according to their occupational groups. These figures include 40,397 men and 815 women as up to December 15, 1947, in Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi and Ajmer, East Punjab, Madras, United Provinces, and West Bengal and Assam.

	Men a	ınd	Women
Technical	11,102		319
Clerical	19,503		375
Agricultural La- bourer.	144		29
Agriculturists not require own land.	108	**	
Domestic workers	637		22
Unskilled factory workers.	564		2
Outdoor labourers	654		21
Unskilled Govern- ment & Office workers.	4,300		17
Land colonists	235		
Other assistants	32	,,	
Appointments Branch Standard.	3,100		30

Not less than 5,160 displaced Government servants from Western Pakistan have been registered by the Transfer Bureau from August 29, 1947 (when it was set up) to January 15, 1948. These include refugee Government servants from N. W. F. P., Sind and Baluchistan and also the Central Government staff rendered surplus owing to partition.

Out of the total number registered, 979 persons nominated by the Transfer Bureau were reported by the Ministries, etc., as having joined duty, 139 others were reported by the Ministries, etc., as having been absorbed.

The Transfer Bureau is not yet aware of 1,462 persons who were nominated as to whether they have joined duty or not.

# INDIAN ARMY'S AID TO FORSAKEN MILLIONS

VER 9,000,000 refugees crossed the Indo-Pakistan border in both directions up to January, 1948. Of this, nearly 4,750,000 consisted of non-Muslims who were brought over to India from the West Punjab, N. W. F. P.. Sind and Baluchistan. Organized movement on a large scale was completed by the Military Evacuation Organization in the first week of December, a week earlier than the date fixed. Cloarance of small pockets and rescue of adbucted women and forcibly converted persons are still in progress.

During the same period about 5,000,000 Muslims were moved to Pakistan from the East Punjab and Delhi, the Government of India contributing a much larger number of troops, trains and other facilities than Pakistan for the purpose.

### M. E. O. Set up

From September 1, 1947, the Indian Army took over the duties of evacuating non-Muslims from the West Punjab and the Pakistan Army became similarly responsible in the East Punjab. A Military Evacuation Organization was set up under a Major-General with troops and transport at his disposal. Pakistan's resources in military personnel and means of transport being limited, the main burden of evacuating not only non-Muslim refugees east but also non-Muslim refugees east but also Muslim refugees west foll on the Indian Army. The collection of refugees, Muslims as well as non-Muslims, arrangements for camping them, moving them on foot and by road, rail and air, loacting them in camps at destination, protection throughout, transport of food and medical supplies in all these and other matters, the Indian Army and the R. I. A. F. set up a fine record of achievement. Officers and men were subjected to prolonged fatigue, to moral and physical strain, and frequently to considerable measure of physical danger. The Indian Army raised civilian motor transport companies, loaned officers to the East Punjab Government for administrative work, provided equipment for camps, and offered assistance in numerous other

Up to October 31, 1947, an independent organisation set up by the Royal Indian Navy at Lahore evacuated 830 non-Muslim personnel of the R. I. N. to the Indian Union. The R. I. N. intend to appoint a Welfare Officer attached to the Rehabilitation Committee at Jullundur to assist in the resettlement of naval families.

Foot columns provided the means of movement for the largest number of refugees. Fleeing from towns and villages close to the Indo-Pakistan border, non-Muslims began to enter India in large numbers in numerous small disorganised parties towards the end of August and

early part of September. Later, when the Indian Army took charge, huge foot convoys, each 30,000 to 40,000 strong, embarked upon a 150 mile march from the fertile colonies of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts. Thus in 42 days (September 18 to October 29), 24 non-Muslim foot columns 849,000 strong, with hundreds of bullock carts and herds of cattle crossed the border into India. Movement of these columns raised problems of deep complexity. In some instances the Government of India had to drop cooked food as well as foodgrains and sugar for starving people from

R. I. A. F. aircraft which flew from Amritsar and Delhi to Jaranwala, Lyallpur, Churkhana, Dhabbansinghwala, Balloki headworks and Bhai Pheru. Drugs, vaccines and doctors were sent. Field ambulance units were sent to Raiwind to inoculate refugees before they crossed the border. Often on the way the columns were attacked, resulting in heavy casualties. Women and children were abducted, and unauthorised search deprived the refugees of the few valuables they carried. The columns suffered at the hand of not only man but also nature. Exposure and devastating floods thinned their ranks. Nevertheless the determined carvans moved on.

Next to foot columns, trains carried the largest number of refugees. More than 670 trains moved over 2,799,368

# Mr. Neogy Outlines Government Schemes

THE different schemes of financial assistance to refugees of various categories so far sanctioned by the Government of India were described by the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, while replying on Feb. 4 to a question by Diwan Chaman Lall in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).

Mr. Neogy said that for agriculturists there was a scheme of loans for the purchase of bullocks, seeds and agricultural implements to be given to those settling on land. Free grants will also be given for their upkeep for the period from now onwards to the next harvest. For the urban displaced persons leans will be given to shopkeepers, traders, artisans, etc., up to a maximum of Rs. 500; for medical and legal practitioners up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000. In all these cases, the Central Government, said Mr. Neogy, had intimated their readiness to advance the necessary funds to Provincial and State Governments concerned and to share the free grants and the losses of loans.

### For Small Industrialists

To assist small industrialists, the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is being set up which will advance loans for Rs. 5,000 and more, whereas big industries will be catered for by the Industrial Finance Corporation. Government have also sanctioned a scheme of loans to students for studies overseas and to students receiving training or education in India. The Central Government have recommended these schemes to all Provincial Governments for adoption.

Mr. Neogy added that the scheme for loans to students and trainees abroad will be administered directly by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation while other schemes will be administered by Provincial or State Governments or administrations concerned.

Replying to another question by the same member Mr. Neogy gave details

of the steps taken by the Government of India for the rehabilitation of teachers, doctors and lawyers from West Punjab.

He stated that the Ministry of Education have already absorbed 300 teachers in Delhi. The possibilities of introducing double shift in educational institutions are being investigated. This is expected to provide employment to more teachers. Lists of names of displaced teachers are being sent periodically to Provincial Governments and Universities with a request to absorb as many as possible. The Ministry of Education are also collecting statistics of displaced teachers. When this information has been collected Government will be in a position to decide whether it is necessary to ask the Provincial Governments to reserve a certain number of vacancies for displaced teachers so that they might be absorbed in their expansion schemes.

Particulars of refugee doctors have been circulated to all Provinces and the larger Indian States with a view to their permanent absorption. Some of the doctors have also been provided employment at various refugee camps.

All Provincial Governments and Ministries of the Government of India have been requested to consider sympathetically applications from displaced lawyers for suitable judicial and administrative posts for which they are eligible. The Ministry of States is also addressing the States to absorb lawyers in the same manner. Provincial High Courts are being approached to relax their rules so as to enable displaced legal practitioners to appear before them and their subordinate courts.

Lawyers and doctors (including Vaids, Hakims, Homeopaths, dentists and radiologists) who wish to re-establish themselves in their professions can be granted loans up to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 per head.

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refugeer across the border. Of these about 1,120,407 were non-Muslims and about 1,668,961 Muslims. Refugee trains were also attacked by armed mobs in the East and the West Punjab, thus necessitating heavy military protection, introduction of stern measures against villages through which the trains passed, imposition of collective fines and curfew in the affected areas along the railway track. Thanks to these measures, attacks on refugee trains dwindled and disappeared. Each train was escorted by a detachment—sometimes a Company strong, sometimes two platoons.

Over 427,000 non-Muslims and over 217,000 Muslim refugees were moved in motor transport under military protective escort, the Military Evacuation Organization of India alone using 1,200 military and civilian vehicles for this purpose. Motor transport was used primarily for collecting people stranded in villages and other small pockets and also for bringing them to rail heads. In one month alone 1,000,000 gallons of petrol were used in the East Punjab area, mostly by the Military Evacuation Organization.

### Floods in East Punjab

The Royal Indian Engineer Units were engaged in restoring communications which had been disrupted by the flooding of the Beas and Sutlej rivers towards the end of September, 1947, in the East Punjab.

Roads in the Punjab had never before been subjected to such heavy cart traffic as in August and September, when the mass movement of refugees was in progress. One of the finest road net works in India was breached in many places and washed away in parts in one night on account of torrential rains.

Lt. Col. P. S. Bhagat, V. C., R. I. E. commanding RIE units in this area. gave top priority to restoring the damage to the Grand Trunk Road, so that Juliundur and Amritsar, which had been cut off from the Eastern districts both by road and rail, could be linked with Ambala again. Accordingly the 1st and the 4th Companies RIE (both of Bengal Sappers and Miners) built Bailey bridges over the Bein river, five miles east of Jullundur Cantonment. In spite of many difficulties and with only one bulldozer to help build the approach roads, the work was done in five days and the bridge was opened on Oct. 9 This was the first time that Bailey bridges had been erected over gaps in the Grand Trunk Road and put to public use.

Filling the breaches on the Grand Trunk Road between Jullundur and the Beas river was an even bigger task. Here in the space of 16 miles, 15 large breaches had occurred together, and many small ones. The 132 Assault Field Coy. (Madras Sappers and Miners) was assigned the difficult task of restoring this sector. One bulldozer and one road roller were all the mechanical equipment that could be made available.

Using local sources for road metal, some army trucks and much sapper ingenuity and knowledge, this unit did good work and had the road open to traffic in aix days. Where diversions were

possible and necessary, they were made, and where large gaps on embankments had occurred, bridges were constructed.

The railway bridge over the Bein, which was partly destroyed, was repaired by engineers of the East Punjab Railway and 101 Railway Construction Company, R.I.E. (Madras Sappers and Miners).

Besides these tasks Indian Army engineers made wide and frequent surveys and kept open roads used by refugues.

### Refugee Routes

In August and early part of September, before the Military Evacuation Organizations of India and Pakistan were set up in order to control the movement of Muslim and non-Muslim refugees, Muslims immediately east of the new boundary and non-Muslims west of it crossed over on their own. Thus the areas east and west of the new boundary became clear of the minority populations.

When the Military Evacuation Organisations were set up they discussed arrangements for foot convoys and planned specified routes. These convoys sometimes contained as many as 70 or 80 thousands men each, with their bullock carts, cattle, horses and belongings. The problem of moving such convoys was, therefore, extremely difficult specially in view of the communal tension in those areas.

Non-Muslim foot convoys from Montgomery and Multan districts came past the Sulemanki Headworks into Ferozepore in September and October, Non-Muslims from Lyallpur, Jaranwala, Sheikhupura and adjacent areas used a road which crossed Balloki Headworks, where there was a bottleneck and convoys were detained for hours or even days. After crossing the Headworks, the convoys passed through Bhai Pheru and Raiwing and moved thence to Amritsar or through Chunian to Ferozepore.

Further north many non-Muslims from Lahore district crossed into Amritsar by the Grand Trunk Road or by any track or path that was handy. Still further north many non-Muslims from the Pakistan portion of Gurdaspur district and west of it crossed into the Indian portion of Gurdaspur district through Batala, Dera Baba Nanak and Jassar.

All these foot convoys were protected by Indian and Pakistan troops according to the agreement reached between the representatives of the two Dominions at a conference. Indian troops provided close escort and Pakistan troops wide escort to non-Muslim refugees while they were in Pakistan territory.

The largest number of Muslim refugees to move west took the Grand trunk Road from Jullundur to Amritsar and thence to Lahore. For a while the military authorities found it difficult to take the Muslim refugees through Amritsar city where reports of attacks on convoys in the West Punjab roused the fury of the local population who refused

to allow Muslims to go through the city. General Thimayya's men made a diversion north of Amritsar in order to send these caravans through but the diversion became unserviceable after rains. For a while all convoys were diverted along the road running on the bank of the Upper Bari Doab Canal, but this road could not take heavy traffic and broke down. Thereafter when tempers cooled down in Amritsar city, all the Muslim caravans were routed through the city along the Grand Trunk Road to the frontier post at Wagha where Pakistan auhorities took charge of them and sent them on to Lahore.

Muslim refugees from Gurdaspur district took the same route as non-Muslims to cross the border, namely through Dera Baba Nanak and Batala. Care was taken to see that one-way traffic was maintained.

From Ludhiana and Jullundur districts large columns of Muslim refugees were routed through Jagraon, Moga, Ferozepore and Sulemanki Headworks.

Muslim convoys from the southern districts of the East Punjab such as Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon took the route which ran through Hissar, Sirsa, Dalwali and Fazilka.

### **Escort by Troops**

All Muslim refugees moving on foot from the Indian Union into the West Punjab were escorted by Indian troops, on foot and in lorries, and sometimes when these columns had to pass through areas where great tension prevailed Armoured Corps units escorted them. Although according to the agreement Pakistan troops were supposed to provide close escort to the Muslim refugees while they were in Indian Union territory, most of the escort were Indian owing to the fact that the Pakistan army was unable to send an adequate number of troops.

In the third week of September, major attacks on foot convoys took place on both sides of the border, but after that such attacks dwindled in number and decreased in intensity and the end of October saw speedy and safe movement of refugees.

In October Muslim and non-Muslim refugees often took the same route and crossed each other without any untoward incident.

In October, however, there were unprecedented floods in the Punjab which rendered most of the routes taken by the refugees unserviceable for over a week. Bridges were washed away and strips of road also disappeared under water. Many refugees died of exposure and many were carried away by the floods. All foot movements were at a standstill during this period but both the Army and Civil engineers worked hard on the roads and got them going again within a week.

Fifty-six camps were set up to accommodate refugees and over 40,000 tents have been placed at the disposal of the various provinces for the same purpose. The largest of these camps is at Kurukshetra which was organised in October to billet non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan. The



Army was called upon to organise this camp and this meant the employment of 1,200 army men. This camp has a capacity of about 2,50,000 and is divided into separate towns of 50,000 each. It has a hospital of its own and contains up-to-date arrangements for vaccination and inoculation. Steps are also being taken to electrify the camp. At its peak period 20 major Indian Army units were employed.

The Army's medical services were fully used for the benefit of the refugees. Mass in equiations and vaccinations were carried out and ambulance cars accompanied the foot convoys. One thousand three hundred beds were made available for refugees in Combined Military Hospitals in Jullundur, Ambala and Delhi. Medical officers were detailed for refugee work in various stations in East Punjab and Medical Inspection Rooms were established in refugee camps. Penicillin, sulpha drugs, D. D. T. and surgical instru-Penicillin. ments and equipment, field dressings, etc., amounting to about 250 tons were made available to treat refugee casualties.

A contingent of two Veterinary officers with two complete Veterinary Sections and a number of Ferriers were sent to Jullundur for shoeing and rendering medical aid to animals, arriving from Pakistan with the refugees.

### Supplies and Stores

The Army supplied 30,000 tents to the Ministry of Reliof and Rehabilitation. Certain accommodation stores such as camp kettles, hurricane lanterns, entrenching tools, and cooking utensils were also made available by the Army for use in Kurukshetra camp. A small supply of blankets was also made to the Bihar Government.

In several different stations the Army has placed at the disposal of the various Provincial Governments and the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation accommodation sufficient to house at least 2,00,000 civilians.

Six transport companies and supervisory staff to raise five civilian transport companies were provided by the Army for the movement of refugees.

Over one million gallons of petrol, oil and lubricants were used up in a month by the Military Evacuation Organisation. Aviation spirit for retugee work during peak period reached about 600,000 gallons a month.

### KHAIRADIN-GIRJAPUR RAIL SURVEY

The Ministry of Railways (Railways Board) have sanctioned a Final Location Survey being carried out by the Agency of the E. I. Railway Administration for an alternative alignment between Khairadin and Girjapur via Bisrampur, a distance of about 34 miles in connection with Barwadin-Chirmiri (Bijuri) project. The survey will be known as the Khairadin-Girjapur survey of the Barwadih-Chirmiri (Bijuri) Railway Project.

# EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS FROM BAHAWALPUR

THE following statement of negotictions regarding evacuation of non-Muslims from Bahawalpur was issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb 11:

Of the estimated population in 1947 of 2.7 lakhs of non-Muslims, about 45 to 50,000 came out on their own in September and early October 1947, following serious disturbances in the Bahawalpur District of the About 25,000 more from that District were evacuated by the State in accordance with arrangements reached between them and the Ministry of States, Government of India, prior to the accession of the State to Pakistan. About 70,000 non-Muslims are now estimated to be living in Rahimyarkhan District of Bahawalpur, most of whom are desirous of coming out. Over a lakh is un-accounted for, and a large portion of this probably represents forcible conversions, which have been particularly heavy in this state.

### **Negotiations for Evacuation**

Negotiations for the evacuation of those non-Muslims among the remaining 70,000 as desired to migrate to India were at first being carried by the Ministry of States. At this stage, the Bahawalpur Government appeared inclined to provide some facilities in the shape of escorted special trains and represented certain difficulties regarding coal, railway stock, etc. Negotiations were also being made to carry out air evacuation from Khanpur Air field. Apparently the Bahawalpur Government were finding difficulties in obtaining the necessary railway stock and coal in the ordinary course. In the meantime, India and Pakistan had established a common pool of railway stock and were smoothly running through refugee specials between the two Dominions. In view of this and the further fact that Bahawalpur had since acceded to Pakistan. the Ministry of States felt that the best course would be to extend to Bahawalpur the arrangements in force in West Punjab. This was suggested to the Bahawalpur Government towards the end of October. The Bahawalpur Government did not agree to accept Indian troops in Bahawalpur territory, but at the same time, stated that such non-Muslims as wished to go to India would be provided with facilities to do so under their own military and police escort and undertook full responsibility for their safe transit to the State border. In actual practice, however, practically no movement facilities were provided by the Bahawalpur State except to a few persons who obtained permits from the Bahawalpur Military authorities.

On the 7th November an Officer of the Ministry of States went to Bahawalpur in connection with various matters and discussed the question afresh with the Bahawalpur Government. That Government, refused to recognise the actual factual position viz., that a large

number of non-Muslims wished to leave and were—forced to stay on only owing to lack of facilities, and refused to provide any special facilities for evacuation.

This new attitude taken up by the Bahawalpur Government was still under consideration by the Government of India when the State sent one of its Hindu Ministers to India in the middle of November with a view to persuading Bahawalpur non-Muslims who had already left to return to the State. Assurances were brought on behalf of the State that action would be taken to create such conditions as would not only enable non-Muslims to remain there in safety, but also persuade those who had left to return. The Government of India welcomed the sentiments and felt that every effort should be made to see if this desirable object could really be achieved. A meeting was thereupon called at which above mentioned Minister of the Bahawalpur Bahawalpur non-Muslims already in India were present. These representatives were asked carefully to consider the proposal that they should return under the assurances mentioned above. Some of these representatives were given special facilities to visit other centres where Bahawalpuris had come in appreciable numbers in order to consult them and also persuade them to return. These representatives, after careful consideration of the conditions then prevailing in Bahawalpur and the trend of affairs in the State, came regretfully to the conclusion that the conditions in Bahawalpur were not such as to enable non-Muslims to remain there in safety and with honcur and that in those conditions people could not really be persuaded to remain there, much less to return.

#### Facilities Refused

The Government of India were informed to that effect on the 27th November 1947. In particular it was pointed out that several thousands of villagers had been deprived of their lands and had been forced to come to the towns where they had been staying for several weeks under conditions of utmost hardship and were already in the last stages of destitution.

With a view to securing at least same facilities for those who were absolutely destitute or were not State subjects, an Officer of the MEO India went to Bahawalpur but although he contacted both the authorities at Bahawalpur at Karachi, all facilities for evacuation were completely refused.

The matter was next raised with Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Refugee Minister, Government of Pakistan Ly Hon'ble Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Ministor without Portfolio during discussions at Lahore on the 9th December. The situation as stated above was represented to Raja Sahib who agreed that as Bahawalpur was

now a part of Pakistan, it was up to the Government of Pakistan to ensure the necessary facilities. He also agreed that non-Muslims who did wish to leave should be enabled to do so. He said that he would take up the matter with His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur at Karachi about a week later, he would fix a meeting at Bahawalpur itself where the matter might be discussed with a view to making necessary arrangements. He asked that some representatives of India should be sent to the meeting and Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar agreed to do so on hearing from Raja Sahib.

### Telegram to Raja Sahib

the 11thDecember Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar sent a telegram to Raja Sahib pointing out that complete absence of any tran port facilities to India was only increasing panic and asking for the enriest possibly arrangements. He also enquired as to the date of the moeting. Further he prossed for the establishment of camps for destitutes at Khanpur and Rahimyarkhan, and distribution of food to them. No reply to this telegram was received, but in another connection Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan informed Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar that a meeting was being held on the 19th at Bahawalpur. No invitation to the Government of India to send any representatives was extended. On the 21st Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar cent a further telegram repeating his earlier telegram and asking for any early decision. Yet another telegram was sent by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar on the 24th December pointing out the impossible conditions under which the destitutes were living and reiterating the request for opening of camps and distribution of food. Reference was also made to reports of further violence including the shooting down of 20 leading Hindus of Ahmadpur Lamma in broad day light on the 10th December. With a view to obtaining more information regarding conditions in Bahawalpur, suggestion was made that a liaison Officer at Bahawalpur may be accepted by the state authorities. In reply a telegram and a letter were received from Raja Gnaznafar Ali Khan towards the end of December reiterating the decision of the Bahawalpur State not to permit non-Muslims to leave the State and repeating assurances of continued protection and restoration of normalcy within a short time. No reference was made in these communications to the question of distribution of food to destitutes, the opening of camps, the evacuation of forced converts and the recent instances of renewed violence.

In reply to the above Shri Gopalaawami Ayyangar addressed Kaja Ghaznafar Ali Khan on the 1st January 1948 pointing out that while the Government of India did not wish to encourage migration, facilities ought to be provided for those who none-the-less wished to leave. The cases of thousands of destitutes in various towns in the State and of the 60 to 70,000 forcible converts were specially mentioned. Offer was made of provision of railway stock and other facilities out of the pool with the two MEOS and it was suggested that details should be discussed in tripartite talks between the Government of Pakistan. Bahawalpur and India. No reply was received to this telegram or the earlier representations on these subjects.

waiting for several days. during which panic in Bahawalpur further increased due to events in Sind, and particularly rioting at Karachi, the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation again addressed Raja Ghiznafar Ali Khan, drawing attention to previous telegrams and to the immense hardship being caused by the protracted delay to which this matter was being subjected Again a request was made for a conference to discuss the matter as well as concurrence to the appointment of a Livison Officer at Bahawalpur. In the meantime, it was understood that the State Government were proposing to send out the destitutes, mainly Oads, by a foot convoy involving them in a strenuous journey of several days, involving considerable danger and hardship instead of allowing them to be evacuated safely by escorted train. An offer was made that the Government of India would supply special rakes, if necessary, from the Government of India's own stocks. An offer was also made to send the Director-General of Evacuation to Lahore or Bahawalpur to fix up details. Again no reply has been received to this communication. On the 28th January, 1948, the Hon'ble Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation has again addressed personal communication to Raja Ghaznafar Ali Khan on various subjects including the question of evacuation from Bahawalpur.

# United Nations Appeal For Children

The United Nations Organisation has sponsored a scheme called the "United Nations Appeal for Children" for the purpose of collecting voluntary contributions from people of all countries of the world with the intention that the contributions collected should be used for the benefit of children, adolescents and expectant and nursing mothers without distinction of race, creed, nationality or political belief, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Health on Feb. 9. In view of the great humanitarian purpose and the international character of the appeal, the Government of India have decided that India should associate herself with the scheme. All the funds collected in India will be utilised in India for the benefit of children, adolescents and expectant and nursing mothers in the country without distinction of caste or creed.

With a view to implementing the scheme, it is proposed to set up under the chairmanship of the Hor'ble Raj-Kumari Amrit Kaur a National Committee in India which will be voluntary and non-governmental organisation, and will include representatives of leading national organisations as also distinguished individuals in the country. The committee will be responsible for organising the appeal, making collections and allocating and distributing the proceeds thereof for the purposes specified. Invitations have been sent to leading national organisations and distinguished individuals to serve on the National Committee.

# Attack on Parachinar Refugee Camp: Strong Representations to Pakistan

Replying to a short notice question by Shri Deshbandhu Gupta in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on Feb. 4, the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, disclosed that the strongest representations have been made to the Pakistan Government regarding the attack on the Parachinar Refugee Camp indicating the views of the Government of India on the attitude of the Pakistan authorities on the question of protection and evacuation of the refugees at Parachinar and the necessity of immediate evacuation of other non-Muslims from the .N. W. F. P. and the tribal areas. He added that the Government of India had also emphasised the responsibility of the Pakistan Government for the immediate recovery of the abducted persons. He added that so far only an interim reply had been received from the Pakistan Government.

Mr. Neogy added that the only information so far available about the attack has been supplied by the local representatives of the Government of Pakistan to our representative at Peshawar. According to information supplied by them, it appears that 130 non-Muslims living in the Parachinar Camp were

killed, 81 wounded and 50 abducted. Inquiries made of people who have been evacuated to the territories of the Indian Union, however, indicate that 138 non-Muslims were killed, 223 abducted and 150 injured more or less severely.

## R. I. A. F. COMMUNICATION SQUADRON

The formation of a Communication Squadron of the Royal Indian Air Force has been announced by Air Headquarters, (India).

Apart from being available for communication purposes, this quedren will also enable officers of the General duties branch (flying) on the staff of Air Headquasters, (India), to keep in flying practice.

The Squadron which is located at Palam will be attached to No. 3 Wing, RIAF.

### CEYLON INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

# Lord Mountbatten's Speech at Flag Hoisting Ceremony

IS Excellency the Governor-General Lord Mountbatten delivered the following speech at the flag-hoisting ceremony in New Delhi on the occasion of the Ceylon Independence Celebrations on Feb. 14:

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity of speaking at this Flag-Hoisting Ceremony because I am fortunate enough to have a close personal acquaintance with Ceylon. During the last war my South-East Asia Headquarters were at Kandy for over eighteen months, and as the island was very much a base of operations for all three services I visited many parts of it and so was able to see much of its tropical beauty. I have never met a more friendly and cheerful people and I cannot believe that there is a lovelier island anywhere in the world.

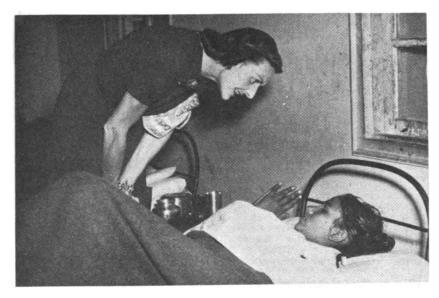
But I had close interests with the island from another different point of view. A month after I arrived in the island, I called a meeting with Their Excellencies the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott, and the Commander-in-Chief, Ceylon, Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton. As a result of this meeting I sent home a report which, I understand, contributed materially to the decision to send out the Soulbury Commission to the island, one of the members of which was the recent Governor of Bengal, Sir Frederick Burrows. The independence of Ceylon within the British Commonwealth which we are celebrating today is the direct result of the Soulbury Commission's report

and I am naturally proud to have had the privilege of playing a small part in Ceylon's achievement of freedom.

Fortunately, Ceylon, like India, has escaped the fate of Burma in being a major battlefield of the past war, and has emerged unscathed apart from the short air raids in 1942. In these circumstances there is a solid foundation on which to build for the future, and with economic stability and a good export trade I feel that Ceylon can look forward to the future with every confidence. I should have liked to have been able to visit Colombo again for the Independence Celobrations, but this has not proved possible. I am therefore particularly pleased to have had this opportunity of joining in the ceiebrations here in Delhi, and to wish Ceylon all good fortune in the years to come. I am asking Mr. De Silva, the Ceylon Government's Representative here in Delhi, to pass these good wishes of mine on to his Government in Colombo.

### THEIR EXCELLENCIES VISIT ALLAHABAD

Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess Mountbatten of Burma paid a one-day private visit to Allahabad on Feb. 9. Accompanied by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Their Excellencies witnessed the Kumbha Mela and paid a visit to the Kumba Nehru Memorial Hospital. Her Excellency also visited the Dufferin Hospital.



Her Excellency Lady Mouatbatten talking to a pictient in the Kamla Nehru
Memorial Hospital

## INDIA'S ENVOY TO SWITZERLAND

The Rovernment of India and the Swiss Government have decided to exchange diplomatic missions at Legation level, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Feb. 9. They are sonfident that the friendly relations existing between them will thereby he further strengthened to the benefit of the people of both countries.

The Gorernment of the Swiss Confederation have decided to appoint M. Armin Daeniker as their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in India. The Government of India are appointing Mr. Dhirajlal Rhulabhai Desai as their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Switzerland.

### ENQUIRY INTO RELATIVE STRENGTH OF LABOUR BODIES

The Government of India, it is learnt, have asked the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian National Trade Union Congress for information regarding the number of Trade Unions affiliated to them, membership etc. This has been done with a view to facilitating an enquiry for ascertaining their relative strength so that delegates and advisers could be selected in consultation with the most representative workers' organisation for the I.L.O. Conference to be held at San Francisco in June 1948.

Provincial Governments have been requested to co-operate in this enquiry.

Several Cash Certificates and a Defence Savings Certificate standing in the name of Suraj Prakash, Swatantar Prakash, Snehlata (all members of the family of Dr. Gian Chand), and in the name of Kamla, daughter of Mr. Ram Chand, purchased from Rawalpindi, Multan city and Dinga post offices, have been recovered from looted property in the West Punjab, says a Press Note issued by D. G., P. and T. on Feb. 4. Claimants are advised to apply to the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla with proofs of their claims.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Honourable Mr. Justice Mahommedali Currim Chagla, acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, to be the permanent Chief Justice of that Court in the place of Sir Leonard Stone who resigned the effice with effect from the 3rd January 1948, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Feb. 5.

# Dr. Syed Hussain's Broadcast

taneously worked for national freedom and national unity. He was able to achieve the one but not the other. Let us all work conscientiously to complete his unfinished job—that would be a true homage to his blessed memory," thus said Dr. Syed Hussain, India's Ambassador-designate to Egypt on the eve of his departure in a broadcast from All-India Radio Delhi on Feb. 15.

Dr. Syed Hussain said:

"It is with a heavy heart that I leave India. The joy and pride of serving her abroad have been dimmed by the shadow of a national calamity which is also a deep personal loss.

Although I saw him several times afterwards, the last real conversation I had with Mahatma Gandhi was on the first day of his last fast orr January 13th. He was keenly interested in Egypt, and in my mission to Egypt. Not to tire him by unnecessary conversation on a day like that I twice offered to leave but he bade me stay. I would have taken a personal message of greetings from him to His Majesty the King of Egypt, but that alas remained unwritten.

For more than a quarter of a century it was the personality of Mahatma Gandhi, more than any other single factor, that had helped to raise and sustain the prestige of India and Indians abroad. Today that prestige has suffered an eclipse. It seems to me that we can retrieve our position, and redeem our national honour in the eyes of the world only by observing a stricter fidelity in the pursuance of his aims and ideals now that he is gone from amongst us than we were able to render while he lived.

### World's Eyes on India

For thirty years Gandhiji simultaneously worked for national freedom and national unity. He was able to achieve the one but not the other. Let us all work consciontiously to complete his unfinished job—that would be a true homage to his blessed memory.

The representative of a country abroad can only represent, in the last analysis, the strength, dignity and unity of his nation at home. The eyes of the world are on India today, and increasingly we will be called upon to play in international affairs a part worthy of our traditions and our actual and potential greatness. Let us then close our ranks and move forward to the destiny which awaits us—to a future that shall be worthy of our past.

During the whole course of my adult life I have never discriminated between Indian and Indian. Unofficially I was ever a champion of India and her cause. Officially I will continue to be the same. "JAI HIND."



M. Jaroslav Sejnoha, Czechoslovak Ambazsador to India (left), who arrived in Delhi on Feb. 1, presented his oredentials to H. B. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General, on Feb. 14. (Below) The Czechoslovak Ambassador called on Pandit Nehru on Feb. 7



### INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN BURMA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

T a simple, brief and solemn ceremony held on Feb. 2 in the President's House, the Indian Ambassador, Doctor M. A. Rauf, presented his credentials to the President of the Union of Burma.

Dr. Rauf was introduced to the President by U Tin Tut, Burmese Foreign Minister.

Addressing the President after presenting credentials, Dr. Rauf referred to centuries old historical and cultural associations between India and Burma and said: "Our relations in the past have been close and friendly. In more recent times our connection has been still closer. Thus politically, economically and culturally we have been bound to one another".

Dr. Rauf said: "The tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi has caused deep sadness across the hearts of not only all Indians cut also to all peace-loving people of the world. I am grateful to Your Excellency and to the Government and people of Burma who have joined us in mourning our great loss and who have expressed sincere and heartielt condolences".

Making reference to large number of Indians who live in Burma, Dr. Rauf said: "These people have been lawabiding citizens who have for many years carried on business and professions within the territories of the Union. Our labourers have contributed to the development of this country. Many of them have lived and died here. I wish to commend to Your Excellency the population of Indians who have made Burma their home. Those of my countrymen who accept citizenship of Burma would become one with the great Burmese nation. Those others would still remain friends of Burma and would do everything to assist the Union of Burma in the great task of reconstruction"

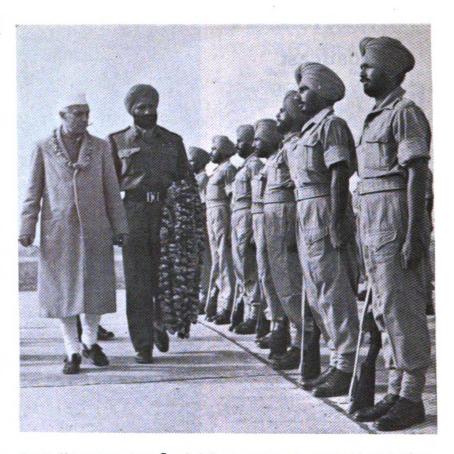
### Burmese President's Reply

The President of the Burmese Republic, replying to the Indian Ambassador who presented his credentials, said:,

"I regret that we should meet under the shadow of the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi, an event which has cast a gloom on this country as much as on yours. Nevertheless, I have special pleasure in welcoming, in your new capacity as Ambassador, one so specially fitted by his knowledge of both India and of Burma to interpret the Indian people to the Burmese and the Burmese people to Indians.

"It will be the endeavour of myself and of my Government to maintain and strengthen our happy relationship, not only in politics but also in the fields of economics and culture".

Referring to Indians in Burma, the President said: "I fully acknowledge the great part which Indians have played in the past in the development of Burma.



Pandit Nehru inspecting a Guard of Honour during his recent visit to Amritsar

of them you know, those qualified to become who are Union citizens and who desire to do so will be a welcome element in the body politic of this country. Those who elect to retain their status as citizens of the Indian Dominion will, however, have the goodwill of my people and the protection of my Government while they reside in Burma, and the high regard in which we hold India and her Government will be guarantee of their good treatment in this country".

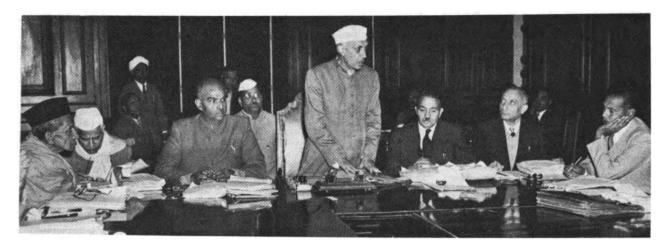
## RE-ENTRY CERTIFICATES FOR BURMA

Information has been received that the Government of Burma have decided to continue to accept departure and residence certificates, as evidence though not as conclusive proof of holders thereof having left Burma after reoccupation, in considering their claims for re-entry into Burma, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Feb. 10. All such persons seeking re-entry after January 15, however, will be treated as new immigrants for purposes of entry into Burma and will be given temporary immigration permits by the Burma Government Immigration Officers at ports in India.

On arrival in Burma if they prove within three months that they are bona fide residents and have trade and family connections in Burma and went out of the country on temporary visit before the enactment of Burma Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1947, they will be allowed to stay on in Burma.



Pandit Nehru at the frontier between Amritsar and Lahore where he talked to officers and men of joint India and Pakistan Army check post



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presided over the meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on Feb. 6. The picture shows (L. to R.) Sir Shri Ram, Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dr. S. P. Mookerji, Pandit Nehru, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Sir Ardeshir Dalal and Mr Bahadur, Secretary of the Council

## SYNTHETIC PETROL—DRUG RESEARCH— ELECTRO-CHEMICAL INSTITUTE

### Scientific and Industrial Research Schemes

THE establishment of an Electro-Chemical Research Institute in South India with the Rs. 15 lakhs donation made towards it by Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chattiar, plans for setting up a Central Institute for Drug Research and preparations for founding a synthetic petrol industry in India were among a number of proposals adopted by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which met in New Delhi in the first week of February. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister presided.

Recommending the early establishment of an industry for the manufacture of synthetic petrol from Indian coal, the Governing Body set up a Committee to work out the details of the scheme for the consideration of the Government of India. The committee which consists of Mr. G. D. Birls, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Sir J. C. Gosh and Mr. D. N. Wadia will draw up the scheme in consultation with foreign experts.

For the proposed industry in India, second and third grade qualities of coal will be utilised for the production of synthetic petrol and this in itself, is an additional advantage, because India's resources of first grade coals are limited. The Ministry of Industry and Supply has already taken initial steps in the matter and has arranged for the testing in America of Indian coals for their suitability for the manufacture of synthetic petrol.

Simultaneous with the manufacture of synthetic petrol, the council decided that intensified geological and geophysical exploration of possible areas of occurrence of petroleum in India should be carried out by the Government. It has also recommended to the Government that the possibility of buying crude petroleum from the Iranian and Burma Oil fields and refining it at two or three refineries at Indian ports should be explored.

On the recommendation of the Fuel Research Committee, the Governing Body of the Council approved of the establishment of three field survey stations for research in coal in the C. P. Raniganj and Bokhro-Ramgarh coal fields at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs. It was also recommended to the Government that a statutory cess of \( \frac{1}{2} \) anna per ton of coal despatched in India should be levied for aiding fuel research in the country.

The Governing Body, also decided to have detailed plans prepared for carrying out work on underground gasification of coal which has brought about revolutionary changes in fuel technology in the world, particularly Russia and the U.S.A.

### Dyestuff Technology

With a view to promoting development of dyestuff both on the education and on the industrial recearch sides, the Council agreed to provide additional funds to the Bombay University for the creation of a Professorship in Dyestuff Technology and for the institution of six research fellowships. The Council has been granting for some time to the Bombay University an annual recurring grant of Rs. 25,000 for the Department of Dyestuff Technology which will now be increased to Rs. 54,000. Fifty per cent of the seats in the Department will be

reserved for students belonging to provinces other than Bombay.

Two important schemes in the field of atomic research, viz. theoretical studies in the properties of meson field, and biological aspects of atomic research were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 50,000. The latter scheme will be investigated at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay.

The Council also considered a draft bill for Governmental control of development of gronic energy and disposal of the raw materials. The bill is to be further examined by the President and the Vice-President of the Council and the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research.

#### Drug Research

Revised plans of the Central Institute of Drug Research, the establishment of which was approved last year, were accepted by the Council at its meeting. The Institute will be established at a capital cost of Rs. 20 lakhs and will cover a very wide scope of activity extending at one and from systematic scientific studies of crude drugs which have been in use in indigenous system of medicines for countries to the highly developed field of synthetics and antibiotics at the other.

The Government of India have approved in principle the establishment of the Institute and have provided necessary funds for the planning work connected with its establishment. The Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association also have agreed to finance the Institute to considerable extent. A Special Committee with Dr. Jivraj Mehta as chairman has been set up to select a suitable place for the location of the Institute.

A comprehensive scheme of research including nutritional and feeding tests as well as chemical studies from the scientific point of view of Vanaspati was approved for investigation at the University College of Science, Calcutta, the Indian Institute of Science, Banglore, the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor and the Department of Chemical

Technology, Bombay. This scheme was drawn up by the Vanaspati Research Advisory Committee set up by the Council and will be financed by the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association.

Considerable controversy has been raised in recent times regarding the nutritional value of Vanaspati and the projected scientific investigations will, it is certain, help to decide the various issues. These investigations will be carried out simultaneously and correlated by Prof, B. G. Guha, Prof. Subrahamanyan, Dr. Patwardhan and Dr. Venkataraman.

### **Electro-Chemical Institute**

Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar has made a munificent donation of Rs. 15 lakhs towards the establishment of Electro-Chemical Research Institute in South India under the auspices of the Council. This Institute will be in the chain of India's National Laboratories, which are in the course of establishment through the efforts of the Council. Five of these National Laboratories are fast coming up and concrete proposals are under way for the establishment of a few more such as Leather Research Institute in Madras, Road Research Institute in Delhi and Building Research Station at Roorkee. Dr. Chettiar's donation, which has been thankfully accepted by the Council is significant of the keen interest evinced by the public in the promotion of national welfare through scientific research and development.

On the recommendation of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Governing Body of the Council has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 6.5 lakhs for the renewal of 100 research schemes which are in operation in various universities and research institutions all over India under the auspices of the Council.

The Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research sanctioned the following new schemes of research entailing a cost of Rs. 87,000 and recommended by the Board of

Scientific and Industrial Research which also held its meeting on the 5th February in New Delhi under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:—

- (i) Investigations on Uranium, Thorium and Radium content of Madras granites, gneisses and their intrusive suits, including the Cuddappah traps, by Dr. R. S. Krishnan.
- (ii) Recovery of primary metals from non-ferrous scray by Mr. G. C. Mitter.
- (iii) Investigation of a general effect of light on the electrical conductivity of systems activated by various types of discharge by Dr. S. S. Joshi.
- (iv) Study of the properties of crystallin quartz, particularly the piezp electric, elastic, optical and twinning properties in relation to its crystal-structure by Dr. Bishambar Dayal Saxena.
- (v) Scheme of research on synthetic fibres from proteins by Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar.
- (vi) Preparation of Vinyl plastics from alcohol and chlorine by Dr. S. K. K. Jatkar.
- (vii) Pilot plant investigations on the production of acetic anhydride and acetic acid from ethyl alcohol by Dr. Sir J. C. Ghosh.
- (viii) Effect of radiation on moulds, bacteria etc. in relation to their metabolism by Dr. B. C. Guha.
- (ix) Manufacture of vitamin C from Sorbose by Dr. M. Damodaran.
- (x) Study of surface active higher alkyl ammonium cations as antibacterials by Dr. M. Damodaran.
- (xi) Study of micro-biological methods for the estimation of complex organic substances of industrial and nutritional importance by Dr. M. Damodaran.
- (xii) Preparation of phosphanilic acid and related substances by Prof. S. V. Bhide.

### JAPANESE CLOTH TO BE RE-EXPORTED

REPLYING to a question in Parliament on Feb. 10, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Frasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, assured the House that 80 million yards of cloth purchased by Government from Japan would be re-exported from India without causing any loss in the transaction.

The quantity of cloth purchased is 80 million yards. The prices of the cloth, f. o. b. Japanese port, vary from 9 annas per yard to 12½ annas per yard. No yarn has been purchased. The prices had been settled before the purchases were made.

The f. o. b. price varies from 35 per cent to 85 per cent more than the (controlled) ex-mill prices of corresponding varieties of Indian cloth. If to the f. o. b. prices are added freight, insurance charges etc. the landed cost in India of the more expensive varieties would come to more than double the (controlled) exmill price of corresponding Indian cloth. The total f. o. b. value is about Rs. 6 crores payable in dollars.

It has not been possible to cancel the contract for cloth but it has been decided to re-export the cloth.

The original intention was to distributute this cloth to the Provinces and States in the same manner as cloth manufactured indigenously. On reconsideration, however, it has been decided to relieve the acute shortage, which necessitated this cloth contract, in another way. It is the intention now to re-export this cloth, since it is more expensive and will earn more foreign currency than a corresponding amount of Indian cloth. As it is proposed to debit the re-exports against India's cotton textile export quota during 1948 a corresponding quantity of indigenous cloth, which would otherwise be exported and which would be cheaper, will be retained in India for the benefit of the Indian consumer.

# DR. ALAGAPPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Electro-Chemical Institute to be opened under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, it is understood, will belocated at Karakandi, South India. Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar, whose donation of Rs. 15 lakhs is enabling the establishment of the Institute, has already established a college at that town at a cost of Rs. 21 lakhs granted by him and it is planned to have the Electro-Chemical Institute attached to it. It is expected in certain quarters that the Institute may be shortly opened by the Prime Minister of India.

The charities of Dr. Chettiar, who

is a well-known industrial magnate and donationist of South India, have been of the order of lakhs, projects of scientific and industrial research being the most important among their beneficiaries. The Dr. Alagappa Chettiar's College of Technology in the University of Madras, the College of Technology attached to the Annamalai University, Pharmaceutical studies in a college at Ernakulam (Cochin), Tamil Research in Travancore University and the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya may be cited among a large number of research organizations and objectives which have benefited by his benefactions which now amount to nearly Rs. 50 lakhs.

## MICA WORKERS' DISPUTE FOR ADJUDICATION

The Industrial dispute between the owners of mica mines in Bihar and their workers has been referred for adjudication to Mr. F. Jeejeebhoy, Chairman of the Industrial Tribunal at Dhanbad, says a Press Note issued by the Minsitry of Labour on Feb. 6. The issues raised include wages and bonus, dearness allowance, leave and holidays with pay, hours of work and overtime, compensation for forced idleness, permanency of service, standing orders regarding service conditions, medical facilities and rations.

An order to this effect was published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated February 5, 1948.

### SPECIAL MACHINERY FOR FAMINE RELIEF

### Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram On Food Problem

SCHEME for the establishment of special machinery at the Centre, to deal with the immediate problems of famine relief and to bring to early fruition, schemes of development which would prevent the recurrence of famine conditions was outlined by Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister, speaking on a resolution moved in the Dominion Legislature by Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on Feb. 4.

Below is the full text of the speech:—

"I have tried to intervene in the debate at this stage because as I have been listening to the speeches of the mover and other speakers one thing that has struck me is that on most points they seem to be speaking out my thoughts. I have been feeling whether it is necessary to prolong the debate beyond the present stage. I have welcomed the moving of the resolution and I have also welcomed the debate because I feel that the food problem of the country is a subject on which we cannot have sufficient discussion with a view to help the country out of the difficulty in which it finds itself. Speaking generally, I feel that there are three points which stand out prominently as a result of this debate. One point is that food ought to be given a very high priority when we are discussing the problems of our country.

### First Priority for Food

I would welcome a unanimous decision that food ought to be given the first priority. That is my view. If it becomes the view of the Provinces and of the Assembly then I have no doubt that we shall be able to solve all our difficulties much earlier than we may think. The second more or less common idea expressed was that we should endeavour to make our country self-sufficient with regard to food. In this also I find myself in completest agreement with the opinion of the House. The third point that has been made out is that in some manner, in some measure, the Centre ought to take a more active, hand in dealing with the food question and certainly in dealing with the famine question. It is not yet clear to me as to what exactly is the extent to which the Central Legislature would wish the Government of India to take up the responsibility with regard to famines and also the production of food.

There is a certain amount of difference of opinion expressed today. But on the whole, apart from the difference of opinion as to the extent and measure of responsibility which the Centre should take up, there is common expression of view

that the Centre ought to take, as I have said, a more active hand in the matter.

Except one or two speakers, others have more or less omitted any reference to the very great work which the Provincial Governments have to undertake and have undertaken whenever local famines have occurred. As I suppose most of the Honourable Members know, we have got a very extensive and detailed Famine Code which has been functioning for many many years. Under that Famine Code the Provincial Governments are expected and empowered to anticipate and prepare for meeting the situation whenever they find that famine has overtaken any part of the Province. I have no evidence to indicate that the Provincial Governments have not risen to the occasion whenever this distress has come. But it may be that that matter also may need a little more examination. Somehow most of the speakers made no reference to the first part of the Resolution and most of the speakers contented themselves with elaborating their ideas on the second part. The second part deals with permanent or final remedies. It is with regard to that aspect of the question that I think we might go a little into detail. Whether today is the occasion for going into detail I cannot say, I wish we could sit through and have a full

dress debate on various methods of developing those special famine areas, which year in and year out, or once every four or five years, have to meet this calamity. But probably the procedure that I am suggesting may find some favour with them.

I find also one very promising and interesting feature of today's debate and that is that the representatives of some of the States also want that the Central Government should help them in regard to famine and the States should not be isolated from the rest of India. I am glad that on every occasion and on every question the Indian States feel that no difference now exists between their territory and the territory of India proper, so called. I will be only too glad, willing and anxious to do the utmost I can as Food Minister to help our States, to win their co-operation and in conjunction with them deal with the situation function their own territory.

What I feel on the whole is that if I accept this resolution, it means that there is to be a permanent Commission dealing with the immediate problems of famine and also putting forward and executing schemes of development which will prevent famine. If this permanent Commission is to prevent famine there can be no permanency in its own tenure, because it must dissolve itself once it succeeded in achieving its objective. Therefore, I have hesitation in accepting this Resolution in this form. I have also a feeling that such as I would wish that the Central Government

### CENTRE'S HELP TO MADRAS

Accelerated supplies from the grain allotted to the Province for the first quarter ending March, 1948, a cent per cent. increase over the grain allocation for the current year, and assistance for increasing the out-turn of the spring and autumn short-term crops, are among the immediate measures which the Central Government decided to take as a first step to meet the difficult food situation in Madras, in the beginning of February.

As against a total grain allotment of 200,000 tons for Madras for the current year, made earlier by the Central Government, it is understood that the new allocation will aim at 400,000 tons. In case Government efforts to secure increased supplies' both from within and without the country are successful, it is stated that the share of Madras might also be increased accordingly. At the moment however, nothing more precise can be stated, because of several uncertain factors such as the out-turn of the ensuing Rabi crop and the increasing requirements of refugees and availability of imports.

By persuading surplus provinces to expedite their allotments and by their

recent Food agreement with Pakistan, the Central Government have been able to accelerate supplies for Madras. According to the original programme Madras was to receive in January about 21,000 tons of foodgrains only against the 92,000 tons allotted to that Province for the first quarter of the year. As a result of the acceleration of supplies, the original quota for January has been raised to 45,000 tons of which 16,000, tons is rice and 9,000 tons is other grain. In the current month, it is likely that Madras will receive an additional 10,000 tons rice by way of accelerated supplies.

### Unrationed Population

During the recent discussions with the representatives of the Madras Government, the Food Ministry of the Government of India is reported to have advised the Provincial Government to assure some supplies to the unrationed population. For this the most energetic action will have to be taken to increase production during 1948 itself, and to step up internal procurement. The Food Ministry is contemplating further measures to assist Madras in its present difficult position.

should have an active hand in dealing with famine in India wherever it takes place, I am doubtful whether the time is ripe for the Centre more or less to assume completest responsibility. If the Central Government has to function in terms of this Resolution all that it will mean is that the Development Board must completely replace the Agriculture Department of the Provinces and also the same Department of the Centre. I am therefore anxious to find some kind of via media and I propose to make a brief statement—a kind of formula which may enable the Centre to function, which may enable the Provinces also to share the responsibility and yet which may provide them some kind of speedy and quick machinery both to deal with famine when it occurs and also to inaugurate those schemes of development which will prevent famine hereafter in this country. I expect that after I have stated my position the mover of the resolution and also the mover of the Amendment will both withdraw their proposals.

### Special Machinery

This is what I propose to do. I propose to set up at the Centre some special machinery capable of speedy action to deal with the immediate problems of famine relief in co-operation with the Provinces. I also propose, in consultation with the Provinces, to examine the question of creating special machinery to bring to early fruition schemes of development calculated to prevent the recurrence of famine conditions. I am not able at this stage to commit myself to details, but I will discuss this question with members of the Assemnly who have participated in the debate and later with representatives of the Provincial Governments and I hope to evolve an arrangement which would give general satisfaction, my idea being that by adopting this out of the way procedure of consulting Members of the Assembly off the debate hour and in an informal way, probably a suitable via media might be discovered.

In view of the statement that I have made I hope the honourable the mover of the resolution would withdraw his resolution and so also the mover of the amendment".

#### GRAIN ALLOTMENT TO BENGAL

It is understood that during 1948, West Bengal will receive from the Centre 200,000 tons of foodgrains. Of this quantity, 140,000 tons will be wheat and the balance other grains. The average supplies from the Centre for the four years ended 1946-47 amounted to 273,000 tons. Food officials stress the fact that this quantity was for unpartitioned Bengal and during years when Government commitments under rationing were larger than at present.

As regards rice, the Food Ministry is reported to be of the view that Bengal should try to be self-reliant and concentrate on internal procurement. With the new rice crop estimated at 3 million tons, there is little reason for Bengal at this stage to approach the Centre for rice allocation. The prospects of imports are still not clear, and the urgent demands among others, of Madras and the refugoes have to be met,

### NATIONALISATION OF AIR SERVICES

### Standing Advisory Committee's Views

ATIONALISATION of India's air services was generally favoured by the Standing Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Communications when it met in New Delhi on Feb. 14 with the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai in the Chair.

It accepted the Minister's suggestion that a Departmental Committee, which would include some members with practical experience of aviation, should be appointed to go into the question of the Government starting an experimental service on one route.

Figures were given to the Committee indicating the development of civil aviation in India during 1947. Last year the number of passengers flown was 2,800,000, the freight carried was 4,400,000 lbs., the number of passenger miles flown 137,000,000, the capacity in ton-miles 18,500,000, the number of routes operated 21 and the number of air companies running scheduled transport services 8, as against 1,000,000, 1,300,000 lbs., 61,000,000, 8,500,000, 16 and 5 respectively in 1946. The number of aircraft increased by 60 per cent and personnel 300 per cent during 1947.

### Training in Civil Aviation

The Committee approved the Government's scheme for imparting training in civil aviation, the capital works programme for improvement of airports and the development plans regarding the India Metereological Department. Among other schemes agreed to by the Committee were the opening of a direct mail route to Assam, the starting of mail motor transport in large cities and the establishment of the new Complaints Organisation by the Posts & Telegraphs Department, and the issue of India's new postage stamps.

The scheme for civil aviation training envisages the continuance of the Communications School at Saharanpur, the establishment of Flying and Aerodrome Schools at Allahabad pending a decision on the permanent location of the centre and the running of a Ground Engineering School and Repair Organisation by a commercial contractor under the general supervision of the Civil Aviation Directorate. It is proposed that 'pre-entry' training should be given by the Flying Clubs subsidised by the Government. The Flying School would take in the 'pre-entry' pupils who passed out of the Clubs and give them training both in twin-engined and single-engined aircraft up to 'B' Licence standard. The output of the School during the first year would be about 56 and double that number thereafter. The Aero-drome School is expected to turn out about 300 officers trained in flying control, communications, navigation, etc. during the first 3-year period. Control operators also would be trained at the rate of 100 per year in the School. Under the Ground Engineering School scheme, it is proposed to train about 300 men in the maintenance of airframes, 150 in the maintenance of engines and 50 in instruments and electrical services

The capital works programme in respect of civil aviation is estimated to cost Rs. 15.5 crores during the first 10-year period. Nearly Rs. 2 crores has been budgeted for expenditure in 1948-49 on improvements to sirports at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and 9 other places. This also includes the construction of a Central Research Laboratory at Delhi.

#### Direct Mail Route to Assam

The proposed direct mail route to Assam will be from Calcutta to Kishanganj or Siliguri by train and thence to Cooch Bihar by road and again from Cooch Bihar to Golakganj by train. As the rail route between Cooch Bihar and Golakganj goes through Pakistan over a short distance, it is also proposed to improve the road from Cooch Bihar via Tufanganj, Bukshihut and Azamganj. This route, when completed, will provide a direct mail route entirely inside Indian territory. The Committee agreed to all unsurcharged first class mail between Calcutta and Gauhati being carried by air until the direct mail route between Calcutta and Golakganj is established.

## POSTAL SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Government propose to have a comprehensive agreement with Pakistan on postal matters to have effect from April 1, this year. Steps are being taken to arrange a meeting between the representatives of the P. & T. Departments of the two countries for this purpose. This was disclosed on Feb. 3 by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai during question hour in the Indian Parliament.

tion hour in the Indian Parliament.

Referring to V. P. articles and money orders scnt before August 15 last year by persons who had later migrated from Pakistan, the Minister added that under the postal services standstill agreement with Pakistan, which would be in force until March 31, 1948, such articles and money orders could be redirected to any place in India and Pakistan.

#### New Telephone Equipment

Answering another question, Mr. Kidwai said that in view of the great demand for new telephones in all parts of India, Government had placed orders in certain countries abroad and were also considering a plan to manufacture telephone equipment in the country. The orders related to auto-equipment, switch-board wires and under-ground cables. The dates of arrival of these would vary from three months to two years. The equipment would be installed soon after receipt in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other places which were in need of additional machineries. The installation was expected to take about 3 to 9 months after receipt.

### DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION BILL

### Mr. Gadgil's Speech In Parliament

NOVING for consideration of the Bill to provide for establishment and regulation of a Corporation for the development of the Damodar Valley in the provinces of Bihar and West Bengal, as reported by the Select Committee, in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on Feb. 13 Shri N.V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, said:

When this Bill was referred to the Select Committee in the last session, a comprehensive description of the whole scheme that has been contemplated and for which an agency called the "Damodar Valley Corporation" has been evolved, was given by me. The Bill was welcomed here in the House unanimously, and to the extent to which I was able to ascertain public opinion as expressed in the various newspapers all over the country, and particularly from the Provinces of Bihar and West Bengal, I should say that this Bill has been well received.

The Select Committee, on which were representative members from West Bengal and from Bihar, has gone very carefully into the various provisions of the Bill, and has suggested a few modifications. As I stated in my speech while making reference to the Select Committee, it is the intention to make this Bill as model, as perfect and as grammatically correct as my Hon'ble friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad would have it, and yet it is possible that several amendments may be moved in this House. To those amendments, if and when moved, I shall certainly make a suitable reply, but just now I want to give the House some idea as to the changes made by the Select Committee.

#### Financial Adviser

The first important change that has been suggested by the Select Committee is one which deals with the provision which has now been made for a financial adviser for this Corporation. In the original Bill there was no such provision; it provided for a treasurer to be appointed by the Central Government. The members of the Select Committee thought that this was going to be a Corporation, the first of its kind in this country, and the enormous task this Corporation will be called upon to perform was such as to justify the assistance of a financial adviser. From the provisional estimate as to capital expenditure that will be required for this scheme it appears that nearly 55 crores would be required; it is possible that this figure may go up when the work actually starts. But this is enough to show that when the scheme is completed the annual budget of this Corporation may be round about 5 to 7 crores.

If that is the position it is only meet and prepare that this Corporation should have—so to speak—an expert in financial matters. It is not the idea of the framers of this Bill—certainly it was

not the idea of the members of the Select Committee—to create impediments or to give opportunities for red-tapism or create scope for delay in the normal and day-to-day work of this Corporation. It is only fair to the taxpayer of this country who will be in the first instance asked to supply this huge amount of Rs. 15 crores or thereabouts that he should at least have fair confidence that the finances of this Corporation are well looked after.

#### An Autonomous Body

The general principles on which this Corporation will have to work are that for all purposes it is going to be an autonomous body, that it will be free— within the framework as contemplated in the provisions of this Bill-to manage the affairs of the Corporation. There is only one limitation—and the House will agree that it is a very good limitation—that in matters of policy the Central Government will have the final voice. That provision was already in the Bill. Indeed the provision for the financial adviser is only carrying out what was implied in the said provision. I want to assure this House-because I find that two members of the Select Committee have shown their disagreement with respect to this particular provision-that there is not the slightest intention to create any difficulties in the smooth working of this Corporation. I therefore want to bring to the notice of this House that this provision is salutary; it is in the best interest of the Corporation, a sort of safeguard for the taxpayer and to give a sufficient faith for him that whatever he has contributed for the successful working out of this scheme will be well spent.

### Subject to Central Taxation

Then the second important change that has been introduced by the members of the Select Committee is about the Corporation being subject to central taxation. Originally there was no provision; in fact the provision was that this Corporation should be exempt from any central taxation. Now this was a matter of very high importance from several points of view. In fact while the Bill that has just now been passed was under discussion this very issue was discussed fairly sufficiently, and I do not want to take the time of the House by going over the same grounds which have been covered by my Honourable colleague the Minister for Finance. There are undoubtedly two views held with equal sincerity, and sometimes when two experts disagree it is very difficult for a layman like me and many others in the House to find what the better course is. In such circumstances I have always believed that the best guide is one's common sense. We have followed a policy in which wherever the State, whether in the Centre or in the Provinces, enters upon commercial undertakings, whether it should

should not contribute to the revenue is a question which must be decided not dogmatically but in the context of circumstances existing on the relevant occasion.

Today, the Central Government has the monopoly of railway transport; it has the monopoly of posts and telegraphs and telephones. It is possible that in future years to come the State activities will embrace more and more fields; and altogether we cannot immediately accept a position in which there will be no taxation whatsoever and services will be admissible to every citizen free, probably on the payment of cost. But until such a millenium comes it is only practical wisdom that we should move cautiously and not bring into trouble the financial system of the country. Therefore after giving a good deal of thought the members of the Select Committee—and on this point there was unanimity—came to the conclusion that the Corporation should be subject to Central taxation whatever be its nature.

#### Claims of Provinces

The opposite view was that if this is done the provinces are deprived of their legitimate share. So far as the activities of the Corporation are concerned, by broad categories they may be said to embrace irrigation and generation of power. So far as irrigation is concerned, it is a provincial subject and even electricity is a provincial subject. Irrigation dues are recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments are they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the provincial Governments and they will be recovered by the sales tax is already there.

Quite a large proportion of the selling price of electricity is consumed by the same tax. Having given both the provinces their dues, it would be only fair if the Central Government claims just a little. After all, whatever the Central Government gets by way of income-tax, they have a partner in that business also. Under the provisions of the Government of India Act as it stands today, if the yield from the income-tax from all sources is about a certain figure, then it is shared by the Central Government along with the Provincial Government. So if this Corporation is made subject to income tax it is not going to work any hardship. But at the same time it will have a good feature about it, namely, that the affairs of the Corporation will be conducted on sounder and commercially acceptable principles. If we are to leave the Corporation with the autonomy which we have contemplated for it, then probably the budgetary position which may be made available may not be exactly in compliance with ordinary commercial standards. Therefore, taking every point of view into consideration, this important change has been suggested by the Select Com. mittee and I have no doubt that this House will accept it.

Then another important change that has been suggesged by the Select Committee is about the presentation of the annual budget and the annual report,

flot only to the Central Legislature but to the Legislatures of both the Provinces concerned. It is just possible, that the affairs of this Corporation may evoke certain criticism and if we did not make any provision by way of a forum where such criticism can be ventilated, that state of things would not be one which ought to exist in a democratic Government. The original provision was that the annual budget estimates and the annual report should be kept on the table of the Central Legislature, questions could be asked, information solicited and possibly even resolutions could be moved. Now it is possible, Sir, that the Members of the Central Government may not be so much interested in the affairs of this Corporation as may be the members of the Local Legislatures of Bihar or Bengal. Naturally they will be much nearer the activities of this Corporation and this point of view was appreciated by the members of the Select Committee and a provision has now been made under which copies of the annual budget and report will be laid not only on the table of the Central Legislature but as well as on the tables of the provincial Legis-

#### Removal of Members

Then another provision, somewhat important, has also been made. In the original Bill provision has been made for the removal of members under certain specified circumstances. We are moving on the assumption that these three persons—two Members and the Chairman who will constitute this Corporation-will act up to the high ideals which are absolutely necessary in order to work this scheme, a scheme which s going to bring prosperity to nearly 50 lakhs of people and to two provinces. But it is possible that either owing to political pressure or other influences, or circumstances which we may not be able to visualise now and here, they may not discharge the duties, they may not carry out the functions or the directions of the Central Government. What then? Therefore, a provision has been made. Although in the report itself, it is in somewhat wider terms described, still I am prepared to accept certain amendments. The provision will be that the two members and the Chairman should be removed in those circumstances and replaced by others. And, Mr. Chairman, you will agree that this is a salutary provision and a safeguard that is absolutely necessary in the circumstances which I have just detailed.

There are other minor suggestions of no great consequence, but which have been suggested in order to make the whole thing complete and cohesive.

I hope that this House will pass this Bill because already five years have been lost in thinking, in putting on paper, in revising, doing this, that and the other. Already in anticipation, some work has started. How urgent is the scheme has been described by me when I made a speech while referring

(Continued in next Column)

# CONSTRUCTION OF TOWNSHIPS FOR COALMINERS

STEPS are being taken to construct two townships for India's coalminers. They will consist of 9,000 houses in Mohuda and 2,500 houses in Bhuli (Bihar). Experimental houses have already been built in the latter place and the construction of the first 750 houses has been ordered. In Mohuda a detailed engineering survey is being arranged by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, whose report is expected shortly.

These facts were disclosed by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the Labour Minister, during question hour on Feb. 11 in the Indian Parliament.

The Labour Minister also revealed that the scheme for the construction of 50,000 houses for coalminers was the main preoccupation of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund during 1947. Each house was estimated to cost Rs. 3,500. Owing to the difficulty in acquiring suitable plots of coal-free land for building townships, it was now proposed to construct about 21,000 houses on land owned by collieries on condition that the houses after construction were transferred to the Housing Board, which was being set up under the Welfare Fund Act. 5,300 of these houses would be on railway collieries.

In addition, 15 sites in the Raniganj coalfield, each to contain 500 miners' houses, had been selected and steps were being taken to acquire such of the sites as were suitable after examination by experts.

### (Continued from Column 1)

this to the Select Committee. I gave figures as to the additional acreage that will be brought under irrigation, as to the killowatts of power that will be generated, the fish culture and all other advantages. The sooner we pass this Bill, the better it will be an encouragement to those of us who are determined to see this through. In fact, I should think destiny is beckoning the members of Bihar and Bengal, and asking them to have the progress of this Bill made quicker.

As I find from the paper, the amendments are far more numerous than the tributaries of the Damodar itself. But in the case of the Damodar River tributaries, they contribute wealth and happiness. But I wish I could say that of all the 120 amendments that have been tabled, I have no desire to belittle the efforts and pains taken by those who have drafted these amendments. I have every respect for them but let not grammar dominate the sense and meaning of the sentences. I therefore appeal to every member of this House to cooperate with me by moving only those amendments which I am advised by those who are going to work this Corporation to accept.

The Labour Welfare Fund, added Mr. Jagjivan Ram, had assumed direct responsibility for the execution of the housing scheme. A Superintending Engineer with the necessary staff had been appointed for this purpose.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram also gave a brief account of the other activities relating to coalmines labour welfare.

14 demonstration centres for women's welfare have started functioning in the coal area. Visual and craft education is provided in these centres to women and children. They also run shops where consumer goods are made available to miners at less than market rates. The Women's Section also runs a mobile cinema for free shows to the miners. On an average twenty shows per month were put up.

### Medical Facilities

Regional hospitals and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at Tisra, Katras, Chora and Searsole have been constructed and are being equipped. Some of the medical equipments are being obtained through the Directorate-General of Disposals. Selection of staff will be made shortly. Arrangements for water supply, electricity etc. are being made.

Anti-malaria operations are being continued as before and the incidence of malaria in the coalfields has been considerably reduced. On the preventive side, intensive larvicidal measures directed against aquatic stages of mosquitoes are reinforced by their spray-killing with D.D.T. The new anti-malaria drug Paludrine is used on the curative side. With effect from March 1, 1948, the Malaria Institute of India will take over the malaria control operation in the Korea coalfields also under their direct control.

With a view to tackle the problem of tuberculosis, it is proposed to construct during 1948-49 three static clinics at places to be selected by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee. The clinics are expected to cost about Rs. 6,00,000!- non-recurring and Rs. 1,29,000!- recurring. The possibility of reserving ten beds for T. B. patients in each of the two Central Hospitals under construction in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields is also being considered.

A grant of Rs. 25,0001- has been made for the purchase, from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund of an 'X' Ray Unit for the benefit of colliery workers in the Central Provinces coalfields.

Another grant of Rs. 14,000!- has been made to the Bengal Coalfields Sub-Committee of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee for organising and conducting a second retresher course of training for the medical officers in collectes.

# I. L. O. CONFERENCE AT SAN FRANCISCO

THE 31st Session of the International Labour Conference opening at San, Francisco (U.S.A.) on June 17, 1948 will consider the following subjects, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Labour on Feb. 7.

- I. Director-General's Report.
- II. Financial and budgetary questions.
- III. Reports on the application of Conventions.
- IV. Employment Service Organisation (second discussion) and Revision of the Convention concerning feecharging employment agencies, 1933 (No. 34).
- V. Vocational Guidance (first discussion).
  - VI. Wages:
- (a) General Report (preliminary discussion);
- (b) Fair Wages Clause in public contracts (first discussion);
- (c) Protection of wages (first discussion).
- VII. Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to organise (single discussion).
- VIII. Application of the principles of the right to organise and to bargain collectively, collective agreements, conciliation and arbitration, and cooperation between public authorities and employers' and workers' organisations (first discussion).
- IX. Revision of the Conventions concerning the night work of women and young persons.

In addition to the above, the Conference will be called upon to elect eight representatives each of workers, employers and Member States (other than those which hold a non-elective seat as one of the eight Member States of chief industrial importance) for the new Governing Body for the next three years.

### Selection of Delegation

The delegation from each Member State will consist of two Government Delegates and one Delogate each of Employers and Workers who will be assisted by advisers. The responsibility for nominating the personnel of the entire Indian Delegation rests with the Government of India. In accordance with the terms of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, the Employers' and Workers' Delegates will be nominated in agreement with the Industrial organisations which are most representative of employers or workpeople as the case may be.

Industrial Organisations desirous of submitting recommendations in regard to the selection of Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers are requested to submit these after obtaining the consent of the persons concerned to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, as early as possible and, in no case later than March 15, 1948. The Organisations concerned may recommend panels of names for selection as delegates and advisers. In submitting their recommendations or drawing up a panel, industrial organisations are advised to take into account considerations relating to proper regional distribution.

Travelling expenses and subsistence allowance etc. will be paid by Government to the selected Delegates and advisors.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR MICA MINERS' WELFARE

A Mica Miners' Labour Welfare Advisory Committee for Madras has been constituted with the Collector of Nellore (Chairman), Shri B. Venkata Narayana Reddi, M. L. A. (Vice Chairman), Shri T. Rama Reddi, two representatives each of mica mine owners and workers and Miss M. L. Mary Gnaniah Naidu to represent women workers, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour on Feb. 13.

A notification to this effect is published in the Gazette of India dated February 14, 1948.

## RESERVED RAILWAY VACANCIES

In connection with the filling of vacancies in non-gazetted Railway Service reserved for candidates with "war service", it has been found that the response from qualified and suitable "war service" candidates has, in general been slow, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment on Feb. 10.

As these vacancies cannot be left open indefinitely, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have decided that March 31, 1948 shall be the final date for receipt by Employment Exchanges or District Employment Offices of applications for these vacancies. "War Service" candidates interested in reserved Railway vacancies should accordingly apply in person or in writing to the Employment Exchange or District Employment Office nearest their place of residence not later than March 31, 1948. Applications for consideration for appointment to reserved Railway vacancies received after that date will not be considered.

### COAL MINES HOUSING BOARD

A Coal Mines Housing Board has been constituted by the Central Government under the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Act, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour on Feb. 13. It will consist of the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner, Dhanbad (Chairman), the Chief Inspector of Mines and three representatives of each of colliery owners and workers.

A notification to this effect is published in the Gazette of India dated February 14, 1948.

### Anti-Corruption Drive On Railways

Three more persons have been convicted as a result of investigations by the Delhi Special Police Establishment in connection with anti-corruption drive on Railways, says a Press Note issued by the Minister of Railways on Feb. 5.

On the E. I. Railway, Sheo Bhagwan (Proprietor of Pirpainti Oil, Mills, Pirpainti, Bhagalpur), and J. P. Srivastava (Market Supervisor, E. I. Railway) conspired to cheat the Railway of Rs. 13,000/- by supplying oil below specification and in lesser quantity. The First Class Magistrate of Bhagalpur convicted Sheo Bhagwan under Section 420 and 511 I. P. C. and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000/-, in default, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for three months. Sheo Bhagwan and J. P. Srivastava were both convicted under Sections 120 B and 420 I. P. C. and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000/- each, in default, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for three months each. The sentences

of imprisonment in the case of Sheo Bhagwan will run concurrently and the centences of rigorous imprisonment in default of fine will also run concurrently.

On the O. T. Railway, Ruder Pershad, Station Master of Risia, was convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500 for accepting bribes in connection with the booking of goods and allotment of wagons.

Owing to a temporary shortage in supplies of paper for printing match banderols, Government have authorised the issue of matches by certain large factories on payment of excise duty but without banderolling, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) on Feb. 16. This will be resumed as soon as stocks of banderols are adequate.

## **COALFIELDS**

A Standing Industrinal Tribunal for the coal area has been constituted by the Government of India. It will consist of a single member Mr. F. Jeejeebhoy, who was formerly the Chief Judge of the City Civil Court, Rangoon and lately Legal Adviser to the Government of Burma. The headquarters of the Tri-bunal will be at Dhanbad.

A notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India dated February 7, 1948.

Although the Tribunal is intended primarily for resolving disputes in the coalfields, it is understood that other disputes may also be referred to it at the discretion of the Central Government.

#### DISPUTE COAL. FOR **ADJUDICATION**

The dispute between Sir Lindsay Parkinson (India) Ltd., and their workmen employed in the State Railway Collieries, Bokaro has been referred to the Industrial Tribual at Dhanbad for adjudication, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour on Feb. 13.

A notification to this effect published in the Gazette of India dated February 14, 1948 says that the dispute is as to what portion of the total cash wages paid in October 1947 should be regarded as constituting basic wages for the purpose of fixation of dearness allowance in accordance with the Central Government's decision on the report of the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Disputes).

#### DEVELOPMENT OF DEEP-SEA **PORT**

An announcement on the development of a deep-sea port between Mormugao and Cochin on the West Coast of India is expected to be made shortly by the Government of India, said the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport answering a question put by Mr. S.V. Krishnamurti Rao, in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 13.

The Hon'ble Minister added that the subject had recently been reviewed by the Central Board of Transport. The tripartite conference between the Governments of Bombay, Madras and Mysore held in June, 1947, could not reach final conclusions on the questions in view of the constitutional changes then impending. The sense of the Conference. however, was that it was desirable to appoint a technical committee with comprehensive terms of reference to undertake a traffic and engineering survey to determine whether there was need for a deep-sea port between Mormugao and Cochin; if so, where the port should be sited and what improvements were necessary in communications to the existing ports.

The whole question, he concluded, was recently reviewed by the Central Board of Transport and an announcement was expected to be made shortly.

### INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL FOR FIXING OF MINIMUM WAGES WILL **INCREASE PRODUCTION**

### **Labour Minister's Speech**

REPLYING to the debate in the Indian Parliament on Feb. 6 on the motion to consider the consider the the motion to Minimum Wages Bill as reported by the Select Committee, the Hon'ble Mr. Select Committee, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, claimed that the measure was not merely in the interest of agricultural labour but also of the entire nation.

While other speakers had characterised the Bill as revolutionary because it contained something concrete for the welfare of agricultural labour, he would call it so because it conceived of a situation in which India might be made selfsufficient in the matter of foodgrains.

The Labour Minister stressed that India could not depend for all times on imported food grains and that agricultural production must increase if the country should survive. He pointed out that the yield from a plot cultivated by the labour of its owner was usually larger than that obtained from a plot cultivated by hired labour. This was so, he said, because the wages paid to agricultural workers were inconceivably low and the labour was not interested in production. This, he stated, led to a great loss in food production.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram emphasised that the human factor should not be neglected when there was a cry for more production. Efficient machinery, implements and capital were, no doubt, necessary for increased production. But all such facilities, he said, would not go to increase production if the human factor were to be ignored.

The Labour Minister assured that with the other Ministers in the Government of India, it was equally his responsibility to see that the wealth of this country increased. Whatever might be his concern and anxiety to improve the lot of the working class, he recognised that it would not be possible unless the wealth of the country increased. He stated that he was convinced that this measure was bound to help in the industrial expansion and in the increase of agricultural products. He would not bring forward any measure which was likely, even in the smallest degree, to affect either industry or agriculture adversely.

#### Capacity to Pay

Dealing with the argument that the minimum wage for a labourer should depend upon the capacity of an employer to pay, Mr. Jagjivan Ram emphasised that if that principle were accepted it would be putting a premium on the exploitation of helpless men by resourceful and more influential persons. If an industry or agriculture was not in a position to bear the cost, he would rather let it close down. If it was found, he added, that such industries were necessary in the interest of the State and the country, it was open to the State and the country to subsidise them. He maintained that in no case should any industry or agriculture be allowed to exist and subsist on the exploitation of the workers.

The House adopted the motion after the Labour Minister's reply.

### Modifications In Provisional Constitution Of India

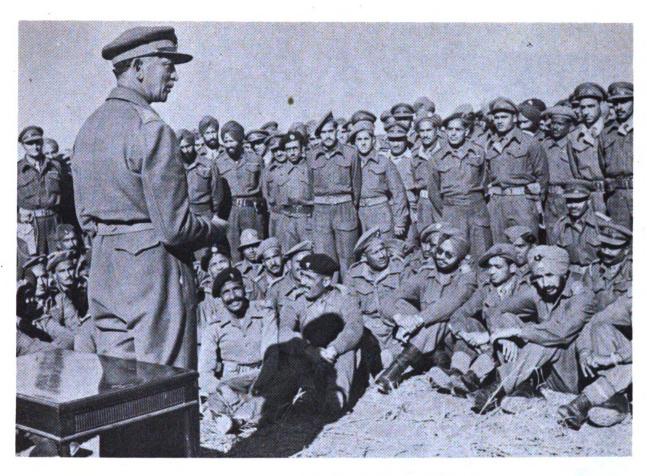
Two important modifications have been made in the provisional Constitution of India by an Order of the Governor-General under the Indian Independence Act published today, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on Feb. 5. They further emphasise the independent status of India even under the present Constitution. The power to constitute, reconstitute or amalgamate High Courts, which until now was vested in the King under section 229 of the Government of India Act, 1935, has been Government of India Act, 1935, has been made exerciseable by the Governor-General. Then, under section 220 of the same Act as originally adapted the removal of any High Court Judge on the ground of misbehaviour or infirmity required a reference to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This section has been further adapted substituting the Federal Court for the Judicial Committee as the authority to which such references should be made.

Provisional Consti-The Indian tution Amendment Order also makes one

or two minor changes in the provisions of the Government of India Act relating to the former Secretary of States services.

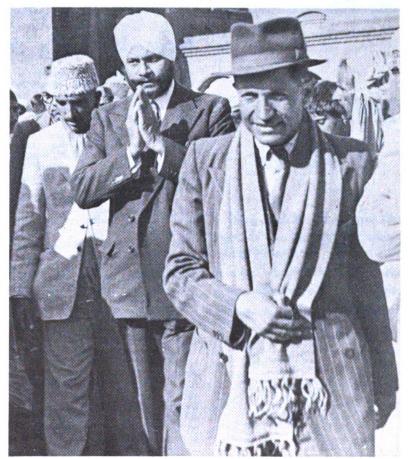
By an Order under the Indian Independence Act, the Indian Provisional Constitution has been further amended so as to provide that the quorum for the meetings of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) shall be one-tenth of the total number of members of the Legislature instead of the present one-sixth, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on Feb. 10.

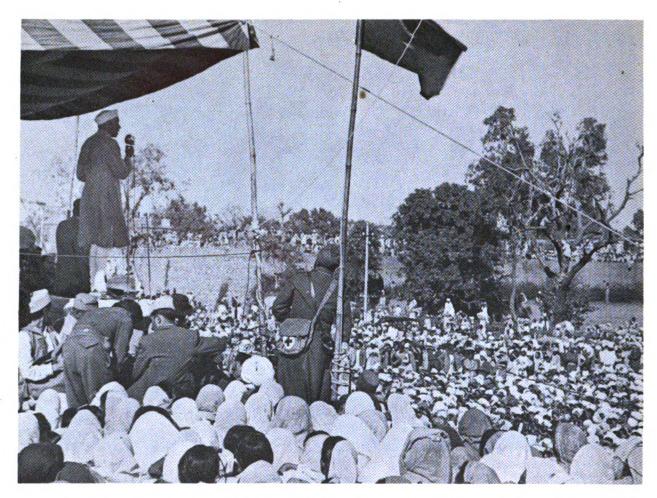
This change has been necessitated since there are several members who being also members of the Provincial Legislature are often unable to attend. In the British House of Commons consisting of more than 600 members, the prescribed quorum is only 40 which is less than one-fifteenth of the total strength of that House.



### DEFENCE MINISTER AND LT. GEN. CARIAPPA VISIT JAMMU

Picture above shows Lt. Gen. Cariappa G. O. C.-in-C., Delhi East Punjab Command, addressing officers and men at a forward area during his recent visit to Jammu. (Right) Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, accompanied by Bakshi Ghulam Mohd, Acting Head of the Emergency Administration of Jammu and Kashmir State, is seen greeting the refugees in one of the camps in Jammu city.





## PRIME MINISTER IN JAMMU

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid a flying visit to Jammu on February 15, when he inspected Indian troops and addressed several meetings. In the picture above he is seen addressing a public meeting.

### Brig. Usman's Activities in Naushehra

"He never sleeps and no sooner there is any sign of trouble anywhere than you will find him on the spot with his men", said one of the sepoys in Brigadier Usman's headquarters.

Brig. M. Usman, who commands Indian troops in Naushehra, works ceaselessly, he seems to have an untiring energy. A long flag post in his hand one finds him rushing from one post to another personally supervising, leading and looking after his troops. He rarely sits down even in his spare time.

He has organised a Balak Sena with 100 refugee children. A teacher has been appointed to look after them. When he has an opportunity Brig. Usman rushes to the school to meet his boys and find out how they are getting on and to play a game or the two with them. Then off he rushes to his own troops. The children flock round him and refuse to let him go. He has also organised an orphanage where children are properly looked after: The other day an Indian Army patrol brought back a child who had been lying beside his dead mother for two days. That child is now in good hands in the orphanage. There are ever 1,500 refugees in Naushehra who refusing to leave say, "So long as Brig. Usman is there, we are safe".

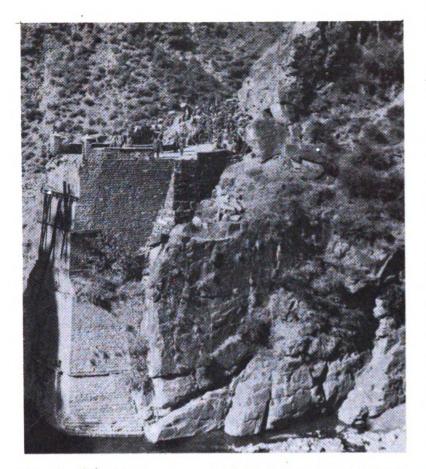
Under Brig. Usman there are troops from all the communities-Jats, Mahrattas, Madrassis, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims. When Brig. Usman first took over command two months ago he made it a point to meet every soldier under him. He went from unit to unit, speaking to his men and it did not take him long to take them all into complete confidence. He told his men why they were there and what the country expected of them. Brig. Usman felt that more could be done for the welfare of his men, so he started his own wireless radio system by which he speaks to all his Jawans in every unit wherever they are on duty. Off duty Brig. Usman is the most likeable personality on this front. He talks freely to you and inspires one with confidence.

### RIAF EXTENDED SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Extended Service Commissions in the General Duties (Flying) and Technical branches of the R. I. A. F. have been granted to 178 officers now holding Emergency Commissions.

The Selection Board at Air Heade quarters, India will shortly announcthe names of officers of the Administrative and other branches, who have been selected for the grant of Extended Service Commissions.

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Raiders' handiwork in Kashmir: One of the bridges in Jammu destroyed by the raiders with explosive charges in order to delay the advance of the Indian troops

#### MAJ-GEN. THORAT APPOINTED G. O. C. DEI HI AREA

Maj. Gen. Shankar Pandurang Patil Thorat, D. S. O., has been appointed General Officer Commanding. Delhi area, in place of Maj. Gen. Rejendrasinghji, D. S. O., who recently became G. O. C.-in-C., Eastern Command with the rank of Lieutenant-General.

Born in 1906, Maj. Gen. Therat was commissioned in 1926 from Sandhurst and joined 1-14th Punjab Regiment after a period of attachment to the 2nd Middlesex Regiment. He saw his first spell of active service in the Molmand operations of 1935. Two years later he took part in the Waziristan operations 1937-1938 and later in the Ahmedzai Salient operations.

After serving on the staff at General Headquarters he was promoted second in Command of the 9-14 Punjab Regiment in 1944. The following year he took command of the 2-2 Punjab Regiment then fighting in the Arakan, where he won his D. S. O.

In 1946 Gen. Thorat was a Deputy Director in the Adjutant General's Branch at GHQ and later he become the Secretary of the National War Acedomy.

Until recently Gen. Thorat was Director of Staff Duties at Army Head-quarters, India.

#### INDIAN MILITARY MISSION

An officer of the Indian Civil Service, Mr. Khub Chand, will head the Indian Military Mission in Germany and left for Berlin by air from Bombay on Feb. 13. He will have the rank of Brigadier in the Indian Army. He succeeds Col. Wadalia who has become Brigadier General Staff, Delhi-East Punjab Command.

Brig. Khub Chand crowned his academic career by heading the list of those who passed the I. C. S. entrance examination. He entered the I. C. S. in 1935. After serving in the United Provinces he was posted to the Defence Department during World War II. Later he returned to the United Provinces as Regional Food Controller but subsequently rejoined the Ministry of Defence as Deputy Secretary.

It will be recalled that the Indian Military Mission in Berlin was set up in January, 1946, to safeguard the position of Indian Nationals in Germany and represent the Armed Forces of India as a victor nation.

### Facilities For Military Pensioners

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Feb. 7 says:—VCOs, IORs and enrolled non-combatant Military Pensioners and their families who have recently migrated from the Jammu and Kashmir State to any other part of the Indian Dominion should take the following action to facilitate payment of pensions:—

They should apply in writing by registered post giving their regimental number, rank, name, unit, (in the case of family pension, number, rank and name of the unit of the deceased), name of Treasury or Post Office from which they last drew their pension and from where they now desire to draw it, the date up to and for which the pension date up to and for which the pension was last drawn, Treasury or Post Office serial number, if known, the rate of their present address. The pension and their present address. The applications should be supported by a Certificate of Identification, in duplicate, signed by a Magistrate or a Civilian Gazetted Officer, or a King's Commis-sioned Officer or a King's Commissioned Indian Officer or an Indian Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army or a serving Viceroy's Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army. The Certificate of Identification will contain the Identification marks of the pensioner, and an undertaking from him to repay any provisional payment to which he is not entitled.

Those pensioners who have their Pension Certificates with them will address their applications to the Controller Military Accounts (Pensions), Old Indian Military Hospital Lines, Allahabad, supported by the Pension Certificate or a true copy thereof certified by a King's Commissioned officer or a King's Commissioned Indian Officer or a Magistrate, or a Civilian Gazetted Officer or the Secretary, District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board.

Those who have lost their Pension Certificates will send their applications containing the above particulars to the Regimental Centre or Record Office concerned. Such of those pensioners whose Regimental Centres or Record Offices are in Pakistan will apply direct to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensious), Old Indian Military Hospital Lines, Allahabad.

#### R. I. A. F. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT FORMED

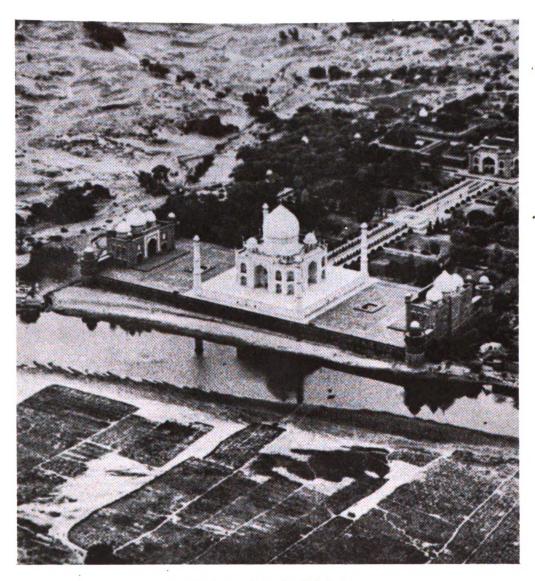
The formation of a Reconnaissance Flight of the Royal Indian Air Force, announced recently, is composed of specially equipped R. I. A. F. aircreft and will carry out both tactical and photographic reconnaissance. It will be under the control of No. 1. R. I. A. F. Operational Group.

The formation of the Reconnaissance Flight fulfils a long felt need and is part of the programme for the development and expansion of the Royal Indian Air Force.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 1, 1948

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An aerial view of the Taj Mahal, Agra

#### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Weights and measures in India vary not only from district to district but also for different commodities.

The principal units in all the scales of weights are the maund, seer and tola, and the standard weights for each of these are 82.28 lbs., 2.057 lbs. and 180 grains troy respectively.

The Indian tola is the same weight as the rupee, viz., 180 grains troy; the standard or railway seer is equal to 2.057 lbs. while the standard or railway maund of 40 seers is equivalent to 82 lbs. 4 oz. 9 drams. There are numerous local variations.

#### COINAGE—RUPEE IN DOLLARS AND POUNDS

Re. 1 is approximately 1sh. 6d. or 30.05 cents.
Rs. 100 are approximately £779/6 or \$30.05.
Rs. 1,000 are approximately £74/14/10 or \$300.53.
Rs. 1,000.000 (a lakb) are approximately £74/3/19/2 or \$30,053.
Rs. 1,00,00,000 (a crore) are approximately £747,396/16/8 or \$3,005,259.
10,000,000 is one lakb (1,00,000)
10,000,000 is one crore (1,00,00,000)

COINAGE

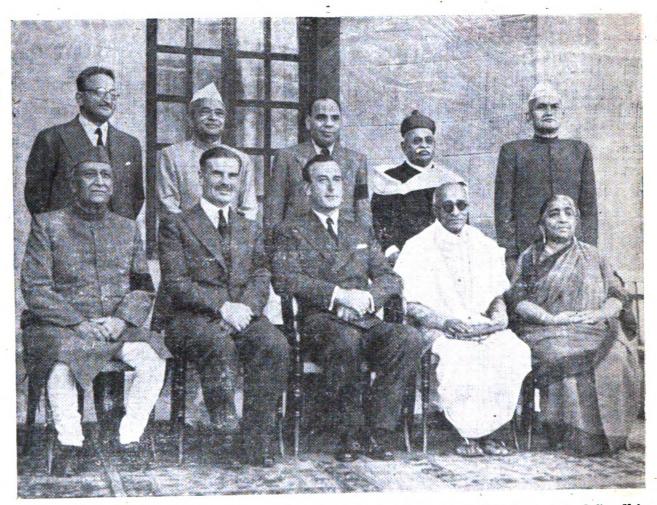
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d. 22. No. 226 arch 15, 1948

BH ROLLING

ANNUAL BUDGET Google

PRICE



A recent photograph taken at the Government House, New Delhi, showing the Governors of the Provinces of the Indian Union with the Governor-General

STANDING: (L. to R.) H. E. Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam; H. E. Mr. Mangaldas Mancharam Pakwasa, Governor of C. P. and Berar; H. E. Sir Chandulal Trivedi, Governor of East Punjab; H. E. Shri M. S. Aney, Governor of Bihar; H. E. Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, Governor of Orissa.

SEATED: (L. to R.) H. E. Raja Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay; H. E. Lt.-Gen. Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras; His Excellency Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor-General of India; H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalaehari, Governor of West Bengal; Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces.

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## DOMINION'S FIRST ANNUAL BUDGET

## Record Provision For Development And Capital Expenditure

THE Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shan-mukham Chetty presented the first annual Budget of the Dominion of India to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on February 28, 1948, three months after his interim stocktaking of the country's financial and economic position.

After paying a moving tribute to the memory of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, "to whom many ran in times of stress, national or personal, and came back with renewed confidence", he expressed the conviction that the country would nevertheless be able to meet "the great challenge of the situation".

In a world "still in the meshes of those economic maladjustments which are the inevitable aftermath of total war." he said, India was to-day called upon, in addition, to deal with her special problems—Rehabilitation of Refugees, Food shortage, rising price spirals, the Kashmir operations etc.

In such an economic setting the new financial year 1948-49 is opening. The budget estimates for the year, at the existing level of taxation, are Revenue Rs. 230-52 orores; Expenditure charged to revenue Rs. 257-37 crores; Deficit Rs. 26-85 crores. The current year's deficit will be Rs. 6-52 crores against Rs. 24-59 crores in the interim Budget. Defence Services are expected to cost Rs. 121-08 crores, next year with additional expenditure of a capital nature amounting to Rs. 14-99 crores.

#### **Provision for Refugees**

For refugees' relief and rehabilitation, there is a provision of Rs. 10.04 crores. Besides, the Government will advance Rs. 10 crores for the setting up of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. Expenditure on relief and rehabilitation in the current financial year will amount to Rs. 14.89 crores against Rs. 22 crores included in the interim Budget. Expenditure on food subsidies in 1948-49 is estimated at Rs. 19.91 crores. In this connection the budget stresses India's need to increase her internal production of food. In anticipation of the Economy Committee's report a cut of Rs. 2½ crores has been made in the civil estimates.

The Governments of India and the United Kingdom have agreed that the interim agreement on sterling balances signed in August 1947 should be extended to June 1948 with some modifications. The United Kingdom will transfer to India's No. 1 account a further £18 million, of which however only £10 million will be available for multilateral convertibility.

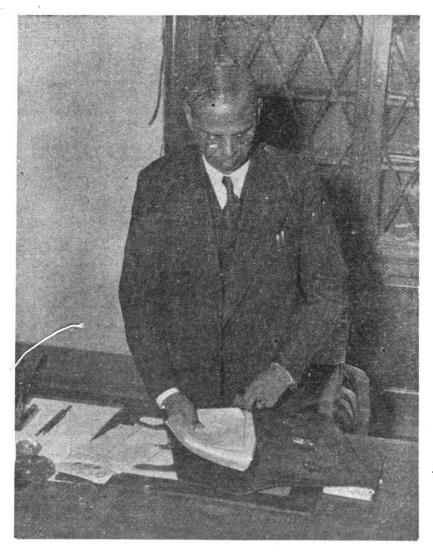
Import of foodgrains is still a heavy drain on the country's foreign exchange and the Finance Minister stressed the need for increased internal production of food.

There will be no reduction in the extent of the Centre's assistance to the provinces in the matter of development schemes. Provision in the Capital Budget for normal requirements and for the financing of the Central and Provincial schemes will be of the order of Rs. 165½ crores in the coming financial year.

Borrowings from the market are

expected to amount to Rs. 150 crores. This will be stepped up if circumstances are propitious.

The Finance Minister concluded his speech on a note of optimism. He hoped that the picture of the financial position which he had unfolded would have a reassuring effect on the public and instil a spirit of confidence all round. From August 15th, 1947, the chains of our bondage had been broken and we were free to translate our dreams into reality but our freedom had been born in an era so fluid and fast changing that any pre-determined step other than the next became obsolete before it could be taken and like the pilgrim at the end of a day's journey finding his destination still afar we were inspired to pray in the spirit of Gandhiji's favourite hymn "Lead, Kindly Light". "The next step is enough for us if it is illuminated by



Mr. R. K. Shammukham Chetty, packing the first annual budget of Independent India into the case before leaving his residence for Parliament

the star of our ambition and fortified by the faith in our destiny".

Here is the text of the Finance Minister's Speech:

When I presented my Interim Budget to Free India's first Parliament a few months back, our nation had been shaken to its very foundations by the great Punjab tragedy. Thousands of our people had been brutally butchered, and millions of innocent men, women and children driven out of their tral homes and forced to make a dusty. deadly trek in search of a new home. Our crying concern then was to dress the wounds of uprooted humanity, and to mobilise all our financial resources to set aright an unhinged economy. new found freedom, however, weathered the storm, and as the eve of my first annual Budget approached, I could see a silver lining around the cloud. Then, suddenly, like a thunderbolt that rends the sky and spins the globe, calamity struck us once more and orphaned our infant State and enveloped the country with a darkness even more complete. The hand that nailed Jesus to the Cross reached out of the evil recesses of history once again and slew the latest in the line of Prophets. Along with Bernard Shaw one wonders: "Must then a Christ perish in torment in every age to save those that have no imagination? In Mahatma Gandhi the world has lost an uplifting standard, our nation its Founding Father, and each one of us his friend, philosopher and guide. Many ran up to him in times of stress, national or personal, and came back with renewed confidence. Our fledgling freedom felt warm and secure under the protective wing of Gandhiji. The way ill fortune has dogged our heels makes one doubt whether our people had made a tryst with disaster rather than with destiny. But that is a most un-Gandhian mood; for he remained cheerful and buoyant and hopeful even in the darkest hour. Indeed I rise to-day under a shadow, but I know it is the shadow of his Cross, and so I feel confident that our nation will be prepared to meet the great challenge of the situation. In the faith that looks through death we shall shape the destiny of our nation on the pattern which he cherished and lead it from the dark abyss of hatred and despair to the sunlit pastures of eternal

#### Economic Conditions .

The third year after war finds the world still in the meshes of those economic maladjustments which are the inevitable aftermath of total war-the nemesis that inexorably pursues the victor and the vanquished alike. Western Europe is still in a sad plight and intolerable economic conditions prevail in many of the devastated areas. The efforts at rehabilitation by the United Nations Organisation and the United States Government have so far borne little fruit. All hope is now centred round the Marshall Plan. But its gestation is unduly delayed, and it has worsened the already strained relations between the Big Three. The United Kingdom is making a heroic effort to rehabilitate her wartorn economy and shattered trade. There has been serious economic dislocation in many Asian countries owing to violent internal

struggles or fight for freedom from foreign domination. Thus, over a large part of the world economic conditions are still worse than in war time; production has fallen, even below pre-war levels in some cases, and prices have been soaring to new heights. The world food situtaion is still a cause for serious anxiety; while the world's population has increased by about 200 millions since 1939, the total food production has fallen by 7 per cent. At the same time, there has been a tremendous increase in the money in circulation. The many high-powered international bodies lately set up for rectifying the world's currency and food troubles have so far made little headway. In the result, inflation is still holding the world in its firm grip and the standards of living of the great majority of the world's population remain at depressingly low levels. Especially in Asian countries, the economic situation has greatly deteriorated owing to violent internal struggles and the consequent dislocation of normal economic activity.

#### Food Position

There has been no material change in the general economic conditions in our own country since I reviewed them last when presenting the budget for the current year last November. The dislocation caused by the mass migration of people between Western Pakistan and India still remains to be surmounted and only the fringe of the problem of rehabilitating the millions of people who have crossed over to India has so far been touched. While active steps are being taken to provide the necessary financial assistance to the refugees to enable them to start on useful careers in their new surroundings, the process of rehabilitation is necessarily bound to take some time. The budget for next year provides a substantial amount for relief and rehabilitation and the House may rest assured that everything possible will be done to place these refugees in useful occupations as early as possible. It is not merely a matter of humanitarian relief but one of economic investment, for the sooner these people, many of whom are skilled workers and agriculturists with experience, are placed in occupations in which their productive capacity would add to the wealth of the community the better for the country. In this task of rehabilitation the Government of India are working in close cooperation with the neighbouring States and Provinces and the plans for their relicf and rehabilitation are being drawn up in co-ordination with them.

The food position still continues to cause anxiety and conditions have definitely become worse in large parts of the Madras Presidency following the failure of the monsoon. Steps are being taken to make additional supplies available but the position is bound to be difficult until the new harvest comes on the market. It is not necessary for me to explain in detail the reasons which led to the policy of gradual decontrol of food which was approved by this House. The effects of this policy on the internal sources of supply still remain to be seen but if the expectation behind this policy that it would bring more supplies to the market and, to that extent, reduce our dependence on foreign

imports is realised, it would be completely justified.

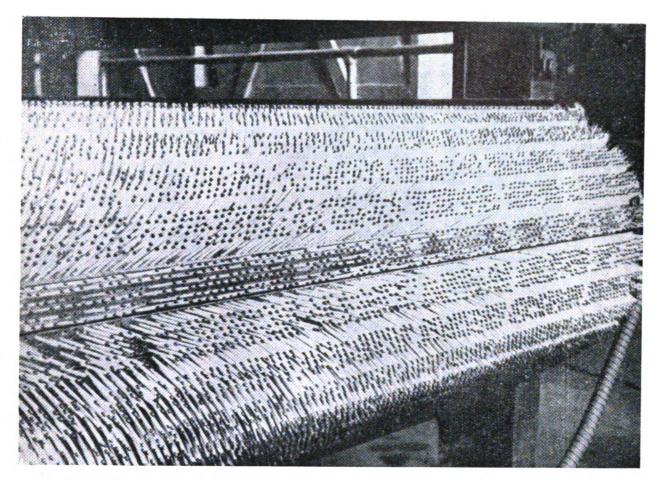
In my speech last November I mentioned the rising trend of prices as the most unwholesome feature in our economic situation. This, as I explained then, was the result of a number of factors some of which, like the accumulation of surplus purchasing power in the hands of the community, have been in operation for some time while the all round fall in production, both industrial and agricultural, was of more recent origin. I stressed then the, need for increasing production in every possible way and I gave details of the steps taken to promote the increase of textile production as an example of what the Government are striving to do. But the House must realise that any substantial increase in production is impossible until the shortage of materials, the bottleneck in transport and other impediments are removed. If the increase in production requires the import of equipment from overseas, this again takes time to obtain and is also limited by considerations of foreign exchange on which the more urgent requirements of food have necessarily the first claim. These difficulties are inherent in the situation but it does not necessarily follow that Government are doing nothing in the matter. One serious hindrance in the way of production, even with the available resources, has been the frequent disputes between capital and labour, resulting in strikes and other interruptions of work. If the recent truce agreed upon between capital and labour for a period of three years in the recent Industries Conference can be implemented in letter and spirit, the way would be clear for a considerable increase in production.

#### Inflationary Pressure

A view that has in recent years almost unanimous hecome economists and financiers is that each economists and manciers is that each year a Government's financial policy should be so planned as to rectify the economic maladjustments of the time, and to serve as a compensatory device to offset fluctuations in the private sector of economy. In a time of inflation, budgets should not only be balanced but there should be a comfortable surplus for mopping up the excess purchasing power and to encourage economy in private spending. On the other hand, when a depression is on, Government should launch bold schemes of public expenditure and should boldly budget for a deficit if necessarv.

An inflationary pressure resulting from too much money chasing too few goods has been the key-note of our present economy, and there is no indication that a reversal of this trend is in sight. At such a juncture, we should exert every nerve to budget for a surplus, if possible, by increasing revenue and curtailing expenditure. The methods by which these aims are achieved are important, because as the present phase of inflation is due to an abundance of spending power without the goods to spend on, we must see that. a surplus is achieved in such a way as to curtail spending and create suitable incentives for increasing production. In other words, the tax-burdens laid must be met by cutting down expenditure on consumption and not by saving less.

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Manufacture of Matches: Matches as they appear when they go around in their steel-belt in the continuous machine

Similarly, the borrowing made must be from genuine savings and not from inflated bank credit. The practial application of principles is indeed difficult, but we must bear them in mind in shaping our financial policy.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to a matter which has been causing some concern to Government, namely, the emergence, in recent times, of a substantial adverse balance in India's external payments. India's balance of trade has in the past always been substantially in her favour, the surplus of exports over imports being used by her to meet the interest and amortisation charges on her sterling debt, to pay the pensions and leave salaries of British Officers and to make other invisible apayments such as the remittance of the profits of foreign investments in India and banking, insurance and shipping charges. During the war years India's balance of trade became even more favourable than before, due not only to restrictions on her imports on account of war time conditions but to the large payments which accrued to her on account of supplies and services to the allied nations and the Defence Expenditure Plan. The result of India's earnings, both visible and invisible, being vastly in excess of her expenditure, was the rapid accumulation of our sterling balances. Part of these balances was used to purchase the Indian railways and to repatriate compulsorily almost the whole of the Indian sterling debt; part was

used through Indian nationals acquiring British investments in India. All these measures served greatly to lessen the annual drain on India while the interest earned on the sterling balances added in some measure to our income. If therefore, all the other factors in the situation had remained the same, India should have had now a substantially more favourable balance of payments than she had before the war.

Far from having a favourable balance, however, India had in the first post-war year, 1946-47, a substantial deficit in her balance of payments on current account. The tendency which then manifested itself for the first time still continues and had it not been for the restrictive import policy which was inrtroduced in June 947 the deficits we have had would have been substantially greater. The reasons for this are two-fold. Firstly, it is the inevitable result of the absence of imports during the many years of war that the long pent up demand should seek to satisfy itself as soon as goods become available. This is true not only of consumer goods but also of producer goods and plant and equipment, the arrears of maintenance of which have to be made good as soon as possible if production is not to be interfered with. The second, and by far the more important reason for this deficit is, as is well known, our imports of foodgrains. India has of course been a regular importer of food for many years but quantities and prices have both been recently going up. In 1944-45 and 1945-46 the value of foodgrains imported into India was Rs. 14 crores and Rs. 24 crores respectively. In 1946-47 the figure was Rs. 89 crores. These figures are in addition to the import of supplementary food articles which cost a further Rs. 15 crores in 1946-47. In 1947-48 the amount expected to be spent on the import of food-grains is Rs. 110 crores.

The money required for the purchase of food is of course a first charge on our available foreign exchange resources. These consist of our export earnings and of our sterling balances but on the latter we have necessarily to draw in moderation. These resources are not sufficient to finance both the heavy drain caused by food imports as well as to pay for all the other imports we should like to purchase. As food must have the highest priority, we have necessarily to restrict the import of other commodities. It is undesirable that this should be so, particularly at a time when inflationary tendencies persist in the country. It is therefore imperative for us to take all the steps in our power, not only to increase the production of food in this country so as to reduce imports, but to increase production in every other field of economic activity so that it may be possible to increase our export income without reducing home consumption. I fear, however, that in spite of all the action that may be taken in this direction

it will take a few years before it will be possible for India to bring her foreign paymonts into equilibrium and that, therefore, it will be necessary to continue with our present restrictions on imports.

#### Hard Currencies

It will be appreciated that with India's limited resources currencies, it would have been impossible to continue the policy of non-discrimination regarding the source from which Indian imports came, which was a feature of Indian import policy during the last half year. Hon'ble Members will remember that I indicated to them in my last Budget speech that the dollar shortage whould cause us to reimpose discrimination and I fear that we have had, in framing the import policy for the present half year, to make the most drastic cuts in imports from the hard currency areas. It is unfortunate that this has to be so, for we are being compelled either to do without a large number of useful articles which are obtainable only in the hard currency area or to pay for them a higher price in the soft currencies. As long however, as the world dollar shortage caused by the disequilibrium in world trade continues, I fear we have no alternative but to proceed on the basis which has been in force ever since the war broke out and to which we have now had to revert. I am, however, glad to be able to report to the House that we have been able slightly to decrease the rigour of the import control from the sterling and other soft currency areas which we had imposed during the last half year. It was neither desirable nor indeed possible to continue import control from all over the world with that degree of restriction which we had introduced, for not only would it have led, if continued for any length of time, to an increase in the inflationary potential but would also have interfered with production.

One other recent trend in our external financial position is deserving of special Till 1945-46 not only did we mention. have an overall favourable balance of payments but we were in substantial surplus with U.S. A. Since 1946-47 that situation has also changed, both because goods have become much more freely available in that country and because we have to purchase there a substantial portion of our food requirements. In 1946-47 our deficit with the U.S. A. was Rs. 15 crores. In the subsequent months it increased substantially, being Rs. 131 crores and Rs. 22 crores respectively for the second and third quarters of 1947, Preliminary figures for the two months October and November disclose a deficit of Rs. 14 crores. With the other hard currency countries the position is no better and during the period April to November 1947 our deficit with them has been Rs. 51 crores. Our total net earnings of hard currencies durning the period September 1939 to November 1947 were about Rs. 37 crores.

The most important lesson to be drawn from a study of our external financial position is that so long as food imports continue on the present scale, we would be confronted with the problem of an adverse balance of pay-

ments and the disequilibrium in our economy will persist. Such a state of affairs will be a source of anxiety and even danger. The only way to redress the balance is to increase the internal production of food. While an expansion of our export trade will go a long way to mitigate the seriousness of the problem, it will be impossible to bridge the gap by exports alone. It will be observed that, though I have indicated the trends in our external financial position, I have not given any figures for our overall deficits in the balance of payments This is for the simple reason that such figures have so far not existed, though steps have now been taken to see that they are collected in future. I would, nevertheless, like to give the House some idea of our position as it is likely to be during the first half of 1948 and propose to mention certain figures on the clear understanding that these arc to be taken more as an indication of the magnitude of the figures involved than of the actual figures as they are likely to be. Forecasts of balance of payments are notoriously liable to be inaccurate because of the uncertainties of the factors involved; but in preparing the forecast for the first six months of 1948 we have suffered from the additional handicap that it is imposible to say what effect the partition of the country will have on its external trade and that there are no past actuals to guide us. The figures I shall mention relate to the balance of payments on current account of the Dominion of India with the rest of the world excluding Pakistan. For our balance of payments with Pakistan, I fear it is not possible to make even the roughest of estimates. In the half year January to June 1948 we hope to earn through exports and other sources Rs. 208 crores. We expect to spend during the same period Rs. 260 crores. We therefore anticipate an overall deficit of Rs. 52 crores. Out of our total expenditure during the half year, no less than Rs. 61 crores will be spent on the purchase of food.

#### Sterling Balances

Hon'ble Members will appreciate more fully in the light of what I have stated above the significance of the second interim agreement on the sterling balances which has been concluded between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom by an exchange of letters. In brief, the exchange of letters. In brief, the effect of the exchange of letters is that the financial agreement dated 14th August 1947, which expired on the 31st December 1947, has been extended upto 30th June 1948 with some modifications. The first agreement was on behalf of both India and Pakistan but the present extensian is on behalf of the Dominion of India alone. Hon'ble Members will remember that in December last, when an agreement was reached between Pakistan and ourselves on all outstanding financial issues including the division of the sterling balances, it was agreed that from the 1st of January 1948 the exchange accounts of the two countries should be kept reparately. As a consequence of this separation, it was also agreed that negotiations for a further interim settlement between the United Kingdom and the two Dominions should be carried on separately by each. Hence Pakistan was

not a party to our recent negotiations. The object that we kept in view in our recent discussions with representatives of the United Kingdom Government was to make available to us sufficient foreign exchange resources to meet our estimated overall deficit in the balance of payment during the first half of 1948. As I have indicated earlier, we estimate our overall deficit for this period at £ 39 million or Rs. 52 crores. It has now been agreed that a further £ 18 million (or Rs. 24 crores) will be transferred from Account No. 2 to Account No. 1, the existing balance in which will, of course, be carried forward at our disposal except for a certain amount to be transferred to Pakistan under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of December last. This fresh transfer, together with the balances that we have at our disposal under various accounts and some borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, will enable us to meet our anticipated deficit. As our Account No. 1 would now stand, I have no anxiety on account of the external financial position of the country so far as currencies other than the hard currencies are concerned.

#### Limit of Convertibility

One important feature of the agreement is the limit on convertibility. Under the original agreement the whole of our sterling in Account No. 1, whether it arose by transfer from Account No. 2 or through the proceeds of current earnings, was fully convertible for current transactions into any currency including that of the U.S.A. In other words, the whole of the sterling that we held in Account No. 1 was multilaterally convertible. Under the present agreement, however, we have been put to the necessity of limiting our right to multi-lateral convertibility to the extent of only £ 10 million or Rs. 13:33 crores. This restriction will necessitate our borrowing to some extent from the International Monetary Fund. I am, however, satisfied that the extent of our borrowing from the Fund during the current halfyear will be well within the limits of our rights of borrowing from that Fund. Hon'ble Members are entitled to know why we agreed to limit the right to full multilateral convertibility which is possessed by every member of the sterling The answer is that, like all international agreements, this agreement was a compromise, and in the light of the circumstances that faced us I consider it in the best interests of the country to accept this condition. I am not unmindful of the great difficulties under which the United Kingdom is labouring today, nor am I unappreciative of the valiant efforts being made by that great country to restore equilibrium in her economy and discharge her international obligations. I am fully aware that the gold and dollar resources of the sterling area are small, are rapidly being exhausted and require to be husbanded with the greatest care. It is for this reason that we agreed last September, soon after our first interim agreement was concluded and when the United Kingdom was forced to suspend the convertibility clause in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, to cooperate by restricting dollar expenditure as far as possible. For the half year as far as possible. For the half year in question our expenditure in hard currency has been severely limited to essentials. Nevertheless, I cannot help feeling that it should have been possible



to avoid introducing this very undesirable and harmful principle of a limit on the convertibility of sterling for members of the sterling area who are pledged to holding sterling without limit of amount. We have honoured that pledge perhaps even beyond the bounds or prudence. Even from the point of view of the necessity for safeguarding the central reserves of the sterling area, I cannot feel happy about the low limit of convertibility forced upon us. After all, our proposed drawings on the central reserves were the merest fraction of what the United Kingdom herself proposed to draw therefrom. Undesirable as this feature of the agreement is, we accept it in the hope that it would be possible to remove this condition at the earliest passible moment. We have decided in fact to make a long-term settlement with the United Kingdom on this vexed question as soon as possible. I feel that it is unsatisfactory that there should be negotiations every six months on this subject for the element of uncertainty as to the results of these periodical negotiations makes it impossible for any long-term co-ordinated trade policies to be stimulated. I have, therefore, conveyed to the Leader of the British Delegation my desire that steps should be taken for initiating talks for a longterm agreement.

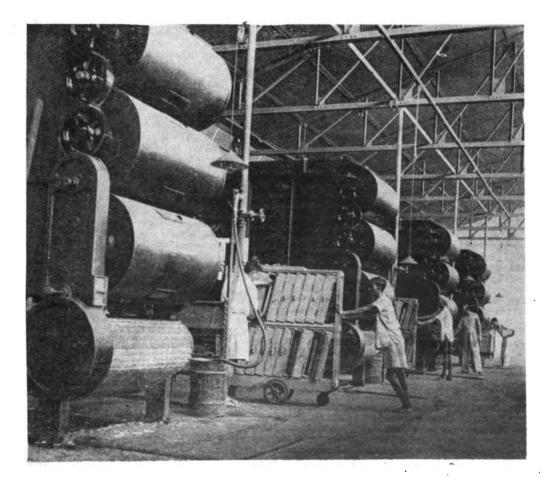
#### Settlement with Pakistan

When I gave a brief account to the House in my last Budget speech of the details of the partition and its financial and economic results, I mentioned that

a number of important points connected with the partition still remained unsettled and were likely to be referred to arbitration. As the House is aware, these outstanding questions have been the subject of further consultation between the two Governments and all of them have been settled so that so far as the two dominions are concerned, it became unnecessary to resort to arbitration on any issue. Now that a final settlement has been arrived at, although the details would necessarily take some time to work out, I propose to give the House a short account of these decisions.

The position of the undivided Government as on the date of partition was that its outstanding liabilities exceeded its assets so that ultimately it is the debt that is being divided between the two Governments. On a rough estimate the outstanding debt of the Central Government as on the 14th August 1947, including in this not merely the outstanding public debt but all its obligations to outside parties such as deposits in Postal Savings Banks, outstanding balances of Post Office Cash and National Savings Certificates, Provident Fund Deposits of Government servants, the amounts likely to be paid to the British Government for surplus stores and other property acquired by the Defence Services and the capitalised value of the liability for pensions in payment on the date of partition and pensions earned by serving officers up to that date, is likely to be of the order of Rs. 3,300 crores. The Government of India's assets on that

date are represented by the capital spent on the great Commercial Departments like the Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs, the Security Printing Press, the Irrigation Works in the Centrally Administered Areas, the Post of Vizagapatam and New Delhi, the buildings, stores and equipment of the Defence Services and the various branches of the Civil Administration, the cash balance with the Reserve Bank and investments such as the Silver Recemption Reserve and the subscriptions to the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank; and the miscellaneous debts due to it such as the outstanding loans made to Provincial Governments and local bodies and institutions. The total value of these assets is of the order of Rs. 2,800 crores leaving a net excess of liabilities over assets of about Rs. 500 crores. As I said earlier, it will be some time before the final figures are available and the machinery for obtaining them as early as possible as being set in motion. The arrangement with Pakistan is that for all assets located in her territory such as the Railways and the Posts and Telcgraphs system operating in Pakistan, the stores and other movable equipment allocated to her, the administrative buildings and installations taken over by her in her territory she takes a debt equal to the book value of these assets. An exception has been made in the case of strategic railways the bcck value of which, for purposes of the cettlement, will be written down from a little over Rs. 32 crores to Rs. 14:45 crores. In addition Pakistan will take over a debt equal to the amount of the cash balance



Manufacture of Matches:
The splints are despatched
into this section known as
the dipping section. It
is here that the matches
get their "beads"

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of Rs. 75 crores allocated to her cut of the cash balances of the undivided Government and 171 per cent. of the net excess of the Central Government's liabilities over assets which, as I mentioned earlier, is likey to be of the order of Rs. 500 crores.

The total of Pakistan's debt as calculated above will be reduced by the liability she takes over direct in regard to Postal Savings Banks, Postal Cash and National Savings Certificates outstanding in her area, the pensions of the undivided Government paid in Pakistan and the liability for pensions earned by officers who have opted for service in that Dominion. For purposes of the financial settlement the outstanding debt of the Central Government will be valued after taking into account the interest payments, discounts, the date of redemption and so on. Similarly the actuarial value of the pensionary liability will have to be calculated. The closing of the accounts for the pre-partition period, without which the outstanding assets and liabilities connot be determined, will also take some time to complete. It is not therefore possible to give anything more than a very rough indication of the amounts involved in the settlement or the share of Pakistan in the outstanding debt. Pakistan's share will take the form of an inter-state debt to India. On a very rough estimate this debt is likely to be of the order of Rs. 300 crores, and the rate of interest may be near about a per cent. Pakistan's total debt is to be repaid in Indian rupees in fifty annual equated instalments for principal and interest. As a measure of assistance to the new Dominion in its earlier years it has been agreed that the first repayment should commence only in 1952.

In addition to the Rs. 75 crores given to her out of the cash balance of the undivided Government it has also been agreed that India would make available to Pakistan a further sum of Ks. 6 crores for meeting the expenditure on the setting up of Ordinance factories and similar special institutions required by her. This amount will also be added to Pakistan's debt. With this settlement, the terms of which, as the Deputy Prime Minister has already told the House, are generous and conceived in a real spirit of assistance to Pakistan, the purely financial problems arising out of the partition may be said to have been satisfactorily solved.

#### Sterling Reserves

The allocation of the sterling reserves that the Reserve Bank will hold when it ceases to be the currency authority and banker to the Pakistan Government on the 30th September next also raised difficult issues and I am glad to say that a satisfactory solution has been reached here also. It has been agreed that out of the sterling assets in the Issue Department, l'akastan would receive a share in the proportion of the notes in circulation in Pakistan. In addition she would also be entitled to 171 per cent. of the excess of the sterling held by the Reserve Bank on the 30th September 1948 in both the Banking and Issue Departments after allowing for the payments to be made to the British Government for surplus military stores and fixed assets and the capitalised value of pensions paid in sterling and

for the retention of a reserve in the Issue Department which, together with the gold, would be equal to 70 per centof the liabilities. This additional sterling will be released to Pakistan by India
as and when required, till the 31st December 1967, against payment in Indian
rupees.

#### FINANCIAL YEAR 1947-48.

#### REVENUE

I shall now proceed to give a brief review of the financial position in the current and the ensuing years.

In my interim Budgets I estimated the deficit for the current year covering 71 months at Rs. 24.59 crores. The House will be glad to know that I now estimate the deficit at only Rs. 6.52 crores. The improvement is due to some increase in the anticipated revenue and a decrease in expenditure.

The revenue receipts during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 are now estimated at Rs. 178-77 crores against Rs. 172.8 crores in the Budget passed by this House last November. The improvement of nearly Rs. 6 crores is mainly due to an increase of Rs. 2.35 crores under Customs and a windfall of Rs. 3 crores from the levy on old stocks of cloth released for sale at increased prices following the recent decontrol of textiles. The estimates also include Rs. 2.25 crores on account of Govern ment's share in the increased prices of sugar, stocks of which were frozen by Government when sugar was decontrolled last December, and Ks. 2 crores on account of the receipts of the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund. The revenue under Central Excise Duties is now esti-mated to show a reduction of Rs. 1.36 corporation Tax is now estimated at Rs. 115 crores, a reduction of Rs. 3 crores in the original estimate. The divisible pool of income-tax is now estimated at Rs. 65.49 crores of which the Provincial share would amount to Rs. 29.74 crores. The credit of Rs. 2.25 crores on account of the increase in sugar prices mentioned above will however be set off by a corresponding provision in the expenditure estimates as the intention is to fund these receipts for the benefit of the industry and the sugar producing Provinces. Similarly the receipts of the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund will be transferred to it by provision in the expenditure estimates.

#### EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure this year is now estimated at Rs. 185.29 crores showing a reduction of Rs. 12.1 crores in the original estimate. The expenditure on Defence Services is expected to show a saving of Rs. 6.11 crores, Civil estimates accounting for the balance of Rs. 5.99 crores.

The current year's budget for Defence Services included a substantial provision for new schemes and for the acquisition of land but owing to changes in the plans on strategic and other considerations and the pre-occupa-

tion of the Defence authorities with matters such as the operations in Kashmir to repel the invaders from that State, it is expected that a saving of Rs. 5.75 crores is likely to be effected this year. The budget also included a provision of Ks. 1.68 crores for payment to an equalisation Fund for the replacement of certain vessels of the Royal Indian Navy and aircraft of the Royal Indian Air Force. On further consideration it has peen decided that this contribution should wait until conditions become more stable and the provision on this account will accordingly lapse.

The saving of Rs. 5.99 crores in Civil expenditure is mainly due to a reduction in the provision for expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. The House will remember that a lump sum of Rs. 22 crores was provided for this purpose in the budget. At that time when the large scale movements of population were still taking place it was impossible to frame a close estimate of the expenditure likely to be involved. On the indications then available, I considered it advisable to provide a substantial figure. The position has since been reviewed and although it is still difficult, in view of the constant changes in the position and the fluid nature of the relief plans to make a close estimate it is now expected that the expenditure this year may not amount to more than Rs. 14:89 crores. A saving of Rs. 2-36 crores is also expected in the provisions of Rs. 22.52 crores for subsidies on imported foodgrains. Interest charges are also expected to show a saving of Rs. 1.29 crores. These savings are partly set off by the provision of Rs. 2.25 crores for funding the special receipts following the decontrol of sugar and the provision of Rs. 2 erores for the transfer to the Cotton Textiles Equalisation Fund of the receipts realised for it, both of which I have mentioned earlier.

#### FINANCIAL YEAR 1948-49.

I now turn to the estimates for 1948-49. At the existing level of taxation, 1 place the total revenue for the year at Rs. 230-52 crores and the expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 257-37 crores leaving a deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores. Before I deal with the detailed estimates, I must warn the House that the revised estimate for the current year does not provide a basis for comparison when considering the estimate for the current year covers only "I months while the provision in the budget for next year covers a full year.

#### REVENUE

The total receipts from customs have been placed at Rs. 81.75 crores. This provides for a full year's revenue from the enhanced duty on exports of cotton cloth and yarn imposed in the current year's budget. The effect on our revenue of the restriction on imports so as to conserve foreign exchange has been taken into account as also the restriction on the exports of raw cotton. Central excises are expected to bring in Rs. 34 crores and receipts from income-tax, which include Rs. 12 crores on account of Excess Profits Tax and Rs. 17 crores on account of the Business Profit Tax, have been placed at Rs. 130 crores.

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The divisible pool of income tax is estimated at Rs. 80.24 crores of which the Contre will retain Rs. 42.37 crores leaving Rs. 37.87 crores as the Provincial share. The profits from Currency and Mint, after allowing for the share of Pakistan under the arrangement for the management of the currency of both the Dominions by the Reserve Bank upto the 30th September 1948, are estimated at Rs. 9.4 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to amount to Rs. 26.2 crores and working expenses and interest to Rs. 25.82 crores leaving a small surplus of Rs. 38 lakhs. In the current year, the surplus will be shared between general revenues and the Department in the ratio of three to one while next year only half the surplus will accrue outright to general revenues. The department will get a rebate of interest on its share of the accumulated profits in the past which at the end of the budget year are expected to amount to about Rs. 8 crores.

In my estimate of receipts for 1948-49 no credit has been taken for any contribution from the railway surplus. The position with reference to this matter was explained by the Hon'ble Minister for Transport in his Budget speech the other day.

#### EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure for next year is estimated at Rs. 257.37 crores of which Defence Services will account for Rs. 121.08 crores and Civil Expenditure for Rs. 136.29 crores. Following the cutomary procedure, I shall first deal with the Defence estimates.

Defence Services .- The reconstitution of the Armed Forces of the undivided Government of India into separate forces for the two dominions is now virtually complete. It was envisaged at an earlier stage that the reorganisation of the Armed Forces would be largely completed in the financial year, 1948-49. With the alteration in the role of the Armed Forces as a result of the partition a redistribution of the available financial resources between the three available services to allow for a more balanced development was contemplated. Unfortunately, however, the recrudescence of communal disturbances and necessity in present circumstances of having to retain substantial forces till normal conditions roturn have made it impossible to undertake the long term planning of the Armed forces so as to keep the expenditure on thom at a level appropriate to the financial resources of the country.

As the House is alroady aware, the process of demobilisation of the Armod Forces was arrested by the partition of the country in order to facilitate the division of the forces between the two dominions and to enable them independently to determine the size and composition of their respective Armod Forces. In the altered strategic situation following the partition and also in view of the recent disturbances in the country, it has not been possible to resume demobilisation in the Armed Forces of the Indian Domin'on. The future



Coffee being dried in a coffee factory

strength and composition of these forces still remain to be decided and it may be some time before a decision is taken. Meanwhile, the Army is expected to be maintained at its present level.

Certain decisions for the expansion of the Naval and Air Forces have been taken and a delegation was sent to the United Kingdom last November to discuss with the British Government the question of acquiring certain Naval vossels and aircraft and the provision of training and other facilities for officers and men of the Indian Forces. These d'scussions were successfully completed and arrangements have been made for the acquisition of certain assets and for the training of Indian personnel. Honourable Members are aware of the decision by Government to strengthen the Navy with new type of ships, notably a cruiser and three destroyers. A party of officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy has already been despatched to the United Kingdom to undergo the necessary specialised training in order to ensure that these ships are manned as far as possible by Indian nationals. The Royal Indian Air Force is also being expanded.

#### Defence Services

The budget estimate for Defence Services for 1948-49 is, as I have mentioned, Rs. 121.08 crores. This exclusive of expenditure of a capital nature amounting to Rs. 14.99 crores to be incurred on the acquisition of land, the construction of training institutions, the provision of accommodation for personnel, the acquisition of new naval ve sols, air-craft and connected equipment for the expansion of the Navy and the Air Forces which I have mentioned earlier. Provision for this expenditure has been included in the Capital Budget. As the House is aware, this practice of providing for capital expenditure outside the revenue account was introduced during the last War, and was discontinued only in 1947-48. I trust the House will agree with me that in the present abnormal conditions the decision to charge to

capital the expenditure on the acquisition of permanent assets is unobjectionable.

The partition of the country placed heavy responsibilities on the Armed Forces of this Dominion when they were in the process of reconstitution both in the matter of maintenance of law and order and in assisting the Civil authorities in the evacuation and relief of the minorities in the Punjab. A Military Evacuation Organisation was set up during September 1947 with its headquarters at Amritsar and an advance headquarters at Lahore and this organisa. tion succeeded in evacuating over 4 million non-muslims [from Western million non-muslims [from Western Pakistan and about 5 million m slims from India within a period of 3 months. This stupendous task had to be performed under the most trying conditions and the troops which took part in it have responded most magnificently to the call. While the energy and resources of the army were mobilised for this humanitarian work further calls were made on them for the defence of Kashmir. The fighting in Kashmir is being carried on in difficult terrain and evere climatic conditions. I am sure the House will join me in paying a tribute to the Army and the Royal Indian Air Force for the magnificent way in which they have responded to the call made on them.

Civil Estimates.—Details of the estimates under individual heads are, as usual given, in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers and I do not propose to weary the House by repeating them here. I should like however to refer briefly to the provision included in these estimates for certain special items like the expenditure on refugees and the subsidy for food. The expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees next year is estimated at Rs. 10.04 crores. The expenditure next year will be largely on relief and rehabilitation as the evacuation of refugees has now been nearly completed, except from Sind and to some extent from the N.-W. F. P. This estimate is necessarily tentative because in the

rapidly changing conditions, it has not been possible to frame a close estimate. In addition to direct relief and grants for rehabilitation a comprehensive scheme for granting advances to the refugees to enable them to settle down in various walks of life has also been drawn up. A Rehabilitation Finance Administration to which Government will advance Rs. 10 crores is also being set up. I hope that the facilities provided by the Industrial Finance Corporation will also be available for the assistance of industries which have had to be transferred to India on account of the communal disturbances. In addition to the provision of Rs. 10.04 crores in the revenue budget a sum of Rs. 10 crores has been included in the capital budget for the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and Rs. 5 crores for loans and advances for rehabilitation, including loans to Provinces for this purpose. The expenditure on food subsidies including the bonus to Provinces on the internal procurement of grain under the new food policy announced recently is esti-mated at Rs. 19.91 crores next year. The estimates also include a total provision of Rs. 102 crores under various heads for expenditure upon development schemes and resettlement.

The House would doubtless wish to know if in framing the budget for next year any allowance has been made for the implementation of the recommendations of the Economy Committee the appointment of which under the Chairmanship of Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai was announced by me. The House will realise that it is obviously impossible to forecast the directions in which the committee may suggest economies and the total amount that could be expected to be saved. I have however made a lump cut of Rs. 21 crores under the various heads of civil expenditure in order to ensure that some economy is effected pending the report of the Committee. If the Committee's report suggests economies on a larger scale I propose to take steps during the course of the year to see that they are realised. I wish to make it clear however that this lump cut is mainly in the nature of a token and should not be taken as giving any indication of the size of the economy which I consider could be effected. This must necessarily depend on the considered judgment of the Committee after they have examined the various departmental authorities and I do not wish in any way to anticipate their findings.

#### Expenditure on Refugees

Of the total expenditure of Rs. 136.29 crores provided in the budget for next year Rs. 29.95 crores are accounted for by the expenditure on refugees and the payment of subsidies and bonus for foodgrains, leaving Rs. 106.34 crores for normal expenditure. This includes Rs. 8.98 crores for tax collection, Rs. 43.86 crores for obligatory expenditure on payment of interest and pensions and provision for debt redemption, Rs. 3.15 crores for Planning and Resettlement, Rs. 2.2 crores for expenditure on the Mints and the Nasik Press, Rs. 2.95 crores for grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments and Rs. 20.93 crores for expenditure in the nation-building sphere such as Medical, Public Health. Education,

Broadcasing, Aviation and the conduct of scientific surveys and institutions in which the Central Government supplement the work of the Provincial Governments and provide valuable technical assistance and research. The balance of Rs. 24.27 crores represents the provision for ordinary administration, Civil Works, etc., and this constitutes only 18 per cent. of the total civil expenditure. In addition to Rs. 20.93 crores in the nation-building sphere mentioned above, provision has been made in the capital budget for a grant of Rs. 30 crores to Provincial Governments for development and Rs. 34 crores for loans.

On the basis of the estimates of revenue and expenditure that I have so far explained, the anticipated deficit in the Budget for 1948-49 is Rs. 26.85 crores. In a later part of my speech I shall revert to the question of how I propose to deal with this deficit.

#### Planning and Development

When I addressed this House last November I mentioned that the question of re-examining the development schemes of the Provincial Governments with reference to the reduced resources likely to be available to the Centre for financing development and the changes resulting from the partition will be taken up. I have since had this further examined and it has been decided that so far as the Centre is concerned there should be no reduction in the extent of assistance promised by it to the Provinces when the Provinces were asked to draw up their plans for development. The House will remember that the Provinces were informed in 1945 that they could draw up their plans of Post-war development on the assumption that in the five years beginning with 1947-48 they could expect assistance by way of grants of the order of Rs. 250 crores. This amount was provisionally distributed among the Provinces in the ratio of their population. But some special weightage was given to the backward provinces of Assam, the N. W. F. P. and Orissa and to Bengal which with Assam, had been affected by the impact of war in the north-east frontier. With this weightage the Centre's promised contribution in 5 years rose to Rs. 273.88 crores. The Provinces given advance grants to cover the expenditure incurred by them on development schemes in 1945-46 and 1946-47 to be taken against their share of the grant for the five year period.

The progress of expenditure on the development schemes has been somewhat slower than anticipated mainly due to the shortage of material and man-power and the time taken to formulate detailed schemes. In the current year a provision of Rs. 20.39 crores was included in the budget for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 but it is unlikely that the whole of it will be spent. After allowing for the expenditure incurred up to the partition and for the areas now in Pakistan and reallocating the balance to the Provinces in the Indian Dominion the outstanding balance of the assistance from Centre to the Provinces at the end of the current year, on approximately the same scale as was promised by the then Government of India in 1945, is estimated roughly at between Rs. 170

and Rs. 180 crores. I have carefully considered whether in the altered circumstances the Centre should reduce its assistance to the Provinces but I have come to the conclusion that in the larger interests of the development of the country as a whole it would be unwise to do so, particularly as the Provinces have framed their plans on the assumption that the promised assistance would be forthcoming.

In reaching this decision I have been influenced by the fact that in actual practice the grants are likely to be spread over a somewhat longer period than the four years that remain out of the original five year period fixed for this assistance. This, to some extent, will relieve the strain on the resources of the Centre. But it is being made clear to the Provinces that in future the grants from the Centre upto the maximum agreed to will be contingent on the Provinces spending from their own resources at least an equal amount and that the whole scheme of assistance would be subject to readjustment if in the new constitution there is any substantial transfer of resources from the Centre to the units. I trust that with this assurance the Provinces will now be in a position to go ahead with their schemes of development and that they will conserve and exploit all the available resources for this purpose. The budget for the next year includes a provision of Rs. 30 crores for grants to Provinces for development and Rs. 34 crores for loans to them.

#### Central Schemes

For Central schemes of development, including resettlement, a provision of Rs. 101 crores has been made in the revenue budget and Rs. 251 crores in the capital budget. Details of the porvision are given in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers and I do not propose to dilate at length on the individual schemes for which provision has been included in the budget. But they cover a very wide field and among the important schemes I would mention the expansion of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, the development of the valuable forests in the Andamans, the preliminary work on the Kosi, Sone Valley, Ghandak and Assam Valley projects, all of which form part of the large scale schemes of river development, the reorganisation of the Central Waterways Navigation and Irrigation Research Stations, the setting up of a Tractor Testing Station, the establishment of a Central Agricultural College, the expansion of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the loan of Rs. 2 crores to the Damodar Valley Corporation and the investment of Rs. 1 crore in the Industrial Finance Corporation. In addition to provision for expenditure on the individual schemes just mentioned the budget also provides for an expenditure of over Rs. 2 crores for buildings for development schemes, Rs. 61 crores for the construction and improvement of National Highways, Rs. 61 crores for the Fertiliser Factory under construction at Sindri, Rs. 4 crores for the expansion of civil aviation and Rs. 70 lakhs for the expansion of broadcasting facilities.



A coffee picker

Before I pass on to deal with the ways and means position I shall give the House a brief account of the provision included in the budget for normal capital expenditure. The revised estimate for this year includes a provision of Rs. 261 crores of which the Railways account for Rs. 162 crores, Posts and Telegraphs for Rs. 21 crores and schemes of State Trading for Rs. 41 crores. For next year the provision amounts to Rs. 76 crores of which Rs. 241 crores are for Railways, Rs. 31 crores for Posts and Telegraphs, Rs. 15 crores for Defence to cover expenditure on the purchase of naval vessels, aircraft and spares for the expansion of the Navy and Air Forces, the acquisition of land and the construction of accommodation for Defence Services personnel, Rs. 31 crores on the provision of additional accommodation in New Delhi, Rs. 2% crores for administrative buildings and communications costing over a lakh of rupees, the cost of which is now met from capital, and Rs. 27 crores for the building up of the central reserve of 6 lakhs tons of foodgrains in accordance with the recently announced food policy of Government. The total provision in the Capital Budget for normal requirements and for financing

the development schemes both of the Centre and the Provinces comes to the impressive figure of Rs. 70 crores this year and Rs. 165½ crores next year.

#### Ways and Means

I now turn to a brief consideration of the ways and means position. During this year owing to the uncertain political conditions in the earlier months the partition of the country and the widespread communal disturbances in certain parts of the country it was not possible to borrow from the market the substantial amount which was originally planned. Next year in addition to the interest-free prize bonds, with an outstanding of a little over Rs. 5 crores, which mature in January 1949, Government have the option of repaying the outstanding balance of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1948-52 and the 4 percent. Loan 1948-53. A decision on the exercise of this option will be taken in the course of the year with reference to the conditions then prevailing. The market borrowings next year have been taken at Rs. 150 crores but if circumstances are propitious the scale of borrowing will be stepped up. I

would, in this connection, reiterate the appeal I made on the floor of this House last November for the utmost co-operation from the public in the borrowing opera-tions of the Government. Apart from the need which still remains for withdrawing surplus purchasing power from the hands of the community as a measure of anti-inflation, the requirements of funds for financing the large scale plans of development which the Government have in view and for assistance to the Provinces for implementing their schemes is as great as ever and unless the public co-operate whole-heartedly with the Government by lending their savings it will be impossible to undertake all the schemes of development necessary for raising the standard of life of our people.

I shall now pass on to the consideration of the all important problems of how to deal with the deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores.

I just mentioned a deficit of Rs. 26.85 crores. This is exclusive of any contribution from the railway surplus. As Hon'ble Members are aware, it has now been decided that out of the railway surplus a conr.bution of Rs. 4.5 crores should be made to general revenues during the next year. The estimated deficit is therefore reduced to Rs. 22.35 crores.

#### Reliefs in Taxation

The House will remember that in my Budget Speech last November I referred to the widespread criticism that the level of taxation in the 1947-48 Budget had seriously affected the incentive for saving and investment and I undertook to make a careful examination of the consequences of our taxation policy before I presented the annual Budget. Since then I have given very anxious thought to the question and I have reached the conclusion that there is a considerable measure of justification in that criticism. As I have emphasised elsewhere, the paramount need in present conditions is to stimulate production and any fiscal or administrative measure which restricts or curtails the expansion of industry will stunt our development to our future difficulties. and add While industry should be called upon to pay its just contribution to the common exchequer, the burden placed upon it must be such as to allow business to expand. At the same time the aim of our policy should be to secure that while the level of taxation is reasonably high so that the wealthier sections of the community are placed under an equitable contribution for the common needs of the State, a genuine margin is left for savings which would flow back into investment and thereby add to the productive wealth of the community, which the State itself could subsequently tap. It is also necessary so to adjust our taxation as to provide a real incentive to the ploughing back of profits into fresh business. In making my pro-posals in the field of direct taxation, I have kept these considerations prominently in mind.

I shall pass on to deal first with the various measures of relief which I propose to give.

My first proposal is with reference to the Business Profits Tax. This measure gave room for a good deal of controversy when it was introduced for the first time in the budget for 1947-48. The sudden withdrawal of the Excess Profits Tax gave this tax a considerable measure of justification. During the discussions on the floor of the House the then Finance Member stated that this tax would be in operation for one year, leaving it to his successor to decide whether it should be continued or not. In view of the criticisms levelled against this measure, both inside this House and outside, I have given a good deal of thought to this matter. I have come to the conclusion that, in the present circumstances, there is no justification for the complete withdrawal of this tax. Hon'ble Members might know that in the United Kingdom a tax of this kind was introduced some time back as a National Defence Contribution. The tax is retained though its nomenclature has been subsequently changed to Profits Tax. The need for additional funds for reconstruction and especially for the rehabilitation of refugees would justify the continuance of this measure in India for some time. I have, therefore, decided to retain this source of revenue but to reduce the burden of this tax considerably. The abatement allowed at present is Rs. 1 lakh or 6 per cent. of the capital employed, whichever is larger. The rate of the tax is 16? per cent. I propose that the abatement should be Rs. 2 lakhs or 6 per cent. of the capital employed, which ever is larger, and that the rate of the tax should be reduced to 10 per cent. I hope this reduction will be welcomed by the business community. The net result of this proposal will be a gross loss of Rs. 2 crores. Rs. 1 crore of this loss will, however, be recovered by the increase in income-tax receipts and the net result will therefore be a loss of Rs. 1

#### Super Tax

My second proposal is to reduce the existing rate of super-tax. The House will remember that last year the limit of income at which the maximum rate of 101 annas is attracted was reduced in the case of earned income from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs and in the case of unearned income from Rs. 31 lakhs to Rs. 1,20,000. The effect of this was to take away from any person with an income of over Rs. 1,20,000 nearly the whole of the income beyond this amount. This hardly left any incentive to save and I has no doubt myself that such severe taxation at this level would seriously hamper the growth of savings and retard our industrial development. I have accordingly raised the limit at which the maximum rate of tax will be attracted to Rs. 31 lakhs for both earned and unearred income. I trust the House will agree with me that this measure of relief is justified. I have also rearranged the rate of the tax within the slabs and the rates as they now stand seem to me to fulfil the double purpose of keeping the level of taxation sufficiently high while leaving at the same time a margin for saving. The changes in super-tax are estimated to cost Rs. 1 crore.

In the budget for 1946-47 a complicated system of levying super tax at

steeply graded rates on dividends above a datum line was introduced and last year these rates were further stiffened. The object of this was to deter the distribution of large dividends and secure the ploughing back of profits into business. In actual practice very little revenue was collected from this source and the purpose with which it was introduced does not appear to have been realised. I feel that something more positive is required to induce industrialists to return more of their profits into investment than taxing those who distribute large dividends. My proposal to secure this end is to reduce the tax on the undistributed profits of companies by one anna. The effect of my proposal will be that on distributed profits the present rate of 5 annas will remain, while the tax on undistributed profits will be at the rate of 4 annas. I trust that this concession will produce better results than the present complicated system. The cost of this concession is estimated at Rs. 2 crores.

#### Income Tax on Companies

My next proposal is to reduce the income-tax on companies with an income of Rs. 25,000 and below to half the usual rates. Among the dangers to be avoided in the rapid industrialisation of this country is the one of concentrating too many businesses in the hands of large companies, and I feel that every encouragement should be given to the growth of smaller companies. This will broadbase our economy and will also be in line with our general pattern of industrial development with its constant emphasis on the development of cottage industries and a fair distribution of industry over the various Provinces. My contribution towarda such a development is to allow this concession in favour of small companies with moderate incomes. The loss of revenue from this is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs.

There is a widespread feeling that with the heavy taxation to which incomes are now subject there is very little scope left for assistance by the public to deserving institutions and charities. I have received a number of representations on this subject and after careful consideration of the matter I feel that a measure of relief on contributions made to recognised institutions and charities would be justified. In this country there is a far too general a tendency for charitable and other institutions to look to the State for assistance and not to the public. To the extent to which there is a larger flow of private benefaction to such institutions, the burden on the State for supporting them will be reduced. I accordingly propose that donations to approved institutions and charities should be exempted from taxation so long as they do not exceed 5 per cent of the net taxable income in the case of companies and 10 per cent in the case of individuals, subject to a maximum of Rs. 21 lakhs in both cases. I trust the House will welcome this concession and I hope it will encourage our industrialists and the public to subscribe more generously to deserving institutions and purposes. It is my intention to have a list of approved

institutions and bodies drawn up in consultation with the Provincial Governments. It is difficult to estimate the loss of revenue involved in this concession and I have taken a rough figure of Rs. 75 lakhs.

I also propose to give a further measure of relief, in regard to the payment of municipal taxes on house property. I have felt that the absence of such an exemption is an anomaly in our tax system and that there is a justifiable claim for relief here. I accordingly propose to exempt these payments from taxation. The cost of this concession is estimated at Rs. 75 lakhs.

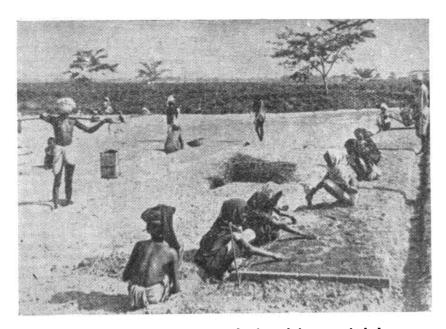
#### Corporation Tax

Before I pass on to deal with reliefs in indirect taxation, I should like to mention briefly a point in which it seems necessary to readjust our Corporation Tax. Hon'ble Members are aware that under the law as it stands we are entitled to recover supertax on dividends paid by companies incorporated outside this country to their shareholders abroad in respect of their Indian business. For this purpose it is necessary to ascertain from the companies particulars about their shareholders abroad and the dividends distributed to them. This information is rarely available in full with the result that very little of the tax due is collected. It is necessary that some effective arrangement should be made to protect our revenue against this leakage and I think that this can best be done by raising the general rate of Corporation Tax and giving an appropriate rebate on their income to those companies which declare and pay their dividends in India. I accordingly pro-pose that the rate of Corporation Tax be raised from 2 annas to 3 annas and a rebate of one anna allowed to the companies which declare and distribute their dividends in India. The effect of this proposal will be that companies in India will pay the present rate of Corporation Tax at 2 annas while foreign companies having business in India will have to pay a Corporation Tax of 3 annas on their profits earned in this country. change is expected to bring an additional revenue of Rs. 2 crores.

I may now summarise the net effect of the reliefs in income-tax and the proposed change in the Corporation Tax. The various concessions I have just detailed will result in a loss in revenue of Rs. 6.62 crores of which the Provincial share will amount to Rs. 2.41 crores. This will, however, be partly set off by the additional revenue of Rs. 2 crores from the change in the Corporation Tax and Rs. 1 crore from the ordinary collection of tax resulting from the reduction in the Business Profits Tax, of which the Provincial share will amount to Rs. 45 lakhs. The net effect of my proposals on the Centre is a reduction of Rs. 1.66 crores.

I shall now turn to the reliefs in the field of indirect taxation.

During the debate on the interim Budget there was some criticism about the increase in the export duty on cloth and I promised to consider the suggestion



Tea Industry: Picture shows seeds of tea being sown in beds

that the duty should be converted into an al valorem duty. I have received a number of representations that the present specific duty is pressing too heavily on handloom cloth and on certain categories of mill-made cloth. The duty of 6 annas a pound on cotton yarn has also proved burdensome and on a careful review of the matter in all its aspects I have decided to convert the export duty into an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. to exempt handloom cloth from the duty and to withdraw the duty on exports of cotton yarn. These concessions will involve a loss of revenue of Rs. 4.5 crores.

I also propose to withdraw the present excise duty on betelnuts. The administration of this excise has always been difficult and it has been prolific source of complaint from the areca-growing Provinces. I trust the House would welcome this concession which I hope will mean cheapening of this article to the poor man. The loss of revenue involved is Rs. 30 lakhs.

#### New and Additional Taxes

The net effect of all the reliefs mentioned so far and the changes in income tax is a roduction-in revenue of Rs. 6.46 crores, raising the prospective deficit to Rs. 28.81 crores.

In an earlier part of this speech I expressed the view that in the present inflationary conditions it is necessary to reduce, as far as possible, the gap between revenue and expenditure and if it is at all possible to have a surplus budget. I am sure the House will agree with me that the prospective deficit is too large to be left uncovered and that in a transitional time like this we should take every step possible to strengthen our revenue position. In raising additional taxation it is, in my view, necessary to sceure that as little of the burden as possible falls on the poor man.

Before I deal with my proposals for

raising additional revenue I shall briefly digress to mention a change in accounting which will reduce the prospective deficit by Rs. 10 crores. Advance payments of income-tax under Section 18-A of the Income Tax Act are not credited as revenue but held in deposit till the complicated process of assessing the tax is completed. These advance payments of tax are not really refundable deposits and there is no reason why they should not be credited to revenue straightaway. I propose to introduce this change with effect from next year. But the change will be made in stages so that) the budgetary position is not violently disturbed. The advance payments will be credited to a separate minor head with the major head and transferred to the final heads on completion of the assessments. The change in procedure will be given effect to next year, in respect of advance payments of Corporation Tax and will be extended to advance payments of income-tax subsequent Ι years. in hardly mention that this in procedure will not in any way affect the provincial share of income-tax. The result of this change will be to divert to revenue next year Rs. 10 crores which would have otherwise been credited as a deposit. This will reduce the deficit to Rs. 18.81 crores.

I shall now address myself to the problem of coverin this deficit by new taxes. The House will appreciate that with the existing shortage in the foreign exchange resources of the country and the need to conserve them as far as possible to meet our heavy commitments in respect of our food purchases, it is not possible to expect any substantial relief from the expansion of customs revenue from import duties, although the country could absorb all the imports likely to flow in if the restrictions on imports are relaxed. For a considerable time we shall have to rely on Central excises and, to some extent, on the yield of export duties. In framing my taxation proposals I have turned as much as

possible to the field of export duties which do not involve any additional burden on our people and to such of the excises as do not affect the poorer classes.

My first proposal is to levy an export duty of Rs. 80 per ton on oilseeds and Rs. 200 per ton on vegetable oils. There is a wide disparity between the internal prices of these commodities and their export prices and I am satisfied that the imposition of this duty will not affect our export market. The yield from this duty is estimated at Rs. 2.5 crores.

My next proposal is to levy an export duty of Rs. 20 per ton on Manganese to yield Rs. 80 lakhs.

#### **Import Duties**

I propose to make only two minor changes in the import duties. The duty on motor cars will be raised from 45 per cent. to 50 per cent, with a preference of 7½ per cent. in favour of the United Kingdom. The yield from this increase is estimated at Rs. 50 lakhs. The import duty on cigars, cigarettes and manufactured tobaccoo will also be slightly raised following the changes in the excise duty, to which I shall presently refer. The increase in revenue from this change is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs.

In the field of Central excises my main proposals concern Tobacco. It is only in recent years that the Tobacco excise has been developed and the system of taxation could, in my opinion, be rationalised so as to increase the revenue from this source. But this will take some time. Meanwhile, I propose to levy an excise duty on cigarettes amounting to roughly 25 per cent. on the ex-factory prices. I estimated the yield from this change at Rs. 7 crores. Simultaneously the duty on certain categories of unmanufactured tobacco will be raised from 9 annas per lb. to 12 annas per lb. in some cases and 3 annas per lb. to 4 annas per lb. in others in order to secure that that there is no diversion from the consumption of cigarettes, of the cheaper varieties. This increase is estimated to yield Rs. 2 стогов.

The excise duty on Tea will be raised from 2 annas per lb. to 4 annas per lb. to bring it to the same level as the export duty. The additional revenue from this increase is estimated at Rs. 1.8 crores.

The duty on Coffee will be similarly raised to 4 annas per 15. to yield Rs. 30 lakhs.

The duty on Vegetable Product will be raised by 50 per cent. to Rs. 7-8-0 per cent. to yield Rs. 40 lakhs.

The duty on Tyres will also be raised by 50 per cent. The additional revenue is estimated at Rs. 40 lakhs.

The House will remember that in the budget for 1946-47 the excise duty on Matches was reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 per gross to Rs. 1-12-0 per gross for boxes containing between 40 and 50 matches. In actual practice this reduction has not been passed on to the consumer and I propose that this should be withdrawn

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and the minimum duty fixed at Rs. 2.8-0 per ross on all boxes containing up to 50 matches. The additional revenue from this will amount to Rs. 150 lakhs.

I also propose to make two minor changes in the Postal and Telephone rates. The registration fee will be raised from 3 to 4 annas while the surcharge on trunk telephone calls will be raised from 40 to 60 per cent and amalgamated with the basic rate. These changes which will be introduced by executive orders, will bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 40 lakhs.

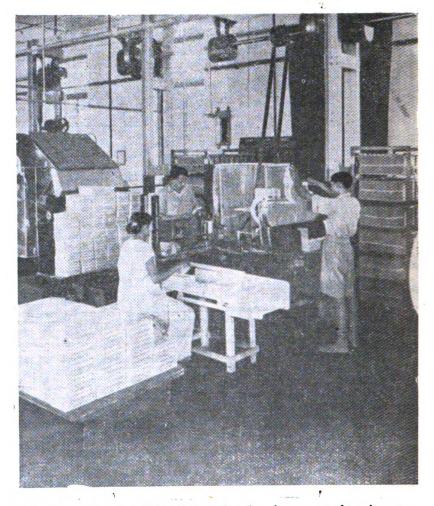
#### **Net Result of Proposals**

I may now summarise the net effect of all the proposals that I have made. The reliefs and the changes that I have proposed in income-tax, supertax and Corporation Tax will result in loss of Rs. 1.66 crores. The abolition of the export duty on handloom cloth and yarn and the reduction of the export duty on mill-made cloth will mean a loss of Rs. 4.5 crores. The abolition of the excise duty on betelnuts will cost Rs. 30 lakhs. The total loss to revenue on account of relief and readjustments of these taxes will be Rs. 6.46 crores. On the basis of this loss the original deficit of Rs. 22.35 crores will be increased to Rs. 28.81 crores. This deficit will again be reduced to Rs. 18.81 crores by taking the advance payments of Corporation Tax next year direct to revenue. With regard to the additional taxes, the proposed export duties will bring in Rs. 3.3 crores. The increase in the import duties will bring in Rs. 62 lakhs. The increase in excises will bring in Rs. 13.4 crores. The changes made in the Postal and Telephone charges will bring in Rs. 40 lakhs. The total net revenue resulting from these new taxes and the enhancement of certain existing taxes will thus bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 17.72 crores. The final deficit for the year will therefore stand at Rs. 1.09 crores. In the present circumstances I feel fully justified in leaving this small deficit uncovered. In considering this deficit the House must remember that the estimates do not include any credit on account of the interest due from Pakistan on its partition debt which, but for the moratorium, would be available to the credit of our revenues. Though it is not possible to know accurately at present the amount of the interest due from Pakistan, it may be assumed on a very rough calculation that it would be of the order of Rs. 9 crores. If this amount, which is legitimately due to us and the payment of which is only postponed, was available to me in the next year, the deficit would really be converted into a substantial surplus.

Much has been said in the past on the floor of this House and elsewhere regarding the maintenance of a proper balance between direct and indirect taxes in our tax structure. The House will appreciate that this is not a matter which could be regulated by any set principles and that, in the ultimate analysis, it is merely a question of arranging the taxation to the best advantage of the community and with reference

to the economic conditions of each country. Thus, while in an industrially advanced country it may be possible to raise a substantial revenue by direct taxation it will obviously be unwise to pitch the direct taxes too high in a country in the process of development as the inevitable effect of high direct taxation is to retard the formation of capital without which industrial development is not possible. Similarly, when the main consideration is to curtail consumption, as during a period of shortage of goods and inflation, it may be necessary to raise the level of indirect taxation to secure a reduction in consumption. There is also a common fallacy that the larger the amount of indirect taxation the heavier the burden on the ordinary man. While it is of course true that over a considerable field consumption taxes reach a wider section of the population than direct taxation, consumption taxes on such luxuries as motorcars, the costlier varieties of tobacco and cigarettes, duties on wines spirits, export duties which do not affect the internal consumer, all of which go to swell the total of indirect taxation do not touch the life of the ordinary man. In this connection I am sure the House will be interested to know the pattern of our tax structure. !n 1937-

38 out of a total revenue of Rs. 75.8 crores direct taxation accounted for only 21 per cent. while the bulk of the revenue came from indirect taxation This proportion has naturally varied during the war years when there was a steep rise in direct taxation due to the large increase in incometax and the levy of the Excess Profits Tax. In the budget for next year which I am now presenting to this House the proportion of direct to indirect taxation will be about equal. It would be interesting to compare our position in this respect with the United Kingdom. In a highly industrialised country like the United Kingdom, the scope for raising large revenues from direct taxation is greater. The United Kingdom budget for 1947-48 discloses that in that country the percentage of direct taxes to the total tax revenue is only 52. This compares very favourably with our tax structure in which, with a comparatively poor industrial economy, we collect about 51 per cent. of our taxes from direct taxes. Another interesting feature of our economy is that, as compared with 1937-38, the direct taxes would have increased eight and half times in 1948-49 while the indirect taxes would have increased only by a little over twice. Considering the relatively undeveloped state of our country, I do



In a cigarette factory: This photograph taken in an up-to-date cigarette factory in Hyderabad State, shows how machinery packs the cigarettes which are not touched by hand

not think that any one could say that the burden of direct taxation in this country is unduly light or that there has been any shifting of the burden on the shoulders of the ordinary man.

On the estimates as they finally emerge, the total revenue next year will stand at Rs. 256.28 crores and the expenditure at Rs. 257. 37 crores, leaving an uncovered deficit of Rs. 1.09 crores. I must, however, warn the House that this cannot by any means be regarded as the normal figure of revenue and expenditure for the subsequent years. The estimated income-tax receipts for 1948-49 include collections relating to the Excess Profits Tax which will practically disappear in the subsequent years. The Business Profits Tax in subsequent years will also be less and other factors being equal, the net proceeds of income-tax accruing to the Central Government for 1949-50 will be approximately Rs. 20 crores less than the corresponding receipts for 1948-49. The total revenue for 1949-50 will therefore be at least Rs. 20 crores less than in 1948-49. As against this, it should be borne in mind that certain items of expenditure appearing in the budget for 1948-49 may reasonably be expected to show a considerante decrease. The expenditure provided for next year under relief and rehabilitation and food subsidies amounts to Rs. 29.95 crores. It may reasonably be anticipated that the expenditure under these two items will go down considerably during the subsequent years. If normal political conditions are restored, a reduction in the defence expenditure may also be anticipated. Taking all the factors into consideration, it is not unreasonable to hope for a balanced budget in the future. The House will realise that in the transitional phase through which we are passing, it is difficult to make any precise estimate of our financial position for the next two or three years. On any reasonable view of the situation, I feel it is the path of prudence to strengthen our revenue position and keep down our expenditure as much as possible. As a precautionary measure, in tapping new sources of revenue I have decided to re-introduce in the current session the Estate Duty Bill. Even though the proceeds of this duty will go to the benefit of the Provinces, any augmentation of the revenues of the Provinces would, to some extent, reduce the strain on Central finances. Apart from this, it is possible under the proposed measure to levy surcharges for purely Central purposes.

Although I have not been able to present a balanced or surplus budget, much as I wish to, the size of the deficit next year which I propose to leave uncovered is very small in relation to the total expenditure. It may be considered an index of the efforts that we are making to close the era of war-time deficits and bridge the gap between revenue and expenditure. In my interim Bugdet I ventured to express the view that the financial position of the country was intrinsically sound and that we were not living beyond our means or heading towards bankruptcy. The Budget that I am now presenting fully supports this view. While it will be

#### SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES

REVENUE.

		REVEN	UE.			
					(In takhs of Revised 1947-48	of Rs.) Budget 1948-49
Customs	••	••	•••	••	<b>54,5</b> 0	{ 81,75 58*
Central Excise Duties	••	••	••	••	20,72	$\begin{cases} 34,00 \\ 13,10 \end{cases}$
Corporation Tax	••	••	••	• •	40,43	<b>39</b> ,50 <b>10,3</b> 0*
Taxes on Income	••	<b>;</b> ·	••	• •	7 <b>4,</b> 57	$\begin{cases} 90,50 \\ -3,92 \end{cases}$
Salt					90	•
Opium			• •	• •	68	1,40
Interest	••	••	••	• •	46	1,17
Civil Administration	••	••	••	• •	7,28	5,12
Currency and Mint	••	••	••	• •	1,25	9,40
	• •	• •	••	• •	47	81
		• •	• •	• •		4,36
Other sources of revenue			• •	• •	5,11	4,30 ( 38
Contribution from Posts	and 1	eiegrapns	• •	• •	2,14	( 30
						<b>5 40*</b>
						(
Con'ribution from Railw	ays	• •	• •		• •	4,50
Deduct-Share of incom		evenue nevel	hla ta Duarda		29.74	<i>←</i> 37.87
Death Share of Theom	o-vax r	evenue payai	ole to Frovin	ices		1,96*
		Тота	REVENUE		1,78,77	2,56,28
		EXI	ENDITURE	c.		
Direct demands on reve	mue				5,45	8,98
Irrigation		••			8	13
Debt Services					19.24	41.16
Civil Administration	••	• •	• •	• •	23,75	34,56
Currency and Mint	• •	••	••	• •	1,14	2,20
Civil Works	• •	• •	• •	• •	6,28	7.21
	• •	• •	• •	• •		
	• •	• •	• •	• •	1,57	2,70
Misce laneous-					14.00	10.04
Expenditure on refu		• •	• •	• •	14,89	10,04
Subsidy on foodgrain	ns	• •	• •	• •	20,16	19,91
Other expenditure	• •	• •			2,36	3,28
Grants to Provinces	• •	• •			1,85	2,96
Extraordinary items			• •		1,89	3,16
Defence Services (net)		• •			86,63	121,08
		Ma Ti-	-	-	105 00	957 97
N - D					185,29	257,37
		N	ET DEFICIT	• •	6,52	1,09
		*Budget Pr	oposals.			

folly to ignore the difficulties ahead, I feel that we can face the future in a spirit of sober confidence.

#### **Public Debt**

The debt position of a country is a sure index of its financial strength and here again I think our position is inherently sound. At the end of the current year the total outstanding public debt is expected to stand at Rs. 1,795 crores and to rise by a further Rs. 56 crores during next year to Rs. 1,851 crores. The total of the interest bearing obligations is estimated at Rs. 2,182 crores at the end of this year and Rs. 2,231 crores at the end of this year and Rs. 2,231 crores at the end of this year roughly Rs. 1,161 crores and at the end of next year Rs. 1,237 crores by way of interest yielding assets representing the

investments in the two great commercial departments of Government, namely, the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, outstanding amounts due to us from the Provincial Governments, Indian States, Burma and others, and the probable debt of Pakistan to us. In addition, we shall be holding cash and other investments on treasury accounts amounting to Rs. 246 crores at the end of this year and Rs. 130 crores at the end of next year. The total interest bearing obligations not covered by interest bearing assets and our cash and interest yielding investments would thus amount to no more than Rs. 775 crores at the end of the current year and Rs. 864 at the end of the next year. The House will realise that these figures are to some extent approximate and it is not possible to give precise figures until Pakistan's share of the obligations, which she would assume direct and her

debt to India have been finally worked out. Allowances have, however, been made for this on the best guess that could be made and I think the House may accept these figures as giving a broad indication of the position.

The debt burden is to be judged primarily by the size of the deadweight debt. The amount of deadweight debt which I estimate at Rs. 864 crores is indeed very small when compared with the resources of the country and the national income. The debt position may be compared with the national income for assessing whether the debt is one which the country can afford to carry. For this purpose, we may take the whole of the interest bearing obligations of the Government of India which are expected to stand at Rs. 2,231 crores at the end of next year. Unfortunately, we have no accurate data regarding the national income of our Various estimates country. been made from time to time, but none of them has been made on a really accurate and scientific basis and I do not think we shall be far wrong if we assume that our national income is of the order of 4,500 crores of rupees. Our public debt is less than half of our national income. It is interesting to compare our position with that of more advanced countries like the United Kingdom and the United States. The national debt in the United States is more than 11 times its national income and the national debt of the United Kingdom is nearly three times its national income. The burden of the debt may also be assessed in another manner by studying the interest charges in relation to the annual revenue. For the year 1948-49 our gross payment of interest charges will amount to Rs. 61.82 crores. From our Commercial Departments like Railways, Posts and Telegraphs etc, and by way of interest receipts from Provincial Governments and other sources we get Rs. 25.66 crores. The net interest payment therefore is Rs. 36.16 crores. From this must again be deducted the interest due to us from Pakistan which I have estimated at approximately 9 crores of rupes. Our net interest burden is therefore about Rs. 27 crores. The anticipated revenue is Rs. 256.28 crores. Our net interest payment therefore represents only about 101% of our revenue. The inference that may legitimately be drawn from these figures is that we could carry even a larger volume of debt and that there is still a large source available here for financing the development of the country. The savings of the community could be mobilised on a very much larger scale for financing productive schemes of development. I appealed earlier in my speech for public co-operation in the borrowing programme of Government. The picture of our financial position which I have unfolded before this House will, I hope, have a reassuring effect on the public and instil a spirit of confidence all round.

Mr. Speaker, I have completed my survey of the economic condition of our country, my estimate of our income and expenditure and my proposals for the coming year. I must apologise to the

(Continued in next Column)

## Ceylon A Good Market For Indian Goods

N spite of its small population, Ceylon is a good market for foreign goods; and because of her proximity and the close relationship between the two countries, India is naturally the largest single supplier of goods to the Island.

A "Memorandum on Trade between India and Ceylon", issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, points out that India has provided Ceylon with the necessaries of life when supplies from other countries have been difficult to obtain due to import and export restrictions. Her goods satisfy the needs of a population with low purchasing power. "In certain commodities, like cotton piecegoods, woollen and silk goods", it continues, "India has an assured market in Ceylon which other countries can scarcely hope to surmount". The general economic development of the new Dominion is expected to lead to increasing trade with India.

#### (Continued from Column 1)

House for the length of my statement. In the first annual Budget, I thought it my duty to give the House a fairly full picture of our financial position. In my interim Budget I struck a note of subdued optimism and ventured to express my opinion that our financial position was intrinsically sound. A more detailed examination over a longer period has confirmed that opinion. In spite of all the trials to which our infant State has been subjected, we have the solid foundations on which we can confidently build the superstructure of our economic and social edifice. The pattern of that structure is entirely in our hands to draw. While fighting the uphill battle of freedom we dreamt the dream of an India free from want and insecurity, a land in which our people would have in abundance the material and moral contents of a good life. But then our hands were tied and so we merely made plans which would improve our agriculture and industrialise our country, and thus provide a higher standard of living to our masses. From August 15th, 1947, the chains of our bondage have been broken and we are free to translate our dreams into reality. The plans are there, but we find that our freedom was born in an era so fluid and fast changing that any pre-determined step other than the next became obsolete before it could be taken. We feel like the pilgrim who drags his weary limbs finally to the mountain top, only to find higher peaks stretching before his eyes. It is by no means the journey's end and the night falls and ongulfs him in darkness. And like him we are inspired to pray in the spirit of the favouite hymn of Mahatma Gandhi-Lead Kindly Light. The next stop is enough for us if it is illuminated by the star of our ambition and fortified by the faith in our destiny.

It is, however, emphasized that Indian manufacturers should study intensively the needs of the Ceylon market. Lack of interest on the part of Indian exporters and no long-range study and planning for a potential market may result in severe shrinkage of our exports at a time when competitors are returning to the field to renew their pre-war trade operations.

Ceylon being predominantly an agricultural country, her trade with India is more competitive than complementary. India, therefore, purchases a comparatively smaller share from, than she sells to, Ceylon. The Island, however, has a favourable balance of trade with many other countries, and the opinion is expressed that she could well utilise the same in purchasing a large number of articles from India.

India's exports to Ceylon in 1938 amounted to Rs. 51,274,000, being 21.77 per cent of the Island's total trade. The figure, however, rose to Rs. 167,331,000 in 1946, the percentage share of the total trade being 29.24. This rapid increased exports from India of food and clothing. India's imports from Ceylon in the corresponding years were of the order of Rs. 9,017,000 and Rs. 25,050,000 respectively, the percentage share of the total trade rising from 3.42 in 1938 to 4.23 in 1945.

#### Main Items of Export

India's principal items of export during the war were: cotton manufactures, grain, pulses, and flour, fish (excluding canned fish), fruits and vegetables, spices, oilcakes, seeds, coffec, provisions and oilman's stores, animals, (Living), manures and jute manfactures.

Giving details of the trade in these articles, the "Memorandum" says that India being one of the principal producers of cheap goods is likely to have a flour-shing market in Ceylon despite the latter's efforts to increase local production.

Supplies from India formed a large proportion of the Island's cotton piece-goods imports before the war. The United Kingdom and Japan were also in the field, and supplied mainly grey, dyed, printed and coloured piecegoods. But after the outbreak of war, the share of the U. K. in all categories decreased considerably, while Japan went out of the market. India, therefore, was able to increase her share in practically every variety of cotton piecegoods, and exports reached their peak in 1943-44 when they amounted to 37 million yards valued at Rs. 484 lakhs, as compared with 26 million yards valued at Rs. 90 lakhs in 1937-38. In 1943-44 cotton piecegoods alone made up nearly 35 per cent of the total export trade with Ceylon and pulses which till then had topped the

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list. It is felt that India has now established a firm footing in this market, and her cotton piecegoods are improving in quality.

Ceylon requires rice and other foodgrains, even though she is trying to extend her acreage and yield. It is not likely, however, that India will be able to resume her exports of foodgrains on any substantial scale, at any rate for some years to come.

There is scope for India to develop her exports of fruits and vegetables. Since 1941, she has been supplying nearly 90 per cent of Ceylon's requirements, Australia, Iraq and the Union of South Africa together sharing 8 per cent of the remainder. So far India has supplied only fresh fruits and vegetables to Ceylon.

Due to high railway rates on perishable goods and "faulty marketing organisation of fruits", it has not been possible for the Indian article compete with imports of preserved fruits from other countries. With increased use of refrigerators for fruit and vegetable preservation, however, India should have a better and assured market in Ceylon. There is also scope for Indian fish, because the waters around the Island do not provide fish in sufficient quantities to meet the demand.

There is already a growing demand for Indian films. Indian pictures are popular as they can be appreciated by the masses.

Other articles needed by Ceylon include curry stuff, onions, potatoes, glee, eggs, fertilisers, coal, sugar etc. There is an expanding market for Indian coffee if it is properly graded and standardised.

#### Imports from Ceylon

During the war India purchased goods from Ceylon in quantities greater than ever before. Coconut products formed the bulk of these imports. In 1945, this country received nearly 25 per cent of the Island's total export of this commodity, valued at Rs. 16,278,509. The most important product among them was copra, which accounted for Rs. 9,611,679. Coconut oil and desiccated coconut figured second and third respectively.

The next biggest item of India's imports is spices, including arecaunuts, cardamons and cinnamon. During 1939-45, India imported from Ceylon 18 per cent of her rquirements.

India is Ceylon's leading customer in hides and skins. But recently imports have declined due to their absorption in local manufacture.

Other articles imported by India are rubber, cintronilla oil etc.

Telegrams to Chefoo, Kalgan and Mukden in North Manchuria are now admitted, says a Press Note issued by D. G. P. and T. on March 2.

## INDIA'S STAKE IN AUSTRALIAN IMPORT MARKET

URING the war India shared with the United Kingdom and the United States of America the bulk of the import trade in cotton piecegoods into Australia, "a fair indication of the capacity of India to supply all the major items of these goods needed in that country". While in 1938-39, textiles, wholly or partly made of cotton, imported from India formed only a fraction of the total imports into Australia, the value being about £(stg.) 413,000 or roughly 3 per cent of the total value of imported textiles, they rose to the peak figure of £(stg.) 5.2 million, or about 18 per cent. in 1944-45. India was thus able to achieve a very important position in the Australian market for cotton textiles; and the retention of this market must be a matter of great concern to the Indian cotton textiles manufacturer and shipper.

#### Competitors in the Market

In a pamphlet entitled "Prospects for Indian Piecegoods in Australia", the India Government Trade Commissioner in Sydney emphasizes that India was able to schieve this "pre-eminent position" largely as a result of the elimination of Japan from the Australian market and the pre-occupation of the U. K. and the U. S. A., with the wara position which no longer obtains. After examining the relative positions of various competitors in the Australian market the Commissioner considers it probable that in the immediate future. the Australian market for cotton textiles will be shared principally by the United Kingdom and India. But he adds that if India wants to hold this market permanently, she must act quickly and must consolidate her position.

Apart from the United Kingdom, which enjoys privileges in the Australian market under the British Preferential Tariff, competition is likely from the U.S. A. and, to a lesser extent, Canada. Availability of dollars may prove a governing factor in Australia's import of cotton textiles from these countries, but this may not be a permanent disability and the possibility in the future of free trade with dollar currency countries cannot be overlooked.

The Commissioner thinks that the rehabilitation of the Japanese cotton textile industry which is reported to be under is likely further to aggravate the situation.

By the end of 1946, this industry had 3 million workable cotton spindles, with a further 250,000 likely to be available after repairs. Against this, the installed capacity in 1941 was 13 million spindles. For looms, the 1941 figure was 360,000, and the 1946 figure, 120,000.

It is possible, says the Trade Commissioner, that India may not feel Japanese competition in the Australian market for a few years to come, "mainly because of the antagonism that has developed

in that country against Japan as a result of the war". But in matters of trade, he adds, "no reliance can or should be placed on sentiment, and Indian exporters must be prepared to face this competition".

He emphasizes that in order to be able to sell India will have to supply goods which the Australian consumer prefers to buy and at prices which are competitive. During the war, he points out, the Australian had no opportunity to choose between one or more competing varieties; but the position in the future will be vastly different. There is great need to pay attention to quality, finish and packing. "Shipment of some shoddy materials and hadly packed goods has, in the past", he created resentment in the market. Bad marketing methods similarly destroy the goodwill which is slowly and perseveringly built up by some manufacturers and exporters. All this must be corrected and a fresh start made to study the market situation in Australia ".

A few suggestions are that Indian cotton textile experts should visit Australia in order to study public taste in cotton textiles; Indian textiles should be exhibited in big retail stores in capital cities as a means of building up demand; suitable changes in the tariff rates under which Indian cotton textiles are admitted into Australia, and which discriminate against Indian goods, should be seriously considered.

#### Cotton Goods

A list of major items of import by Australia from India under the group Apparel, Textiles and Yarns" includes, besides cotton piecegoods, yarn and other cotton goods, commodities such as boots and shoes, hats, buttons, silk, rayon, staple fibre and woollen goods, blankets and rugs, floor coverings, mats, bags and sacks and woolpacks. But, from the point of view of the imports from India, the head "cotton goods" is the most important. Under this head. the main varieties of cotton piecegoods in demand are: bookbinders' cloth and bunting, canvas and duck, piecegoods for hemstitched cosies etc., calico for beg making, grey unbloached, white bleached, cotton piecegoods—dyed or coloured, shirting cloth, printed cloth dyed or coloured, etc. drills, dungarees and jeans, leather cloth, cotton tweeds, oil baize or similar fabrics knitted or lockstitched cottons, tapestries etc.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Sashi Bhusan Sinha, Advocate, to act as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court during the absence on leave of the Honourable Mr. Justice N. G. A. Edgley, I.C.S., says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 2.



## PAKISTAN—FOREIGN TERRITORY FOR LEVYING CUSTOMS

NDER the arrangements put into effect at the time of Partition by the Dominions of India and Pakistan, there was to be freedom in the movement of goods between the two Dominions and no customs duties were to be levied in either Dominion on goods imported from or exported to the other, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on Feb. 27. This standstill agreement was to cover the period August 15, 1947, to February 29, 1948.

In connection with the claim by the Pakistan Government for a share of export duty on jute collected at the port of Calcutta, the Pakistan Government were informed that a particular item of revenue could not be dealt with in isolation, and that the whole matter would have to be considered comprehensively over the entire field of freedom of trade and commerce between the two Dominions. the levy of customs and central excise duties, their pooling and allied matters. The Government of India further expressed their willingness to enter into a comprehensive and reasonably longsettlement between the two term Dominions which could be given effect to retrospectively 1947, if necessary. from August 15,

It has, however, not been possible to start these negotiations for a variety of reasons, and as the standstill agreement in respect of customs and excise lapses on February 29, 1948 in the normal course, the Government of India have been constrained to declare, with effect from March 1, 1948, Pakistan to be foreign territory for the purposes of levying customs, that is, import and export duties.

Necessary notifications to implement this decision are being issued in the Gazette of Inaia under the Indian Tariff Act, the Sea Customs Act and the Land Customs Act.

The scheme for grant of loans to non-Muslim refugee students and trainees from Western Pakistan has now been extended to those non-Muslim students and trainees who were alruady studying in India but have either lost their parents or guardians or whose parents or guardians have migarted from Western Pakistan to the Indian Union and are unable to continue their studies or training for lack of funis, says a Press Note issued by the Minstry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 2.

Loans will be granted to such students and trainees under the scheme for grant of financial assistance to non-Muslim refugee students and trainees already announced.

#### CASH SALES BY MAIL

According to a new procedure established by the Joint Export-Import Agency for over-the-counter and cash sales by mail, Indian buyers can now purchase from German exporters goods valued up to 5,000 dollars and available for immediate delivery without signing a formal contract, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 18. A signed order from the buyer will be sufficient for the purpose. Payment will be made directly to the Joint Export-Import Agency (U. S./U. K.) Branch office in sterling by money order, travellers' cheque or bank cheque.

In order to enable Indian business men to take advantage of this procedure, it has been decided to grant import licences wihout the approval of the Joint Export-Import Agency which is otherwise required for transactions outside this scheme. Intending buyers should obtain import licences before placing orders for licensable goods, a list of which is given in I. T. C. Notification dated December 12, 1947.

#### **MOVEMENT OF TEXTILES**

Under General Permit No. 1 issued under the Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1946, the country was divided into a number of Surplus and Deficit Zones which are not identical with provinces, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on Feb. 19. Thus the South Zone includes not only the Province of Madras but also Coorg, the Madras States and the States of Mysore, Baganapple and Sundur. As a result of relaxation of the control over cotton textiles it has been decided that movement of textiles will be free within a zone, and not within a province as stated in the Press Note issued on January 19, 1948, while inter-zonal movement will continue to require the approval of Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

### STERLING BALANCES AGRELMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND U.K.

THE financial discussions between the Indian and United Kingdom Delegation relating to India's sterling balances have concluded and the Financial Agreement of 14th August, 1947, has been extended to 30th June, 1948, says a Press Communique in used by the Ministry of Finance, on Feb. 22.

As a result of this extension, the balance of the No. 1 Account, including the working balance of £ 3 million, will be carried forward. Out of this a certain sum, to be determined in accordance with the agreement between India and Pakistan relating to the division of the assets of the Reserve Bank, is transferable to Pakistan. An additional transfer of £18 million for India is being made immediately from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account.

In view of the world-wide dollar shortage and the strain to which the central reserves of the sterling area are being subjected, the Government of India have agreed to restrict their net drawings on the central reserve for hard currencies to a total of £10 million in the current half year. India will, of course, have available at her disposal her own earnings of hard currencies in addition to the £10 million. India will seek permission to draw from the International Monetary Fund any additional amounts needed to cover her deficit in United States dollars.

It has been decided to lift price control over exports of handloom cloth to Ceylon which was instituted by the Government of Madras under powers delegated by the Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 21. The relevant notification under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, appears in Part I of the Gazette of India published on February 21, 1948.

### India's Share Of German Reparations

Invited to state India's share of reparations from the European zone, the Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Minister for Commerce, said in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 25 that under the Paris Agreement on German reparations undivided India had been allotted 2 per cent of general reparations (called category 'A') and 2.9 per cent of industrial and capital equipment removed from Germany, merchant shipping and inland water transport (called category 'B').

Consequent upon the partition of India, it had been mutually agreed that the Dominions of India and Pakistan should hold 82.5 per cent and 17.5 per cent respectively of the total allotted to India as a whole. The Dominion of India's share was thus 1.65 per cent of category 'A' and 2.39 per cent of category 'B'. The Minister made it clear that

Germany was the only European country from which India was receiving reparations.

"It is proposed to utilise the capital goods allocated to India to the best interests of the Dominion", he added. The Government had not yet laid down any definite policy regarding the disposal of these goods, but their present intention was to make allocations to such private industries as were most likely to utilise them to the best advantage of the Dominion as a whole, after retaining such as might be required for any industrial schemes sponsored by the Government.

He declared that India had not been able to secure any ships from Germany by way of reparations.

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Dr. John Matthai

## Rs. 9.85 CRORES SURPLUS ANTICIPATED No Increase In Fares And Freights

PRESENTING the Railway Budget for 1948.49 in the Dominion Parliament on February 16, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways, said that they seemed to be set for the time being in the direction of gradual improvement and unless any untoward development occurred he expected a marked improvement by March, 1949.

The net revenue in 1948-49 was expected to be Rs. 32.38 crores. Deducting Rs. 22.53 crores as interest payable for the money borrowed by the Railways out of this amount, they were left with a net surplus of Rs. 9.85 crores.

The Railway Minister said that there would be no increases in fares and freights. Referring to the prospects of traffic movement, he said they had now reached a stage when he could say with a certain degree of assurance that they had turned the corner.

During the past few months there has been a perceptible improvement in the delivery of orders of spare parts from the United Kingdom. There is also an improvement in the number of mandays worked in the workshops.

The Minister annouced that various schemes for doubling the line capacity at various points of heavy congestion had been taken in hand.

4,050 general service wagons were scheduled to be delivered by the end of 1948. Order had been placed in Canada for oil-tank-wagons which were also expected to be delivered by March 1949. 146 new locomotives were expected to be delivered in the course of 1948 and this together with the improvement noticeable in the workshop position must make a difference for the better as regards locomotives.

Below is the text of the speech :-

It is now hardly three months since I had the honour of introducing the Interim Railway Budget, and the House will therefore appreciate that there is not much that is new that I can tell it today regarding the working and the administration of our railways. There is not much in the circumstances that I can add to what I said then regarding the problems and the difficulties by which the railways are faced and the endeavours that we are making to meet these problems and these difficulties. My task therefore this evening is a simpler one, and I propose therefore to take the straightforward course of dealing first of all with the budgetary position and then, having done that, to give the House few indications of the directions in which things have altered either for better or for worse since I spoke to the House last time.

I do not want in explaining the budgetary position to weary the House with many financial and statistical details because for one thing, Hon'ble Members will be able to get these details from the Explanatory Memorandum, copies of which will be in their hands before the House rises: and also it is my experience, as a legislator for a brief priod, and also to the House long ago, that a budget speech which is packed with details has invariably the effect of making Hon'ble Members groan almost visibly. I want to avoid that tonight and I propose therefore to give only a brief summary of the financial position of the railways today.

I will take first of all the budgetary position as disclosed in our figures relating to the 7½ months since the 15th August. We placed certain budget estimates before the House for that period, beginning the 15th August. I want briefly to tell the House how these budget estimates have been revised

# THE RAILWAY BUDGET FOR 1948-49

in the light of actual experience. The House will find that there are considerable discrepancies between the budget estimates and the revised estimates. That is inevitable in the position in which we are placed at present. We had to frame budget estimates in the first place for a divided India, based upon our experience of an undivided India.

In the second place, we had to frame estimates for a broken period, based upon our experience for a whole pre-vious year, and it is a very difficult matter in actual practice to make allowance for those seasonal variations which occur between one period and another in the course of a year. And another circumstance which placed us at a disadvantage in framing these budget estimates last year was that we were then right in the thick of the period of civil disturbances and refugee movements, and these had caused such a degree of dislocation in our finances and in our general administration, that it was difficult even to determine the current trends. As the result of these various elements of uncertainty, the House will find that our revised estimates vary somewhat considerably from our budget estimates.

#### Fall in Earnings

I will give the main figures. The revised estimates for the 7½ months ending 31st March, 1948, show a fall in earnings of Rs. 8 crores as compared with the budget estimates. That fall in earnings occurs under goods earnings and under passenger earnings. But there is one item of earnings under which there is an increase, and that is what is called "Other coaching" earnings. What these earnings mean is breifly this: There is a considerable amount of parcels traffic now as the result of the congestion in regard to goods traffic. That is to say, when you cannot send a thing by goods train, then you try to send it by a parcel traffic therefore shows an increase. Then, there was a considerable amount of military movement as the result of demobilization and as the result of movement of troops in connection with the disturbances.

Our earnings under goods according to the budget estimates were Rs. 57.33 crores, while according to our revised estimates, they have come down to Rs. 53.38 crores. Our passenger earnings according to budget estimates were Rs. 52.12 crores which have come down in the revised estimates to 45.8 crores. Other Coaching earnings which we estimated at Rs. 5.03 crores have gone up to Rs. 7.87 crores. The net result is a drop of Rs. 8 crores. As against that there is also a drop in

our ordinary working expenses. We estimated that our ordinary working expenses would be somewhere about Rs. 99 crores: while revised estimates show that our expenses have been Rs. 93.55 crores. I should like to flatter myself that this fall in working expenses indicates that we have been able to do with less expenditure. The position is not quite so gratifying as that. What really has happened is that the expenditure that we estimated for the year 1947-48 could not for various reasons be incurred before the end of that year, and the expenditure therefore has not been reduced but has been only post-poned.

These drops in earnings and in working expenses have resulted in an increase in the net loss that we estimated from Rs. 2.7 crores to 5.2 crores and the result of that increase in the net loss is that we have had to make larger withdrawals from our Reserve Fund. And the Reserve Fund, therefore, in March 1948 will stand at a figure of Rs. 3.8 crores. That briefly summarises the position as regards the current year.

#### The Budget Year

Now with regard to the year 1948-49, the budget year. There again we are faced with several elements of uncertainty which prevent us from making anything like accurate forecasts. The year 1948-49 is complete year. The usual practice, as the House knows, is that in framing your Budget Estimates for the coming year you rely mainly upon the basis of your revised earnings for the current year. The revised earnings for the current year represent a broken period, and on the basis of that broken period you have to frame your estimates for a whole year—a necessarily difficult process. Then although we have now come to the end of the more serious phase of the civil disturbances which have occurred since Partition, we are still much too near this period of disturbances to be able to determine with any degree of reasonable precision either the current trends or the probable trends in the coming year.

Such estimates as we have been able to make, the best informed and the most intelligent estimates that my advisers have been able to make, give us thesefigures. We expect that in 1948-49 the gross traffic proceeds would be Rs. 190 crores. As against that we estimate that the ordinary working expenses would be Rs. 147.15 crores. To that you have got to add the depreciation which, as the House knows, is calculated at present at 1/60th of the capital at charge of the Railways at the end of the current year. The capital at charge is somewhere of the order of Rs. 678 crores and 1/60th of that would give you Rs. 11.18 crores. Then there is the payment that we have to make to lines that we work on behalf of outside concernstheir share of the traffic receipts which would come to Rs. 1.45 crores.

Deducting working expenses, depreciation and payment to worked lines, we are left with a net traffic receipt of Rs. 30.22 crores. To that Rs. 30.22 crores you have to add various miscellaneous proceeds—and we get a very wide range

of them. After deducting the charges which are appropriate to these miscellaneous receipts, you get a net revenue from this source of Rs. 2.18 crores. Altogether, therefore, in 1948-49 we expect to have a net revenue of Rs. 32.40 crores. From that you have to deduct the interest which is payable to Government for the money borrowed by the Railways.

That has been calculated at a rate of 3.25 per cent which represents the weighted average rate of interest payable on the different classes of Governments' borrowings. That, on the average capital at charge which we expect during 1948-49 is somewhere about Rs. 690 crores, will give us altogether a liability on account of interest charges of Rs. 22.53 crores. Deducting Rs. 22.53 crores from the total net revenue of Rs. 32.40 crores, you are left with a net surplus for 1948-49 of Rs. 9.85 crores.

#### No Increase in Fares

The House will be relieved to know that it is not my intention on this occasion to propose any increases in fares and freights. Probably the only redeeming feature of my Budget is that I do not propose on this occasion to pursue this evil tradition.

The question arises: what is to be done with this net surplus of Rs. 9.85 crores which we expect for the year 1948-49? First of all, there is the question of the contribution payable by the Railways to General Revenues. That question at present is determined. by a Resolution which the Legislature passed in 1943, which practically lays down that the contribution to General Revenues is to be fixed with reference to the requirements of the Railways and of General Revenues in each particular year. We have for many reasons considered it advisable and satisfactory that this question should be entrusted for decision to a Committee composed of Honourable Members of this House.

A Committee has therefore been appointed consisting of three Members of the Standing Finance Committee and three Members of the Railway Standing Finance Committee, under a Chairman having the authority and the judgment of no less a person than the Hon'ble the Speaker of the House. Pending the receipt of the findings of this Committee, Government do not propose to make any allocations out of the surplus. When the findings of this Committee have be a received and Government have been able to arrive at their decision upon these findings, then in the ordinary course proposals will be made before this House for the necessary appropriations. That, Sir, brings me to an end as regards what I wish to say about the financial position of the Railways.

Now I will go on to a more general question, the question, I take it, in which the House is most deeply interested, and that is the question of the prospects of traffic movement on our Railways in the future. When I presented my Budget statement to the House last November, I told the House that the circumstances with which the Railways were faced were more difficult than any

that I had anticipated in my most pessimistic moments. What I am inclined to say today looking at the trend of things is that probably we have reached a stage where the steady process of deterioration which began with the Partition and the consequences that flowed from Partition has now been definitely checked. From such evidence as I have been able to see, I believe we have now reached a stage when I could say with a certain degree of assurance that we have turned the corner which does not mean that there is any striking and decided improvement that I can report. What it means is that we have reached a stage where we can go forward expecting steady progress. I do not anticipate that we shall be called upon to retrace our steps or to look back.

What exactly are the reasons which lead me to make this statement to the House? I want, first of all, to deal with the immediate future, that is to say, the next few months. Firstly, there is this very obvious fact that we have come to the end of the period of serious civil disturbances. We have come to the end of the period of these vast refugee movements. The House will remember that altogether during a period of two and a half months the Railways were called upon to move as many as 3 million refugees, which represents the capacity of exactly a thousand passenger trains. That was a terrible strain on the Railways and we have come to the end of that period of strain.

#### Marshalling Yards

Secondly, I told the House last November that one of the problems we are faced with-have been faced with since the end of the war-is the large diversion of traffic which has occurred as the result of various war developments. A large volume of traffic is now moving along routes which are not equipped for dealing with this large amount of traffic and I said therefore that it would be necessary for us to consider the question of improving and extending our Marshalling Yards, that is to say, those yards where you distribute wagons with reference to their ultimate destination. These marshalling yards, at the points where heavy traffic occurs, are not today equipped sufficiently to cope with this growing volume of traffic.

Now, pending a large extension of our marshalling yards, what we have been setting up an arrangement for much more intensive and effective supervision of our marshalling yards. We have been doing in order to meet the present crisis, is that we have been setting up an arrangement for much more intensive and effective supervision of our marshalling yards. We have also set up a more effective system of control of train movements. And these two factors already are yielding satisfactory results.

I will give the House some figures. I will take some of our typical, most important marshalling yards. At Asansol, when I spoke to the House last November, the period for which a wagon was detained in the marshalling yard there was 46.6 hours. Today the latest figure that I have is 31.1.1-At Cawnpore, last October the period of

detention was 53.9 hours. Today it is 31.7. At Moradabad it was 39.9 hours. Today it is 22.8. At Ondal which represents the place where most of the coal traffic occurs, it was 22.1 and today it is 18.2 On the whole, taking these representative centres, there is a reduction in the period of detention to somewhere about one-third. The target that we are going to place before the Railways and on which we are going to insist is that no detention should occur in marshalling yards for a period in excess of 24 hours and we are going to see to it that that target is observed.

#### **Workshop Position**

The next factor that I want to deal with is our workshop position. The importance of that is this. Practically the greater part of our more serious troubles today is due to our locomotive position. The House will remember that I said last time that of the total number of locomotives that we possess today, about a third are over-age locomotives which have done their normal period of service and which, if locomotives were available in the world market, would be replaced almost immediately. There are countries in the world like the U. K., for example, where there is a large proportion of over-age loco-motives. But they are able to carry on with this large proportion of tired, old locomotives, because they have got effective workshops where in point of spare parts they are not at the disadvantage at which we happen to be. Therefore, the position of our locomotives is very closely bound up with what happens in our workshops.

There are two elements of importance in connection with the workshops. First of all, there is the question of the availability of spare parts. There is secondly the question of labour and the amount of output that we can expect from labour.

I take first of all the question of spare parts. I am glad to be able to report to the House that during the past few. months, there has been a perceptible improvement in the delivery of orders of spare parts from the United Kingdom. Secondly, it has been possible for us, with the co-operation of the Defence Ministry, to utilise increasingly the spare capacity for manufacturing these small parts in our Ordnance Factories and a very considerable progress is being made in this direction. Thirdly, as the result of consultations with my Hon'ble colleague the Minister for Industry and Supply, we have been able to get some relaxation of the arrangement under which all orders for spare parts for machinery of all kinds is to be placed through the Industry and Supply Department. The formality and the delay that sometimes occur-quite necessarily-have, to some extent, held up the work done in the workshops by the delay of the arrival of spare parts.

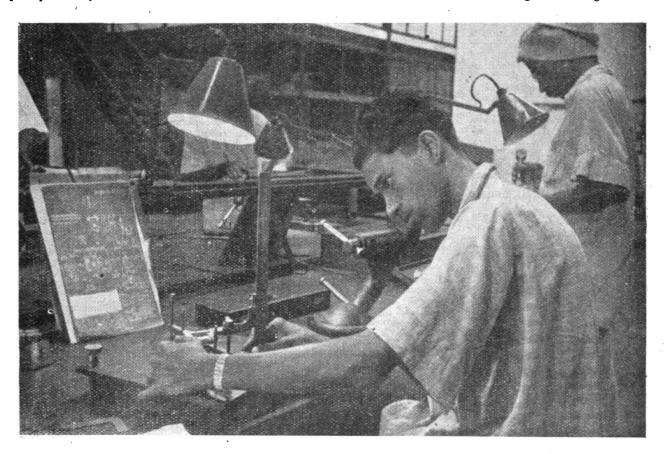
As a result of the relaxation I have

been able to get from my Hon'ble colleague, Local Administrations are in a position today to exercise a great deal more initiative in canvassing and investigating the possibility of getting spare parts in local areas. The position will be illustrated by the fact that in 1948 the orders that we have been able to place in India for spare parts show an improvement of nearly 37% over the orders placed in India in 1947. That is as far as spare parts are concerned.

#### Labour Co-operation

I now come to the question of labour. I have been having the figures carefully examined and I am glad to be able to say that on practically all our principal Railways today there is an improvement in the number of man-days worked in the workshops. We find that on the B.N.R., on the E.I.R., on the S.I.R., on the M.S.M.R. and to some extent on the G.I.P.R.

Now that is a cheering fact, but that is not the whole problem as far as labour is concerned, because it is not merely the question of attendance but it is also the question of the work turned out during the period of attendance. I have had an expert examination made recently in respect of two of our most important workshops and that expert examination has revealed the somewhat depressing fact that the quantum of work which is being done during the normal



In an Indian Railway Workshop: An important section of the Workshop is now devoted to the manufacture and use of precision instruments which in pre-war days were usually imported and also sent abroad for repair. The Gauge maker in the foreground is testing the accuracy of an assembly jig with a Vernier Height Gauge



prescribed period is considerably below what we might reasonably expect. The basis on which this examination is done is this: First of all these people with a very considerable amount of experience of this class of investigation, determine the amount of standard output which under given conditions may be expected of a labourer and then they take the actual amount of work done and between the two, they notice between these two workers there is a very considerable margin. There are two ways of meeting that problem. First of all, we have to provide administrative devices which would automatically secure that each labourer renders his full quota of work. There is, secondly, the co-operation to be secured from labour organizations themselves. We are considering the question of administrative devices and as far as co-operation from labour is concerned, I am confident that there are more responsible elements in the labour organisation representing the Railways and among them there is a very keen awareness of what is required of them in these circumstances.

Taking the question of the improvement that I have noticed in respect of the availability of spare parts and the improvement in respect of attendance in the workshops, the result of these two factors must necessarily be reflected in the turn-round figures. Turn-round, as the House knows, is the period which a wagon takes to perform a journey and return to take up fresh traffic. When I spoke last November I said the average period of turn-round of a broad gauge wagon was 48 days. The latest figure that I have is 45.9. On metre gauge lines, the average figure that I gave was 51. Now the latest figure that I have which corresponds to the end of 1947 is 60.7. This shows deterioration, but it requires a certain amount of explanation. One of our biggest metre gauge workshop is Ajmer. At the end of 1947 Honourable Members will remember there were very serious disturbances in Ajmer; curfew order had to be imposed and there was a general atmosphere of unsettlement and dislocation. Now if you leave out Ajmer, then the average figure for the turn-round of metre gauge wagons comes to 45, as against the figure of 51 which I gave the House last November.

#### Labour Shortage

Next I will deal with the difficulties that arose from the transfer and exchange of staff between India and Pakistan. That was a factor which led to a very great deal of disorganization of the Railways, about 100,000 men being exchanged and settled in new positions in the course of about 2½ months. Now that general dislocation is rapidly disappearing and men are beginning to settle down in their new positions. But one of the most serious difficulties that we had to face was that this transfer resulted on our side in a shortage of essential workers in particular categories. The house will remember that where the most serious difficulty arose on this account was the East Indian Railway in regard to their engine crew, which created, as I said, a first-class national crisis in respect of coal move.

I told the House that by various means we were able to reduce the shortage which at first was 47 per cent. to 25 per cent. in November. My latest figures show the shortages have come down to 9 per cent.

Then I wish to deal with a factor which has been becoming increasingly important in recent months and that is undue detentions of wagons at destinations by our customers, by factories, by trade and sometimes by Government Departments in Provinces and States. I wish to give the House a few illustrations, because this is one of the more serious difficulties with which we are faced at present. Take jute. Towards the end of last year in the Cossipore Road area in Calcutta the number of wagons which were waiting for unloading was 700 to 800 wagons in excess of the normal figure, which means to that extent the wagons are prevented from doing normal service. At important industrial centres in India, such as Dalmianagar, Haripur, Tatanagar, we notice there is an increase of 20 to 25 per cent. in the number of wagons waiting to be unloaded in excess of the normal figure. Similarly, with regard to collieries. I find that of the wagons which are supplied to collieries for being loaded with coal, very often a considerable number come back without being loaded, for reasons which are connected entirely with the colliery position. It may be lack of labour; it may be the inability to get stocks of coal ready in time. The last month, lanuary 1948, for which I have formers January 1948, for which I have figures shows that altogether 1,375 wagons came back empty without being loaded, which represents in terms of coal about 30,000 tons. I am mentioning these figures in no spirit of criticism, because I am well aware of the difficulties by which trade and industry are faced, in the matter of handling of wagons, but I do think when railway transport is in the difficult position in which it is today, we have a right to ask industry and trade to give us more co-operation.

#### Counteracting Delay

As against this position the measures that the railways have taken are: We have reduced the free time allowed for demurrage purposes from 9 hours of daylight to 6 hours. After that demurrage will be charged. Sundays are to count for demurrage purposes. They will no longer be exempt. We are raising the demurrage fees on some of our Railways like the E. I. Ry. and the B. B. & C.I. and the G. I. P. Railways. A great deal of handling is done by the Railways themselves and we have asked the Railways now and we are going to insist on it that they should set before themselves a target of a maximum of 3 hours for placing a wagon for unloading immediately it arrives at a terminal station, and as I said before, we are going to insist also that the period of detention in marshalling yards should on no account exceed 24 hours.

These various factors which deal with goods traffic would which in my opinion make for a certain degree of improvement, are reflected in the average figures of turn-round on some of the most congested of our railways. Take the G.I.P. When I spoke last time the turn-round of wagons on the G.I.P.

Railway was 10.6 days. The latest figure that I have is 9.5, a reduction of 10 per cent. On the E. I. Ry. it was 17.4, and the latest figure is 14.1, a reduction of 20 per cent. And speaking of the E. I. Railway, I want to make a passing reference to the question of coal despatches. I said last time at the beginning of October when we were faced with this great shortage of engine crew, the total number of wagons that we could send on the E. I. and on the B. N. Railways to the collieries direct was somewhere about 1,400. In November last when I spoke to the House we raised that number to somewhere about 2,600. The latest figure that I have of the total number of wagons despatched from the E. I. R. and the B. N. R. with coal for the week ending the 7th February is 2,900.

#### **Decontrol Disorganises Traffic**

I have been speaking of the directions in which a little improvement occurred as regards the operation of the Railways. Now this operational improvement has been to some extent offset by the disorganisation of traffic which has been caused by the policy of decontrol. What has happened is this. Take the question of foodgrains. Before we introduced the policy of decontrol, all the more essential movements were sponsored by Government and all movements sponsored by Government were given top priority—they were all grouped in Class 1. When Government decided to reduce their commitments and it became necessary therefore to make it possible for private movements to move more freely, we raised all movements of food-grains on private or trade account from Class 4 to Class 2.

The result of that is that in class 2, in the second grade of priority, today, there is so large a number of indents for wagons that the Railways are unable to cope with all the demands made on them. It does not mean that the quantum of traffic has come down; what it means is that when you have a large number of indents in respect of commodities all of which are in the same grade of priority and some of them are turned down and others are accepted, naturally there is a great deal of complaint, resentment and heart-burning, which is what is going on in the country today. I have been giving a great deal of attention to this question, because I realise that unless the Railways are able to meet the situation, the policy of decontrol would be made difficult.

There are two problems that arise. When you allow unregulated movements on private account, you find there is a large number of what we call cross movements. I have come across a number of cases recently where goods are despatched by traders to a particular destination and immediately the goods are rebooked and sent on to another destination which is much nearer the original point of consignment—which means that there is a great wastage of transport. Similarly, when you allow trade in an unregulated manner to move foodgrains then sometimes you find that food-grains are sent across to stations which are much too long from the station

of consignment; it might be possible, for example, for that particular centre to be supplied with foodgrains from nearer point.

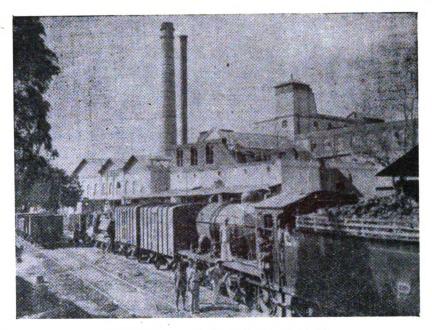
These cross-movements and these uneconomic movements are putting a very great strain upon the Railways. Since in the higher grades of priority you have now a large variety of commodities included it looks to me, if we want to maintain the economic stability of the country, it will be necessary for us to take into consideration a programming of movement of essential commodities.

In other words, we have got to take up the question, in the circumstances with which we are faced today, of determining with reference to priority both the nature and the direction of the traffic. We have got to consider the fixation of quotas and regulation by zonal control. I am not going to suggest for a moment that we are going to do this immediately. We are not. We are, however, watching the situation very carefully and if we find that the policy of decontrol is going to be defeated by the unnecessary load which is being put on the railways it will be necessary for us to take this matter up for active consideration.

#### Railway Priorities

As regards the question of Railway priorities, the House will remember that the whole subject is now regulated by the Railways Transport of Goods Act which the late Assembly, passed last year. That Act will come up again before the House for consideration. As far as I can express a personal view-I do not commit Government in any way-as far as I can express my personal opinion on this question, my feeling is that it would be necessary for us to continue the control of Railway priorities, but I think it is up to us to take steps for regulating these priorities more in accordance with the opinion and the wishes of the trades concerned. At present, as you know, there is a Chief Controller of Priorities, who is assisted by various Regional Controllers. And I am applying my mind to the question of providing these Regional Controllers with a small effective authoritative committee in each region which will represent the best business opinion of that area.

I have been dealing with the immediate future, and I will repeat the statement with which I started, that we seem to be set, for the time being, in the direction of a gradual improvement. I want to go further and indicate to the House, so far as I can, what are the prospects for the year 1948-49. The statement I would put before the House is this. Unless any untoward developments occur, I expect of a marked improvement by March 1949. My reasons have so are these. I saying told the House already that in view of a vast diversion of traffic that has been occurring recently, our line capacity and our marshalling capacity are being over-strained. As regards the line capacity, we have already taken in hand various schemes for doubling the line capacity at various points of heavy congestion. Itarsi—Bhopal, Lucknow-Bareilli, Cawnpore-Etawah, the Moradabad section and various other lines-Hon'ble Members will find a complete list of it in the ex-



Wagons being loaded outside a cotton mill

planatory memorandum. The point I wish to stress is this: We have set ourselves a target for completing these works by March 1949 and if we are able to do that, then it seems to me that we should be in a position to relieve congestion at some of the most important points on our railway system. The House is aware that a couple of months ago we re-opened what used to called the Dufferin Bridge, now called the Malaviya Bridge, which was regirded and has now been opened for doubleline traffic. It is a very important gateway of railway communications in the U. P. and I think its doubling will make considerable difference to the movement of traffic.

With regard to the remodelling and the extension of marshalling yards, we have a number of schemes on hand all of which are expected to be completed by March 1949,—Ujjain, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Tundla, Gorakhpur and Arkonam and Tuticorin in the South—and I hope to take in hand soon the extension and remodelling of the Station yard at New Delhi. If we are able to achieve our object and finish them by the end of 1948-49, then I expect there would be considerable relief.

#### New Stock Expected

Next I want to give some figures with regard to the additional rolling stock which we expect to get in the course of 1948-49.

The number of general service wagons which are scheduled to be delivered by the manufacturers in India by the end of 1948 is 4,050. In addition to that we expect that oil-tank wagons of the order of about 150 will also be delivered by the end of 1948. Then we have placed an order in Canada for oil-tank wagons which are also expected to be delivered by March 1949. There are other classes of wagons numbering about 177, all scheduled to be delivered by the end of

1949. It comes to a total of over 4,000 wagons.

I am not so foolish as to think that in the present strained conditions in India regarding labour and material it would be possible for our manufacturers to deliver these things according to schedule. But I have strong reasons for thinking that at least half this number will be delivered. And if we number will be delivered. are in a position to put on the lines at least two thousand additional wagons in the course of the next year it would make a perceptible improvement. Similarly we are expecting 146 new loco-motives to be delivered in the course of 1948; and this together with the improvement which is noticeable in the workshop position must I think make a difference for the better as regards locomotives.

#### Shipping Position

My third reason for being hopeful about 1948-49 is that the shipping position appear to show some improvement. If we are able in 1948-49 to divert to the sea route some of the heavy traffic from Calcutta to Bombay which now goes by rail it would, I think, very considerably ease the railway position. I have taken this matter up with my Honourable colleague, the Minister for Commerce, and between us we expect to find some solution of this problem. The real point is that if you send a commodity like coal from Calcutta to Bombay you have to pay about Rs. 20 more by sea than you would by rail. Although we have increased our freights a good deal we still have in the railways today, I believe, the cheapest form of transport.

The last point to which I wish to refer is this. I make no dogmatic statement about it—nobody in the present circumstances can afford to do so—but all the indications that I see give me a feeling that there is something like a marked improvement in the prospects of the

world food position. This break in prices that his now occurred in the United States is variously explained. I do not want to commit anybody. I do want even to commit myself officially. But I cannot help thinking, from such authoritative reports as I have seen, that there is a feeling that the prospects of the next harvest in the United States are a good deal better than people expected a few weeks ago. That probably coupled with the possible cuts in the Marshall Plan may account for this break in prices. But supposing there is an improvement in the general food position and supposing correspondingly there is an improvement some time towards the end of 1948 in India, it seems to me that a very heavy load will have been lifted off the railways. I want so tell the House what I have felt very strongly for over a year. One of the biggest prolems that the railways have had to face since the end of the war is this problem of moving over long distances large quantities of foodgrains from part to up-country, from surplus provinces to deficit provinces, and this along routes which are not equipped for coping with that traffic. If fortunately there is a general improvement in the food position, it seems to me that one of the most serious factors which today are impeding the railway traffic will have been removed

Having said all this I want to reaffirm what I said last November that in spite of these little indications of improvement I do not think that we shall be able to return to normal conditions in less than three years. And when I say 'normal conditions' what I mean is that if you ask me when our railways will be in a position to accept all the traffic that offers, I say that we shall not reach that position in less than three years.

#### Passenger Traffic

I have been speaking of goods traffic: I want to say a word about passenger traffic. The great problem regarding passenger traffic today-and when you consider the question of amenities the problem that worries you most--is that of overcrowding. We have today, as far as we can estimate, more than twice the number of passengers that we used to carry in 1938-39; but the amount of passenger train capacity that we are in a position to offer today is 14.5 percent less than in 1938-39. That gives you straightaway in statistical terms the problem of overcrowding. I expect to see a little, improvement and I want to tell the House why. It is one of the most interesting features of passenger traffic on our railways today that there is a steady decrease in the average distance travelled by third class passengers. If there is a steady decrease in the average distances travelled by passengers the inevitable result is that at any point of time you will find a steadily decreasing congestion. Take the points between which trains run.

If between these points passengers travel over shorter distances, obviously at each point you will find that the amount of congestion in the train would correspondingly be less. I have been trying to understand why it is that there is this steady decrease in the average distances travelled by passengers, and

the best explanation that I can give is that while there has been a very great increase in the habit of travel due to various reasons the railways have been able to provide an increase not to anything like the extent required but have been able to provide some increase in facilities which is greater than the increase in facilities offered by road transport.

The result, therefore, is that people who would ordinarily have travelled short distances by bus are now travelling by trains. And it seems to me, therefore, that until we are in a position to restore the bus position—during the war the extent to which bus traffic decreased was somewhere about one third of what it was in 1939-you are going to have these steadily decreasing average distances travelled by passengers. Apart from that in 1948-49 we expect to place on the lines somewhere about 700 to 800 new coaches; 350 of them are coaches that we have ordered and a little over 400 coaches would, I expect, be returned by the Defence Department to whom they have been loaned.

#### Ticketless Travel

Another factor which is going to react on overcrowding is ticketless travelling. I told the House last time that the problem was particularly acute in the United Provinces, and in consultation with the Hon'ble Premier of the United Provinces we have started a schome there which consists of a considerable police force and a considerable complement of special magistrates devoted entirely to the problem of ticketless travel. We have put altogether 17 platoens of police and 34 railway magistrates, the whole cost of which will be borne by the railways. And with the co-operation of the Hon'ble Premier we have been able to start this on the 15th January; and the results that I have been definitely seen so far have encouraging.

Similar arrangements are contemplated for West Bengal, for Bihar and for Assam. As I told the House more than once, this problem of ticketless travel is much more than a railway problem; it is ascial problem. It is one of these things which seem to reflect the gradual decline in the sense of law, which results when big political changes have occurred.

I was looking the other day into the report of the Madras Government Railway Police for 1947. It disclosed the interesting fact that the number of cases that they had to handle in 1947 showed an increase of 90 percent over 1946 and showed an increase of 130 percent over the average of the previous five years. That, I think, would be equally true of other provinces.

I want to make a reference to the passenger guides that we have been appointing recently. I believe very strongly that conditions of third class railway travelling today provide an enormous scope for social service of the highest quality. I have instructed the railways in consultation with various recognised social service organisations to select people with the right training, the right spirit and the right outlook to take up this work. We have made

a beginning on various railways and I am watching with some hope and; attempts the same time, with some anxiety how this arrangement will work. If it works successfully I think we shall have done something to tackle a very important problem in the railways.

Lastly, I would like to make a reference to the Betterment Fund. Last year when I placed the railway budgetbefore the old Assembly there was a great deal of discussion as to what was the right object for expenditure from the Betterment Fund. My own feeling is, if one reads the other papers and studies them with some care, the primary purpose of the Betterment Fund is to provide expenditure which will result in an improvement in amenities for third class passengers and we are going to see now that such expenditure as we are in a position to provide from this Fund will hereafter be devoted in the main to this problem of amenities. That brings me to an end of this problem of traffic generally.

There are just one or two matters to which I would like to refer before I sit down. I said last time that we were going to set up a Railway Rates Tribunal and that I would have it put into force by the 1st of April. On examination it is found that unless this tribunal is vested with statutory authority it will not be able to function in the way in which we intend it to and for that purpose, therefore (I thought originally that it could be done by executive order) we are going to place a Bill before this House in the course of the session to set up a tribunal on these lines, that is to say, with a much wider scope than the present Rates Advisory Committee and with a mandatory and not merely an advisory jurisdiction. I hope with the co-operation of the House it will be possible for us to put it in operation at the earliest possible date.

#### Inquiry Committee

With regard to the Railway Enquiry Committee, as I told the House in answer to a question, the Committee will begin to function in the course of a week or two. Mr. Neogy, who with great ability set the line on which the enquiry is to proceed, will now be replaced by my Hon'ble friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, who I am sure, will bring to bear on this important work his unique knowledge and experience of public affairs. That covers more or less the range of subjects with which I want to deal.

There is just one thing more to which I want to refer before I resume my seat. In the remarks I have offered to the House this evening the note that I have tried to strike is what I might cell a note of restrained or subdued optimism. I believe we are looking forward and we are moving forward. That is as far as the near future is concerned. I want to tell the House also from a study such underlying forces as I have been able to perceive that I believe. in spite of the difficulties through which we are passing today, there is a great future before the Indian Bailways. I believe also that that future will dawn

within a definitely measurable period of time.

I have reasons for thinking that, but one of my principal reasons is that we have a fine body of men operating our railways today. From the Chief Commissioner and the Railway Board down to the Railway Administrations and from them to the humblest employees on our railways we have in the main, as fine a body of men as any country in the world today. I am saying that with a certain degree of assurance. It is my habit by reading journals deeling with transport matters in other countries to keep in touch with transport developments in those countries and this gives me a fair amount of assurance in making this statement to the House. My reason for raising this point is that in recent times, both in this House and outside, many allegations and charges have been levelled against our railways in unqualified and widely generalised terms. It hurts me to hear these allegations and charges, because we are at present making a great and earnest effort to place increased responsibilities upon the people of our own country, our own kith and kin. At this stuge, if it is suggested by people holding responsible positions in the country that things are as bad as they are sometimes painted to be, it has an extremely discouraging effect upon the men and there are many of them who are trying to do their best to rise to the tasks of a new age.

#### Spirit of Responsibility

Honourable Members are no doubt aware of the special train that we ran the other day to convey the remains of the great leader of our people from this city of tragic memories to his final resting place; where the sacred rivers meet. In the preparations which were made for that special train I happened to be a good deal behind the scenes and I was in a position to observe not merely the enthusiasm; but the touching loyalty, the almost pathetic devotion, with which not merely the officers in the top positions but the humblest gangmen laboured in order that this effort of the railways may be the unqualified success that it has proved to be. I mention this fact, because it is symbolical of the new spirit of responsibility which has been gradually spreading among our railwaymen ever since the day of Independencea slowly unfolding sense of what is required of them in the changed conditions of today. There are black sheep, Sir, in every organisation. It is for responsible leaders, when they are inclined to make charges and allegations, to distinguish the few from the many and not to visit upon the many the sins of the few. I am speaking today as Minister of Railways responsible for this vast army of men who are operating our railways. I want therefore today, not merely as a matter of official convention but as an honest expression of what I think and feel, to pay a genuine, a warm, a very cordial tribute of appreciation and sympathy to India's railwaymen. For, remember Sir, upon the shoulders of our railwaymen today rest as difficult a problem and as grave and heavy a burden as any by which we are faced in these disordered and turbulent times.

## PRODUCTION, NOT TRANSPORT, THE REAL BOTTLENECK

### Need For Efficient Statistical Machinery

REPLYING to the general discussion on the Railway Budget on Feb. 19 Dr. John Matthai dealt at length with economy and efficiency standards attained by railways, manufacture of locomotives, wagon turnound and post-war development schemes.

The Hon'ble Minister said:

The discussion has ranged as usual over a very wide field of matters and as usual I find it a little difficult to pick out the points which are most important and which call for immediate reply. There is one distinguishing feature of the general discussion today and that is that a very large portion of the discussion was confined to matters of a general character raising questions-if I may say so-of fundamental importance. There was, for example, the very important question that was raised, whether the kind of purliamentary machinery that we have set up for the scrutiny of railway matters is adequate for the purpose that we have in mind.

I am ready straightaway to confess that I am myself not by any means satisfied that the kind of machinery that we have set up meets the very important purpose that we have in view. When, for example, my Hon'ble friend Mr. Santhanam spoke of the rather meagre way in which the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in the very nature of the circumstances is compelled to deal with the important matters, that come before it, I found myself very much in sympathy with him. But then the House must remember that there are certain inherent difficulties in the situation. I should personally like that the financial matters relating to the working of railways should be subjected to a much closer and more thorough scrutiny by a representative committee of this House.

#### A Fundamental Problem

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways has been set up precisely for that purpose; but the Committee cannot in the course of a two-hour sitting, at meetings which are not held more than about four or five times in the year, discharge its duties satisfactorily and to the real advantage of the country. Therefore, to my mind, the problem that the whole thing raises is a deep underlying fundamental problem, namely, if as an independent country and as a parliament representing an independent country we, here, are to do our duty by the people of the country in such important matters as railway administration, the legislature, in the first instance, must be prepared to devote a great deal more time than it has done in the past to the work of legislation. And therefore, it necessarily

follows that the Committee of the legislature should also be prepared to give a great deal more time to public work. I should personally like, for example, that in regard to the Railway Standing Finance Committee, particularly the meetings that are held in connection with budgetary matters, each sitting must last at least a fortnight; otherwise I do not think we should be able to carry the scrutiny of the Finance Committee to the limits really required in view of the importance of these matters.

#### Question of Expansion

That is one consideration that arises. The other consideration, as far as I can understand, is this. Suppose you have longer sittings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, as I think there should be. In that case the responsible officials of the Railway Ministry such as the Chief Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner for Railways ought to be in a position to spare very much more time from their day-to-day normal administrative duties for the purpose of attending these meetings and help the members of the Standing Finance Committee with regard to detailed matters that come before them. It seems to me, therefore, that if we are going to widen and expand the machinery it would involve necessarily the question also of an expansion of the Secretariat part of our parliamentary machinery.

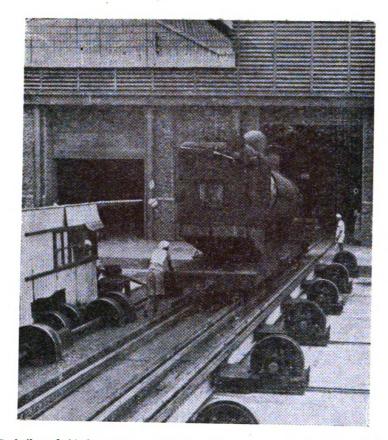
PROFESSOR N. G. RANGA: Are you quite sure—that—they—are—sufficiently worked—today?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: Having had some experience I am in a position to answer that question, at any rate to my own satisfaction. In the course of a rather long and chequered life I have sampled life at many points and have had experience of working many different types of institutions; I have been an industrialist, a Government official, and also a Minister. And I am prepared to say that as far as the top officials in the Railway Board are concerned they have got quite as much work as you could expect them reasonably to do.

#### Poor Statistical Equipment

There is another point which is also a point of fundamental importance. If you are going to submit matters relating to the working and administration of railways to a much more prolonged and much more thorough scrutiny by Parliament and the Committees of Parliament, it necessarily means that very much fuller material must be placed before them. That also is a suggestion which has my full sympathy. But then the problem is this, as I think Hon'ble Members who have a correct understanding of the statistical aspect of administrative problem in this country will realise.





The boiler of this locomotive undergoing heavy repairs in an Indian Railway Workshop has been removed from the erecting shops and is being taken by the special traverser to the boiler shop for a thorough overhaul

One of the weakest points about our administrative structure and set-up for many long years has been the poor statistical equipment with which our administrative machinery has been provided: at the best of times our statistical equipment has been very poor, entirely inadequate. On top of that we have had the partition and we have had also the disturbances arising from the partition. I was concerned with the railway administration all through the time when the arrangements consequent on the partition of the railways were being worked out and I know the strain that it imposed upon the administrative staff of the Railway Ministry-a concern, mind you, with a capitalisation of 800 crores, a railway with the dimensions of the Indian Railways, working for a long period of years over an undivided, unified And it was being asked to make in the course of two months all the arrangements required for this partition.

That was a problem which put an enormous amount of strain on the railway administration. Necessarily, therefore, during that period it was impossible for them and I accept full responsibility for the statement I am making—to have given attention to a preparation in sufficient detail of the materials required in connection with the budgetary statements which had to be put up almost within a couple of months after the completion of the partition arrangements. If you want really an acceptable and useful body of statistical materials, they must be of a kind which would give proper

scope for effective and useful comparisons.

Now, the partition has simply cut the ground from under our whole set-up and structure of our statistics with the result that you are now in a position where all the statistical material of the past cannot automatically be completed with the statistical material that you apply now.

#### Control Figures

The basis of comparison has been cut into in such a serious manner that unless you are prepared to set up a whole organisation in order to work up a whole body of comparable materials, that is to say, work up the existing material to the post-partition basis, you would not be able to get the kind of data necessary. I can give you control figures today of a kind but if you are going to set about this matter seriously you must be able to produce control figures which should have an intrinsic validity.

I think it is very important that this matter should be examined against a wider background than railway administration. We cannot go on as an independent country: we cannot go on with the development of the various schemes of economic construction that we have in view, unless we are going to give a great deal more attention to the building up of a proper statistical establishment in the country. As far as the railways

are concerned, I have been impressed right from the beginning of my connection with the Railway Ministry that the Railway Ministry has not the material on which a proper judgment of administrative matters can be formed, and it is my intention to have a senior officer of the Railway Ministry to go abroad and examine the way in which statistical material is compiled in other countries which have made more progress in this matter than we have. I think that is one of the essential lines on which reform is called for. I am prepared to assist Members of the Standing Finance Committee, to the best extent possible for me in the circumstances, but my point is that if you want all the statistical material to be of the most useful kind, on which really satisfactory judgment can be based then you must probe the problem much more deeply than Mr. Santhanam has done.

#### Economy and Efficiency

Now the other point of a fundamental character and equally important is the question of the standard of economy and efficiency which has been attained by the railways. There also I am free to admit that the standard of efficiency that we have achieved is far from being the sort of standard that ought to prevail on our railways. My Hon'ble friend, Pandit Kunzru, put forward the test of operating ratios, that is to say, the working expenses that we incur in relation to our total earnings, that does provide a basis. But, then, if you go to say that in order to judge the standard of efficiency which has been attained by Indian railways you take the operating ratio in this country and compare it with the operating ratio in other countries, then you are going on to some debatable and rather uncertain ground.

I will tell you why. Take, for example, the present position and you want to examine in comparison with other countries whether the position—the standard of efficiency which prevails at present on the railways as compared with the pre-war conditions represents progress or detorioration. Well, we are up against various difficult factors there. The operating ratio is a compound of two factors.

First of all you have this question of the increase in wages, in the price of material, the general rise in the cost of living index and so on. What you have in the way of increase in working expenses is the direct result of that. Now you take the increase of working expenses in this country and compare it with the increase of working expenses in a country like the United Kingdom. First of all, you are up against this: by a very stringent system of control, by a very liberal system of food subsidies they have been able to keep prices down. In this country we had a very lax system of control to start with. For some years we had no control and we have never tried the system of relief in the way of food subsidies. Therefore, our prices have gone up to a much higher extent. Therefore, if you are going to institute a fair comparison between this country and the United Kingdom, this factor must be allowed for.

The operating ratio is really the establishment of a proper proportion between

Your working expenses and your total earnings. Your total earnings are based upon, to some extent, the price that you charge for your products: in other words, your fares and freights. Because of the increase in fares and freights which I proposed last November, I went in great detail into the question and the extent to which fares and freight have been increased over the railway system in about a dozen of the leading countries of the world.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: What about the conditions of travel there?

DR. JOHN MATTHAI: If you take the most important countries of the world today, the extent to which the post-war fares and freights represent an increase over pre-war fares and frieghts, India stands amongst the lowest. Now the question that my hon'ble friend raised, whether we are offering services of a different quality, that is a different matter. I am really on the statistical question which Pandit Kunzru raised.

PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: May I correct my hon'ble friend? I was not making a comparison between the operating ratio here and the operating ratio in other countries. In fact, if I were to make such a comparison I would not be disturbed by the rise in the ratio during the last four years. But the question I raised was whether we were getting an adequate return for this increased expenditure.

DR. JOHN MATTHAI: If my hon'ble friend is raising the question of the operating ratio as a test at all of efficiency in the railways, if you are going to ask whether we are getting corresponding service, it is another way of describing the question of efficiency, and you cannot determine the standard of efficiency which has been reached in this country unless you are prepared to relate it to standards of efficiency in other countries you will reach nowhere otherwise.

In any case I am very glad to think that this whole question of the operating ratio and the standard of efficiency which that implies, is going to be examined by my hon'ble friend, Pandit Kunzru, and I shall await his conclusions with the greatest interest.

#### Wagon Turn-Round

Then, Sir, the usual question of the turn-round of wagons was raised. Well, I do not want to speak about this question at any length today because it is one of those matters of railway working which we have been discussing ad naus\*um. But there is one general point I would like to make for the consideration of the House and it is this: that this question of wagon turn-round, if you analyse it into all its component elements, ultimately you find that that problem boils down to this. It is a question of the over-use to which railway equipment was put during the war combined with the under-maintenance to which they were compelled to submit. It is question on the one hand of the extraordinary degree of depreciation, wear and tear to which the whole of your fixed assets have been exposed.

On the other hand, it is a question of the manner in which while this wear and tear were going on, you were not in a position, for various reasons, to do even the minimum degree of maintenance. It is really as a result of this fact that there has been a poor turn-round.

I have been charged with being the primary cause of the low standard of production in the country today. "Transport is the bottleneck": that is what you find in every newspaper in the country. I have got so used to it that I sometimes regard myself as a living, walking, breathing kind of bottleneck. I should like for the benefit of the House to make a little suggestion which I think has a certain degree of force in it. I believe if you read any current text-book on the question of railway transport you will find that railway transport depends very largely upon production.

#### The Real Bottleneck

In my budget speech I gave the House a few figures as regards the amount of rolling stock which is likely to be delivered during the course of next year. I said there were about 4,000 general service wagons which are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 1948 and I went on to say that considering the position of labour, the position of materials in this country, it might not be possible for me to get more than 50 per cent of the deliveries which are scheduled to take place. What does that mean? If I were in a position to get from sources of production in the country all the materials that I want, then I should cease to be the bottleneck that I am. In other words. the question that you are faced with is: is not production really the bottleneck, so far as transport is concerned?

If the production system in the country were in a position to function normally (mark you, I am not blaming for a moment those who are responsible for production, the industrialists of the country: I am not blaming them at all, because they are up against the same difficulties) but this business of putting the whole responsibility upon transport, as distinct from production is really a misleading way of stating the position.

It is a vicious circle and if you want to cut into it you have got to handle both things at the same time.

I think my Hon'ble friend, Pandit Kunzru, asked what has happened with regard to the division of capital liabilities as between us and Pakistan. The principle that has now been agreed to is that as regards commercial lines our capital liabilities would be based on the principle of book value, not earning capacity. And as regards the strategic railways the House will remember that the representatives of Pakistan wanted that much the greater part of the liabilities in respect of strategic railways must be borne by us. The arrangement that has been arrived at is that we accept 50 per cent of the liability.

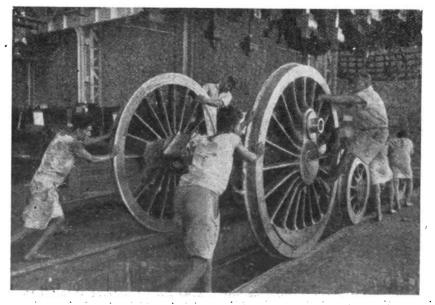
PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: How much does it come to?

DR. JOHN MATTHAI: You have got the figures in the Explanatory Memorandum.

#### Post-War Development

Then, the question has been raised as to what is going to happen with regard to post-war development of railways, of which so much used to be said before the end of the war. I am afraid the position is that we are not able at present to proceed very far with the post-war development plans which were drawn up just before the close of the war. As the House is aware, all big plans of development involve three factors. They involve the factor of finance, they involve material or real resources and, thirdly, they involve personnel. With regard to finance we are not by any means in the happy position in which we expected to be by government in the closing years of the war. The estimates that were then made regarding the availability of surplus revenue have already been proved false.

I am one of those who think (my ideas about finance have been for sometime rather unorthodox) that if there is



The wheels of a locomotive which have been completely overhauled after completing its allotted mileage, are being placed in position to receive the engine frame which will be lowered by crane on to the axles

really a satisfactory scheme of development to be undertaken in the country finance should not be a limiting factor. You can raise the finance if you want it. Finance is really the servant as far as the economic life of the country is concerned and not its master. But there is one limiting factor which you cannot get over and that is the factor of materials, real resources. That is what we are up against as far as the problem of railway development is concerned.

Today in view of the tremendous scarcity in respect of essential materials like steel, cement, timber, etc., if railways go in for an extensive plan of development of the kind we had formulated during the war, you can depend upon it that the problem of inflation would become twice as acute as it is today. That is to say, against growing scarcity if you are going to introduce a growing demand, you are going to intensify the process.

As the result of a very careful examination of this whole position in regard to development, we have come to the conclusion that for the immediate future at any rate our objective should be to consolidate our position. We have been subject to influences of such a seriously disturbing character that for the present I think we should aim at strengthening, stabilising and consolidating our position and what capital expenditure we are thinking of in the immediate future is expenditure which has that kind of consolidation as its objective.

I have been asked various questions as to the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations. I do not want to go into that question, because there are outstanding questions arising from the Pay Commission's report which are still being discussed and considered and I would rather that the matter be left at that stage as far as this House is concerned.

What about the officers and members of the Board?

That is really a part of the Government's general decisions on the whole question. It does not concern the railway administration particularly. We are bound in this matter by the decisions of the Government of India as a whole.

#### Regrouping of Railways

I was asked a question about the problem of regrouping. We have an officer now on special duty who is actively concerned with formulating a scheme for the regrouping of the railways which are closely bound up with the partition arrangements. I have not yet received the report of that special When that report is officer. received. then I should certainly consider the suggestion which has been made that that report should be placed before the Railway Enquiry Committee and I should also consider whether other interests should not also be consulted.

I think my Hon'ble friend Mr. Shiva Rao asked me whether anything has been done with regard to contract labour in collieries. We have taken up that question and I am hopeful of making an immediate beginning on that question. The reform of that system, I agree with him, is something that cannot be put off.

A great deal has been said by various Hon'ble Members of the statement that I made with regard to the railway staff and the tribute I paid to it. I still stand by it. I claim in spite of many things that have been said in the course of the discussion that barring a small minority we have a very fine body of men. The House will remember in my budget speech I said that I personally felt hurt at the way in which allegations were being directed against railwaymen. One of my reasons for saying that is that in response to public demand, which has expressed uninterruptedly for period of years, we have been able almost entirely to been expressed Indianise the Railway Board and we are trying increasingly in key posts in the Railway administration to appoint Indian officers and I personally feel not merely hurt. I sometimes feel rather indignant that we should have so little faith in the men of our own country. Do give them a chance: they are aware of these problems and are capable of meeting them.

#### Process of Indianisation

There are some of them who are so anxious to make good under the new conditions and these statements that are made have such a depressing effect on them. We are at the end of one kind of war and we are in the thick of another kind of war, a war which in some respects is really more serious than the war which closed in 1945. Suppose we were in the midst of a war what would be said of the representatives of the country spoke of the Army in the terms in which the railway staff was being described? It goes further than that. I have been severely criticized in certain quarters for forcing the pace of Indianisation. There are critics of Government both here and abroad, who are waiting to see that this process of Indianisation has failed. It seems to me a matter of the greatest importance that these Indian officers who have come to responsible positions should be helped to the largest possible extent by representatives of the country in this House. They need it. They deserve it. I am aware of the doings of a minority, of a few among the railway organisation who are black sheep. It is one of the problems to which we are going to give very close and very detailed attention. It is not such an easy matter as all that.

I do not know if Hon'ble Members are in the habit of reading journals and newspapers in other countries which deal with similar problems there. Just the other day I came across articles in the London "Times" dealing with the question of corruption on the railways. They and we are passing through a period of scarcity, of high prices, and temptation of every kind is therefore offered to those who are conveying goods—essential consumer goods—which are scarce. We in this country are so much in the habit of looking at things entirely from our own isolated point of view that we do not set the comparative background of problems. These pro-

blems are not by any means problems which ara confined And if we have to face this country. problem in a larger measure than elsewhere it is possibly because of the very hard days through which we have had to pass in previous years. It is a bad tradition. We have not been responsible for the Government of this country and we have been simply watching others doing the job. The result is that the sense of responsibility that is called for in these matters has not been sufficiently awakened in us. It will take a little time before we reach that stage. But I think we ought to be patient.

Sir, I have been asked about tourist traffic. It is a matter which we have considered, but for the present I think in point of urgency it does not come anywhere near the other problems which call for our attention. In the first place as far as American tourist traffic is concerned you are not going to attract it unless, along with railway facilities, you are able to provide first class hotel facilities which are lacking in our country today. Unless these things are also handled I do not think today you will make any great progress in that direction.

#### Locomotive Maunfacture

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: What happened to the third class tourist carriages which were built for marriages and other purposes?

I'HE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: They are far too few. Sir, I shall be very brief. I was asked about the question of manufacture of locomotives. Well, at present, as the House knows, the position is the Tata Locomotive Works have made some progress but for various reasons not the degree of progress that we had expected. They have been able to deliver boilers, but I think it will take a longer time before they reach the stage of manufacturing locomotives. So far as the Government factory is concerned, we had intended to set it up at Kanchrapara but after the partition we decided to move it further up, to a place near Asansol. Practically all the arrangemonts regarding that are complete. The orders for the machinery have been placed. The site has been selected. We have made arrangements also for putting up the buildings. And we are sending very shortly an engineer to Continental countries in Europe in order to select technical personnel from the Continent. I believe it would be possible for us to get first-class technical personnel if we canvass the possibility of getting them from Europe.

A number of questions were raised of a purely local character. I am not in a position to give answers off hand to these local problems, but I have made a note of the more important of these. All that I can say at present is that I shall give the best possible consideration to them.

The last point which was raised, I think by the very last speaker, was the question of amenities for passengers. It is perfectly true and it is no use hiding the fact that we have done little in the way of providing amenities for the lowest class of passengers. We have been giving promises all through the

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## MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES size in the country. But today since we are on the eve of a big programme of industrialisation, it is quite likely that our requirements would be much greater and there would be no difficulty about having a factory or two of really economic

RDERS have been placed for the purchase of plant and machinery for the locomotive factory proposed to be built at Mihijam near Asansol, said the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways, in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 23 replying to the debate on the cut motion moved by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to discuss the question of expediting the manufacture of locomotives and machine tools. The Minister hoped that the workshop would be completed in 1950.

#### Dr. John Matthai said:

Mr. Speaker, first of all with regard to the question of locomotives. My Hon'ble friend Pandit Bhargava raised three specific questions. First, whether a site has now definitely been selected for the Factory which was originally intended to be located at Kanchrapara. A site has definitely been selected; it is a few miles off Asansol, and this selection is final having reference to all the considerations which bear upon the location of a factory of that kind. Then he asked me whether orders have been placed for plant and machinery. Orders have been placed for the greater part of plant and machinery. Then he asked me when this Workshop was expected to be completed. I should not like, Sir, to make any prophecies in a matter of this kind, because we are living in times when the circumstances bearing upon the construction of factories are still of a very uncertain kind. But as far as I am in a position to make any statement about it at all, I think the Workshop which is going to be built near Asansol at Mihijam would be completed early in 1950. I hope so, at any rate we should do our best to see that it is completed

#### The Ajmer Factory

With regard to the question of Ajmer in which my Hon'ble friend has always taken a very groat interest, I can give a definite assurance as regards the point which was raised by my Hon'ble friend Mr. M. L. Saksena. We have no intention of closing down Ajmer until we are definitely within sight of the production of locomotives in India. Ajmer has been proving a very useful factory indeed, and I should certainly agree with the suggestion that has been made that before we come to a decision as regards the future of Ajmer we must be certain as to when locomotives would definitely be produced in the country.

That, I think, covers all the substantial points raised by my Hou'ble friend Pandit Bhargava. I must make a reference also to the Tata Locomotive Factory which is part of our scheme. The Tata Locomotive factory has so far been able to deliver, as I said the other day, a few boilers. I expected they would have been able by this time to deliver more boilers than they have done—they have had their difficulties like other factories

in the country—but from the latest reports that I have had I believe that better progress would be made in the near future. If the Asansol factory and the Singhbhum factory both begin to function, then I think between them they would be able to give us all the locomotives that we want over a period of ten to fifteen years for replacement purposes. But if we are going in for new railway construction and we want more locomotives, than merely for replacement purposes, then it would be necessary for us to consider expanding the scope of these factories or having other-factories to be restored.

#### Machine Tools

On the question of machine tools, I am entirely in agreement with the main consideration put forward by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Santhanam that no country in these days can be a great industrial country unless it has within its borders a first-class factory for the manufacture of machine tools. It goes to the whole root of the problem of industrialisation. The difficulty with regard to Railway's setting up a factory for machine tools is this: since the war various important machine tool factories have been projected or have been started in India—I mean various impor-tant factories, in this sense factories under the auspices of influential and powerful business concerns in the country. Before the war the total requirements of machine tools in the country were not sufficiently large for a factory of economic

size in the country. But today since we are on the eve of a big programme of industrialisation, it is quite likely that our requirements would be much greater and there would be no difficulty about having a factory or two of really economic size, but the problem that we are faced with is this: Railways happen to be the most important consumer of machine tools. Suppose the Railways start their own factory, then, would these private factories which have been started already, get enough scope for marketing their products?

The problem that the Railways and the other Ministries have to consider is that in view of the fact that a certain number of powerfully supported and well-equipped machine tool factories have already been started and the question of providing them with a sufficient market for their products is somewhat doubtful, are Government justified in putting up a factory of their own, since Government are the biggest consumers of machine tools in the country? That is the problem with which we are faced.

Well, there is in respect to that, as far as I am in a position to judge, there is no industry which has increased its capacity in response to war requirements—I am speaking of the world generally—no industry which has expanded its capacity more than the machine tool industry. At present, these machine tool factories in other countries are fully booked with orders, because there are important re-construction demands coming up from all parts of the world, but there will be a different situation in about three or four years from now. At that time, it seems to me quite possible that these factories which have expanded their capacity on account of war requirements and unable to find sufficient outlet for their production in

## DRIVE AGAINST TICKETLESS TRAVEL

The various measures adopted by against railways in their drive ticketless travel were outlined by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai. Minister for Railways answering a question put by Mr. V. C. Kesava Rao in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 24. The Minister said that information so far available which, however, was not quite complete, revealed that the number of prosecutions launched by Government Railways against ticketless travel, during the period August 15, 1947 to January 31, 1948, was 25,452.

The drive against ticketless travel, he added, is being conducted on the E. I., E. P., G. I. P., B. B. & C. I., and O. T. Railways with the co-operation of the United Provinces Government. The scheme which came into force only from Jan. 15, 1948, is considered to be working successfully. Booking office earnings have increased in certain areas and first reports received, mostly relating to the second half of January 1948, show that an amount of over Rs. 55,000 has been collected as a result of the surprise checks

It is the intention to extend the drive to all Provinces. The Bihar and Bombay Government have already indicated their willingness to co-operate in this matter. The Assam Government are assisting by providing the help of armed police on the worst affected sections and they have in addition appointed a special magistrate to try cases in a mobile court. Measures adopted by Railways include the inauguration of a special publicity campaign directed towards securing public co-operation in combating ticketless travel, the provision of improved facilities for purchasing tickets and booking luggage, a stricter check on 'Entrances' and 'Exits' at stations, the appointment of additional checking staff, the introduction of a greater element of surprise in checking, the reduction of opportunities for collusion by controlling Travelling Ticket Examiners from a Central Office, and the co-operation of railway officers of all departments in a drive against irregularities both at stations and in trains. Fencing is being provided or strengthened at stations as rapidly as existing conditions permit.

European countries may want to dump their goods in India. If at that time the railways have already set up their own factory and the most important section of the Indian market has been taken away altogether from the private factory, then a situation might arise which from the general industrial point of view of the country would require very serious consideration.

#### A Different Position

My Hon'ble friend asked me: what about the locomotives. The locomotives are in a different position in this respect, because the machine tool industry is an industry, which, as I said, practically more than any other industry that I am aware of, has increased its capacity and the whole of the world consumption after a period of three or four years may not be sufficient to absorb at economic prices the output of these factories in that respect. The locomotive industry to my mind stands on a different footing from the machine tool industry.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (MADRAS: GENERAL): Is it of strategic importance?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: I do not want, Sir today to express my final view on this question of the railways starting their own machine tool factory, because it is a matter which has to be considered not merely by the Ministry of Railways, but also by the Ministry of Industry and Supply and also by the Ministry of Defence.

PORF. N. G. RANGA: And the whole of the Cabinet.

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: I have not so far had an opportunity of consulting the other Ministries on the question. In any case, a proposal for the establishment of a machine tool factory by the railways has been made by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Santhanam himself for consideration by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and I hope to have an early opportunity of having that question considered in some detail. Pending that I should like for the moment to keep an open mind on the question.

There was one point that my Hon'ble friend Mr. Saksena raised, whether the changing of the location from Kanchrapara to Asansol, whether that makes any difference to the estimates. As far as I know the position, it makes no difference.

MR. B.P JHUNJHUNWALA: May I put one question? Are private firms in a position to supply sufficient machine tools to the railway workshop?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: It is a difficult question to answer off-hand, but the equipment, as far as I know, of some of these machine tool factories is very satisfactory and I should not be surprised if they were in a position to meet the whole of our requirements.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: After these industries have begun to work, is it impossible for Government to think of acquiring these industries and thus run the factory under the auspices of the railways

in view of the fact that these machine tools manufacture is of strategic importance and also in view of the fact that the last Government's Council had recommended that this machine tool manufacturing industry being one of the key industries should itself be taken by the State?

DR. JOHN MATTHAI: Well, Sir, the other day the Prime Minister made a statement in the House explaining Government's policy in regard to nationalization. One of the points made by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister was that even in regard to key industries it is only new units that would be taken over by the State. We therefore expect the machine tool factory should be taken over by the State and this is a point I think that would require consideration in the light of the Prime Minister's statement.

MR. B. P. JHUNJHUNWALA: Have the private firms any preference over the railway workshop in supplying machine tools and other things?

DR. JOHN MATTHAI: At present they have not reached the stage of being able to manufacture the machine tools that the railways require. They have only made a beginning.

PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA: (East Punjab General):—Sir, I may be permitted to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

## STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

A meeting of the Standing Committee (Roads) was held on Feb. 25 in the Council Chamber, New Delhi, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport, presiding.

Discussion centred round the basis of allocation of the Central Road Fund to Provinces. The Committee favoured a revision of the present basis of alloca tions which relied solely on petrol consumption figures with a view to taking into account such factors as gross area, population, and road expenditure from revenue as well as petrol consumption.

As regards National Highways, the second item on the agenda, the Committee considered certain proposals for additions to and modifications of the National Highway system and desired that the matter be taken up with the Provinces concerned.

The Committee approved grants from the Central Road Fund for the Road Test Track at Calcutta, for investigation into the improvement of bullock carts, and for certain sanctioned schemes of road development in Madras, C. P. and and Berar, and Assam.

## WEST COAST MAJOR PORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED

THE Government of India have constituted an expert committee known as "The West Coast Major Port Development Committee" to carry out the following two investigations.

- 1. (a) whether a deep-sea port on the stretch of coast covering Kathiawar and Cutch for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required;
- (b) if so, where it should be sited, having regard to construction and maintenance costs, allied transport developments, possibilities of developing existing ports and the needs of the entire area to be served.
- 2. (a) whether a deep-sea port between Mormugao and Cochin for the accommodation of ships of large size and tonnage at all seasons of the year is required:
- (b) if so, where it should be sited, having regard to economy of construction and maintenance of the port and allied transport developments required and having regard to the needs of the entire area: also what measures are necessary for establishing it;

- (c) what improvements are necessary in communications to the existing ports; also what other measures should be taken for the development or provision of additional facilities in these ports as may be found necessary or desirable.
- 2. The composition of the committee will be as follows:
  - Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai Chairman.

The General Manager, B. B. & C. I. Railway, Bombay, for the former investigation, and the General Manager, M. & S. M. Railway for the latter.

Mr. S. N. Haji, Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.

Mr. K. Mitter, Docks Manager, Calcutta Port Commissioners, Calcutta.

Mr. J.B. Murray, Chief Engineer, Calcutta Port Commissioners, Calcutta.

Commander D. Shankar.

Mr. V.V. Bhide, Secretary to the General Manager, B. B. & C. I. Railway, Bombay. . . Secretary.

The committee is requested to submit its recommendation to the Government before the end of April, 1948.

## Working Of Railway Grainshops: Enquiry Committee Appointed

THE appointment of a committee presided over by Mr. M. L. Saksna to inquire into the administration of the railway grainshop system, was announced by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways, in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 24. The Minister was replying to the debate on a cut motion moved by Mr. Saksena to discuss "Loss on grainshops".

The Minister said:

The two aspects of the question which the House discussed are these: first whether there is justification for the continuance of the grainshop system and the other is whether in point of the administration of the grainshop system, satisfactory results are being achieved.

As regards the first, the House will appreciate that ever since the inflationary process began in this country, it has been felt by people who employ large number of workmen that one of the ways in which inflation can be kept down is by providing part of the remuneration in the form of foodstuffs. To that extent it prevents increase in the circulation of money; that is the justification. The question which arises in this connection is whether in accepting this on the railways, we are exceeding the quantum of relief prescribed by the Pay Commission. Actually what has been done is we have accepted the continuance of the grainshop system, but along with that we have accepted also the lower scale of dearness allowance proposed which has been in existence so far. The Pay Commission's dearness allowances considered are higher than the dearness allowances which are now being paid in conjunction with the grainshop concession to railway employees. That really is the ground on which we are able to justify it in the light of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

#### Dearness Allowances

The House is probably aware that under the Pay Commission's proposals dearness allowance is to increase with increases in the cost of living index. Now that would not apply so far as present system which we have adopted on the Railways is concerned. That is a matter which has to be taken into consideration in remedying the economic policy which is involved. The main point which has been raised by the Hon'ble the Mover is that there are very considerable disparities between different railways in the matter of expenditure incurred on grainshops. Prima facie the expenditure on different railways would vary in accordance with the scope of the articles included, in accordance with the number of dependants, in accordance with the local scale of price and so on, but whether actually the discrepancies correspond to the working of these considerations is a matter on which I am unable to give any reply. It is a matter for investigation. I am prepared to admit that having listened to

the speeches which have been made in the course of the discussion that a strong case has been made for an enquiry into the grainshop system and I propose, therefore, to accept the suggestion made by the Hon'ble the Mover that a committee composed of Hon'ble Members of this House should be appointed straightaway to look into the administration of the grainshop system and I have decided, therefore, to appoint a Committee consisting of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena as Chairman and Mr. Sauthanam and Mr. Khandubhai Desai as Members, to go immediately into this question and make a roport to us.

MR. MOHAN LAL SAKSENA (U. P. GENERAL): In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the house, withdrawn.

## COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

As announced in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on Feb. 24 during the discussion on the cut motion relating to the working of grainshops on Railways, the Government of India have set up a non-official committee consisting of Shri Mohan Lal Saksena as Chairman and Shri K. Santhanam and Shri Khandubhai Kasanji Desai as Members, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on Feb. 28. The terms of reference of the Committee are:

- (1) Whether the existing scheme of supplying foodgrains and other commodities to railway employees at concession rates is fair and equitable as regards eategories of staff admitted to the concession, range of commodities, quantities supplied and the rates charged, and whether the organisation is efficient and economical as regards procurement, stocking and distribution, and otherwise capable of giving the most satisfactory results.
- (2) Whether the overhead charges are reasonable.
- (3) Whether the existing methods of accounting, inspection and control are adequate.
- (4) Whother the losses that are being incurred are reasonable in the circumstances.
- (5) Whether the present system requires to be modified or altered in any respect.
- (6) Whother the present system may be wholly or partially replaced by any

(Continued in Column 3)

## "GUR" TRANSPORT: GOODS SPECIALS ARRANGED

Special arrangements have been made for the transport of 'Gur' from the sugarcane areas to consuming centres, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on Feb. 23.

A 'gur' goods special of 50 wagons was run on Feb. 20 from Muzaffarnagar and Meerut to various stations in the coalfields area on the East Indian Railway. Another train of 65 wagons left the next day from the same stations bound for Gujerat. Of these, 55 wagons were destined for Baroda and 10, for Ahmedabad. A third train is leaving Muzaffarnagar and Meerut for places in the Ahmedabad-Surat area. More trains will be run if justified by traffic requirements.

Late in January, 1948, it was represented by the Ministry of Food that over 3 lakh tons of 'gur' had accumulated in the U. P. for transporting which 250 to 300 wagons per day would be required from various places in the U. P. to various consuming points throughout India. Having regard to the rail transport conditions prevailing, it was not possible to provide odd numbers of wagons at various places for movement in various directions.

During the second week of February 1948, the Ministry of Food checked the original figures and found that actually only about 1.15,000 tons of 'gur' required to be moved, and in order to facilitate this movement, without iterfering with the movement of other essential commedities in India, it was agreed that under Government sponsoring 'gur' should move in trainloads from certain specified 'Gur' producing centres to certain specified consuming areas. Large-scale trainload movements have, therefore, started and will continue as required in consultation with the Ministry of Food.

By the arrangements made, 'gur' is being loaded in the direction in which empties move for transporting other essential commodities, e.g., coal from the coalfields and imported foodstufts from the Bombay area.

#### (Continued from Column 2)

other system while retaining all those benefits of the existing scheme to which the workers are reasonably entitled and keeping the cost within the limits which the Railways can afford.

The office of the Committee will be set up on March 1, and it will immediately proceed to collect material on the working of grainshops. After holding preliminary discussions for a fortnight, the Members will go on lightning tour of various railway grainshop centres. The report of the Committee is expected to be available by May 15.

# RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEMES

RAIL-ROAD co-ordination in the matter of passenger transport is proposed to be achieved by the formation of road transport undertakings in which railways would be given a minimum of 20 per cent financial interest.

Giving this information in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 24 the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways who was answering a question put by Mr. V.C. Kesava Rao as to the extent of rail-road co-ordination under consideration for 1948-49, said that schemes for the purpose were under the consideration of the Provincial Governments and were expected to be introduced in most of the Provinces in 1948-49.

In the matter of goods transport, the Minister added, the policy of the Central Government is to encourage road transport for short distances and to reserve long distance traffic, except in perishable and fragil goods, for the railways. A majority of the provincial Governments who consider the matter have accepted it and correspondence with the rest is proceeding.

The new concerns are proposed to be operated on a monopolistic basis ultimately. In this connection, the Minister drew Mr. Kesava Rao's attention to para 14 of the "White Paper" which was laid on the table of the Central Legislative Assembly on January 20. 1946.

#### Para 14 of "White Paper"

The "White Paper" referred to above relates to the policy of the Central Government in respect of participation of State Railways in road motor transport. Para 14 deals with the monopoly question and states: It is the view of the Central Government that competition on the basis of gain will inevitably result in uneconomic duplication. They think therefore that the new joint Companies must in time have a monopoly of the type of road transport on the routes, or in the area, covered by their permits. The extent to which the Companies will operate on branch as well as on main routes will depend on the conditions of the permit imposed by the Transport Authorities. In some cases those authorities may consider that, for the present, certain or all branch routes should be operated by different concerns. In other cases they may require the Companies to operate the less remunerative routes as well as the main routes. This is a matter for evolution and experience. But in any case the joint Companies should have a monopoly on the routes and of the type of traffic (passenger or goods) covered by their permits. management of the companies by a Board representative of the Province and the Railways, whose main interest is good service and of the other shareholders whose main interest may be expected to be profit earning, coupled with real competition on the basis of service, will, it is believed, provide the necessary incentive to efficient operation and to close coordination of services in the interest of the public. What it is necessary to avoid is the domination of these companies, or of any other road transport concerns, but any single financial interest. The proposals in this paper are designed to prevent that.

There remains the not unnatural fear that the Companies will, with monopolies, become so strong as to ignore the public interest, and that the Transport Authorities will be powerless to insist on the provision of better service, since the only redress under the Motor Vehicles Act is the suspension or cancellation of permits, which does not help the travelling public. As far as the railways participating are concerned, the intention is that the Companies should give optimum service. Nevertheiess it is desirable to provide by amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act that the permits should be drawn in a fuller form giving Transport Authorities power to levy fines for non-performance of the services specified in or under the provisions of the permit. In the ultimate resort it would be open to the Transport Authorities to grant additional permits on the same route to other concerns, and to refuse to renew the permit on next date of renewal. Such non-performance is however inherently improbable.

As from March 1, 1948 the Delhi and East Punjab Command has been given a new designation and is now known as the Western Command.

The Command came into existence soon after the partition of the country and its jurisdiction extends over the provinces of East Punjab and Delhi, Rajputana States and Ajmer Merwars.

### FOOD CROPS ON RAILWAY LANDS

In its attempt to make India self-sufficient in foodgrains, the Ministry of Agriculture has been considering the possibility of utilising waste land lying along railway lines, for growing food crops. It is understood that the railways are agreeable to place such lands at the disposal of Provincial Governments or lease them out on certain terms and conditions. In the past encouragement has been given for the cultivation of vegetables by the railway staff on railway lands, but so far vegetable farms have been established mainly in Railway Colonies attached to the bigger stations.

Under the Central Government's plans to increase the food supply, schemes for the survey and reclamation of waste lands sponsored by the Provincial Governments have been eligible for financial assistance from the Centre. Provincial Governments have now been advised to extend their survey and reclamation schemes to fallow lands along railways lines.

The continuance of Railway Priority Control and petrol rationing were among the items discussed by the Standing Committee (for subjects other than roads) for the Ministry of Transport which met in New Delhi on Feb. 27 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport.

The agenda also included items regarding the working of the Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control, the Bengal Pilot Service and representation of Indian interests on Port Trust Boards.

### Technological Investigations In Cotton

The annual report of the working of the Tschnological Laboratory of the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the year ending May, 1947, published recently indicates that some technological investigations have been completed and satisfactory progress made in others. As in the past, valuable assistance has been rendered to the cotton breeders, the cotton trade industry, not only by carrying out routine tests on a large number of samples sent by them, but also by giving them advice on technical matters.

The assistance given to cotton breeders was in testing their improved strains of select types which would bring better monetary return to the cultivators, and would prove more acceptable to the trade and the industry. The interests of the latter were served not only by carrying out tests for them on trade varieties, but also by scientific investigations on the causes of defects in processing, and suggesting suitable remedies for removing them.

Some of the technological investigations were of fundamental nature while others were of direct practical value to the trade and the industry. Tests on plain cloths manufactured in a mill showed that good quality cottons can be used with advantage to replace East African cottons now being used for this purpose.

Causes leading to neppiness in Indian cotton yarns were investigated in detail and tests carried out on medium staple Indian cotton regarding their suitability to manufacture hosiery yarns.

In addition to these investigations work is in progress on the spinning quality of mixing of Indian cottons with special reference to fibre properties, on the influence of different length groups of fibre on yarn strength, on the effect of storage of Indian trade bales in upcountry centres and in Bombay.

### RESTORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WEEK

# APPEAL BY PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS

To arouse public opinion for an all-out effort for the recovery and restoration of abducted women and children, a 'Restore the Women and Children' week was jointly observed by India and Pakistan. The week began on Feb 16.

Broadcast appeals for restoration of abducted women and children were made during the week by the Prime Minister, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister and other leaders of both the Dominions.

Under the auspices of the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, public meetings and processions were organised by voluntary organisations, in particular, the Women's Conference and other women's societies.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, inaugurated the week on Feb. 16, by a special broadcast appeal to the people from All India Radio Delhi at 8.30 pm.

Earlier, Mahatma Gandhi's recorded speech of Dec. 7, in which he spoke on the subject of recovery of abducted women, was broadcast.

#### Remove the Stigma

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, appealed to the nation to bring about an early restoration of all abducted women irrespective of what was done in Pakistan. "By finding a quick and satisfactory solution of this problem, you will be fulfilling the wish of Mahatma Gandhi who felt strongly on this point", he said.

During the last six months, Pandit Nehra continued, a number of very deplorable things had happened in the country, the very thought of which made one hang one's head in shame. The abduction of women was the worst and most horrible of them all. It had brought shame to them and had lowered them considerably in the eyes of the world.

The people of India must remove the stigma from their names. Some time back, the Governments of India, Pakistan, West Punjab and East Punjab had come to a certain understanding on this question and some work had also been done. But the pace was slow and they had not been able to accomplish very much. The work, however, for the restoration must be started once again with renewed zeal and resolution.

How much was done in Pakistan should be no consideration with the people of India. They must do their duty towards those abducted women and help them to return to a place of honour and dignity. "We want Pakistan to do its duty, but, in any case, we shall

give that Dominion full co-operation in solving the problem", declared the Prime Minister.

"Every one of us must do his duty and create an atmosphere in which our sisters can return to their homes and occupy once again the same place of honour among their relatives. They should not have even the slightest feeling that they would not be welcomed by their near and dear ones. Whatever happened was no fault of theirs, and they shall continue to receive from us the same love and affection as they did previously".

In Jammu Pandit Nehru said, he had met some women from the Ali Beg camp and he was ashamed to hear their tales and to imagine the plight of those who had still not been rescued. "I said to myself, if this kind of thing continues to happen in this country, then what is the use of our occupying places of authority".

Pandit Nehru added: "We may forget other things, but we shall take a long time to forget the abduction of women. This problem is a constant source of friction between the two Dominions, and we must solve it as early and as well as possible".

The restoration of abducted women, Pandit Nehru concluded, had also been receiving great attention from Mahatma Gandhi. "You have heard his voice today on the radio on this very subject, and I hope you will carry out his wishes.".

### PROGRESS IN RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

According to a joint report submitted by a committee consisting of Kumari Mridula Sarabhai and Miss Fatima Begam, 1,576 abducted Muslim women and children were recovered from East Punjab during the period Dec. 6 to January 25, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Kehabilitation on Feb. 19.

Figures of recoveries, surported by receipts, are not available in West Punjab but during the same period 1,218 non Muslim women and children were received from that province in the base camp at Amribar.

The figures of recovered women and children from both East and West Punjab are now checked by a committee as the result of a decision arrived at an Inter-Dominion Conference in January last.

### DISCHARGED M.E.S. PERSONNEL

Discharged M. E. S. personnel have been evacuated from all districts, in the N. W. F. P. with the possible exception of Bannu, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 18. All such personnel, who desire to serve the Indian Union, are instructed to report to C. R. I. E., Ambala Cantonment, who will give them the necessary posting instructions.

A transfer office for all civilians, in military employ, who cannot be absorbed by their departments, has been opened in 'P' Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

### Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Appeal

The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, broadcasting from All India Radio. Delhi on Feb. 19 in connection with "Restore Women and Children Week", appealed to the society that the wronged ones should be received with all the affection that is their due.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said:

One of the saddest things during all the recent communal disturbances has been the abduction of women by both Muslims and non-Muslims. Hate and anger breed violence and violence rouses the lowest passions in man. We, have, therefore, to eschew hate and anger.

The wrong afflicted on the souls of these unfortunate women is irreparable but we can, at any rate, retrieve our error up to a point and that is by both sides willingly releasing abducted women so that they may be taken safely to their homes. This is the least act of reparation that we can do to these poor unfortunate victims.

I would also like to appeal to society

at large, and to the relations of abducted girls in particular, that these wronged ones should be received with all the affection that is their due so that they may, in time, recover their physical, mental and moral health and become useful members of society. In no sense can anybody attribute any blame to them.

Molestation, rape and abduction of women is the lowest form of brutality and cowardice. Therefore, only those who have sullied their honour stand dishonoured, not these girls. I am confident that the necessary generosity of heart and mind will be forthcoming. I appeal to the women of India in particular to extend the right hand of fellowship and sympathy to these unfortunate sisters. If communal unity has to be achieved, as it must, if both Pakistan and India are to live, immediate righting of any wrong that is at all possible is one step towards the desired goal.

I trust there will be no delay in putting our houses in order on both sides.



# WRONG-DOERS SHOULD REALISE THEIR MISTAKE, SAYS SARDAR PATEL

THE Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, broadcasting on Feb. 18 from A.I.R., New Delhi, said:

I am taking this opportunity of adding a few words to the powerful appeals which have already been made on behalf of the thousands of distressed women. During the recent disturbances which overspread both West and East Punjab and the Frontier and enmeshed a part of the beautiful Kashmir Valley and Jammu Province, nothing has degraded us more than the foul crimes and barbarities which have been inflicted on innocent women and children who have been forcibly torn from their kith and kin and subjected to most inhuman indignities and violence. Even the law of the jungle does not countenance such insensate wrongs; these are completely alien to the traditions of any society and civilisation. There should be no place, therefore, in this world for wrong-doers of this type and it behaves us all to see that such transgressions of civilised conduct are put down with a strong and firm hand.

### **Essential Mission**

When I think of the sorrowful plight and miserable sufferings of these mothers and sisters, my heart fills with distress and grief. Women of education and breeding, many of whom had been nourished in the lap of luxury; all had led a peaceful and sheltered existence with those with whom they had ties of blood and affection; many were valuable treasures of poor men's houses, which are now left desolate and ruined-all these have been uprooted from their natural surroundings and placed by the cruel hands of frenzied eriminals into conditions of existence which shame humanity and all the virtues and qualities which go to make God's own creature — man. To rescue them from these living conditions and restore them to their original environments is, therefore, an essential mission if men's reputation is to be rehabilitated as that of human beings. Failure in this mission would mean that we are not fit to face the bar of human history and must go down to the future ages as those who degraded humanity to depths lower than those of beasts.

Those who have braved adversity and challenged obstructions and obstacles in this noble undertaking have deserved well of the nation and humanity whose cause they have tried to uphold. The results they have achieved may appear slight when compared to the dimensions of the problem but if we consider how much concentrated effort, public zeal, and patience and grit have been expended on the achievement of these results, we would be able to appreciate not only what has been done, but also what requires to be done to salvage these treasures from the wrecks of human civilisation. It is obvious that an enterprise of such gigantic proportions cannot be success. fully accomplished if we do not have both popular and official support. Such support must, therefore, be given by the Government and the people in both India and Pakistan. To withhold it would be contrary not only to solemn undertakings entered into by both the Governments, but also to all laws of social existence and codes of honour.

### An Appeal

We have also to awaken the conscience of those who have perpetrated these wrongs or who have now acquired possession of these women as though they were goods and chattlels for sale for articles of prize and booty. I would appeal to them to realise their error and to reflect what stakes are involved in their persistence in the wrong course which they have adopted. Neither the sacred name of religion which might have been invoked by them in perpetrating these wrongs, nor the desire for vengeance, retaliation or plunder which might have actuated them, can ever be pleaded in extenuation of the enormity of their misdeeds. repentance and restoration of the wrongs committed can bring them back into

This is, therefore, their opportunity for reclamation. Let them listen to the voice of their own conscience, to the injunctions of their own religion, to the rules of their own society, to the principles of their own existence, and to the codes of honour and chivalry. Let them reflect on how they themselves would have felt if their own womenfolk had to share the fate which, through their instrumentality, has befallen these innocent victims of human folly and lust. I have no doubt that if they bestow a

moment's thought to these considerations, they will themselves realise the errors of their ways and offer to facilitate the task of all those who are engaged in this mission of rescue and succour.

I should also like to add a word for those unfortunate and grief-stricken relations who have lost their mothers, wives and sisters. I can well imagine what torments affect their minds and what agony afflicts their hearts. I also know that many are facing and are prepared to face perils of all kind to get back their dear ones. I have not come across any who is not anxious to claim them back into his home. I would advise them not to lose heart but to persist in their efforts to trace them. After all, where so many thousands are involved, it is impossible for official agencies alone to discover or follow the track. Individual or collective non-official effort, backed by official support, would probably achieve much more than more offical action. I hope, therefore, that neither disappointments no temperary setbacks will damp their ardour and that they will pursue their task with doggedness and determination.

### Message of Sympathy

To the grief-stricken women, themselves I should like to send a message of sympathy and comfort. Their misery and plight have stirred our hearts. They are constantly in our thoughts. Whenever we can get at them, we will do so. They need be in no doubt either of the genuineness of the anxiety of their relations to claim them back or the zeal and intensity of the offorts to rescue them. I realise what cups of bitterness and miseries they must be drinking every minute or hour of their life but patience and faith have moved mountains and melted the coldest hearts. Lot them, therefore, persist in both, and I am sure, they will invoke God's blessings for the success of their rescuers and awaken the conscience of the wrong-doers.

# Lady Mountbatten Requested To Help In Recovery Work

As a result of the Government of India's request to Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma (in her capacity as Chairman of the United Council for Relief and Welfare) to take over the work of the recovery of abducted women from States acceding to India and Pakistan, Her Excellency presided over a meeting of States Representatives, Government of India officials and social workers on Fcb. 16 at Government House. The Pakistan High Commissioner and Colonel Nur Khan were present on behalf of Pakistan. Mrs. Rameshwri Nehru, Miss Sarabhai and Dr. Sushila Nayyar also attended.

Ministerial representatives of Patiala, Nabha. Faridkot, Kapurthala and Jind reported on the progress which had already been made in recovering abducted women in their States and on behalf of their Rulers offered maximum help and facility within their respective States. Dr. Sushila Nayyar, who is returning forthwith to Patiala, reported that Her Highness the Maharani of Patiala had herself set up an organisation of voluntary women helpers in that State. The High Commissioner for Pakistan gave full assurance of assistance and co-operation in regard to similar work in the States acceding to Pakistan.

Immediate action will be taken to follow up the decision reached at this meeting. It was decided to obtain weekly reports of progress made and to review the position frequently.

### "Wash Away Your Crimes By Restoring Abducted Women"

-Sm. Rameshwari Nehru

SHRIMATI Rameshwari Nohru.

browleasting from A. I. R.
Delhi on Feb. 19 in
connection with the "Restore Women
and Children Week", called upon every
man and woman in India to render
all possible help to the police in restoring all abducted girls.

She said:

The twentieth centruy is doubtlessly known for the freedom and preservation of the human race. Two world wars have already been fought in the name of freedom. Not very long ago when the war was on three big powers of the world from aboard a ship on the surface of the wide sea, made a solemn proclamation of the freedom of mankind, which is known as the Atlantic Charter. This was pronouncement of the decision that all human beings having been relieved of oppression and slavery shall be afforded with an opportunity to lead a carefree life

The achievement of this goal led to the formation of the United Nations Organization, which has practically all the Nations of the world, including India and Pakistan, as its members, and is in full-fledged session now.

Woman occupies an honourable position in the human race. She shares equal rights with man and this fact having been established it was hoped that she would occupy her rightful place and shall be able to lead a fearless life. But what happened was just the reverse. India attained freedom. India and Pakistan honourably joined the ranks of free countries as two independent Nations, but what befell on the women in both the Dominions is very well known. They were kidnapped and abducted in their thousands and were treated inhumanly.

### Women Sold out as Chattels

Theft of cattle is well-known. In England, at one time, cattle-lifting was quite a popular crime. In the same manner during the course of the last few months a lot of good women were "lifted" by bad people, carried to whatever places they desired and behaved to in any manner they liked. Their honour was outraged almost publicly while they were sold out in markets as chattels. The trader was not dealt with by law, the buyer was not penalized and even the neighbour did not take exception to this trade. The Government could do nothing while the Police never rounded up the criminals. This happened in a free India and in a free Palviern

Aged mothers shricked, fathers felt the pains, husbands or brothers only kept gazing at this ghastly crime while they could do nothing to save them. No army was available, no transport was procurable and no relief could be rendered at the time of the great revo-

lution and a number of our beloved, pious women were made use of as animals.

At this time of kidnapping we could render them no help but their dear homes continued to be deserted in their absence. Peace in the country cannot be restored unless they are restored to their homes. A scheme for their recovery, therefore, was launched and we sent our volunteers both to East and West Punjab who, along with the Police and men volunteers were to help in their recovery and safe transit to their homes.

#### 5,000 Recovered so far

On Dec. 6, 1947, both the Governments of Pakistan and India entered into an agreement that within their jurisdictions they will do their best to restore all abducted women to their homes. The decision arrived at could not be implemented for about a month. Our lady vol-

unteers reached Lahore in January and some of the Pakistani sisters also came into East Punjab. We did not achieve the estimated success but I think in both the Dominions about 5000 women have so far been recovered, which, considering the number of abducted women, is nothing. It is our foremost duty that we restore to her home every sister who has been abducted against her wish. It is not a trade where we might try to keep balance on both the sides.

We need not care to see whether the number of women surrendered by us tallies with that from Pakistan. Competition is always bad but we could tolerate it in some fine things. Competition in sin and mischief only degenerates us. We have already degenerated quite much and our face has been blackened by sins. It is the time now when we can wash away our sins by returning these girls.

We have sinned. We might as well repent. It is only right for us that we return every abducted woman from every corner of the country. It is not the duty of the police alone. It is the duty of every citizen and I hope that every man or woman considering it as his or her foremost duty will render all possible help to the police in restoring these girls.

# "SOCIAL OBJECTION MUST CHANGE INTO WARMEST WELCOME"—MR. NEOGY

THE Hon'ble Mr. K.C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, broadcasting from A.I.R. Delhi on Feb. 17 said:

At this hour of National bereavement, it is a consolation for me to think that I am speaking on a subject which was nearest to Mahatmaji's heart. I refer to the problem of recovery of the women who were forcibly carried away from their kith and kin in the course of the shameful happenings of the last few months.

Numerous are the economic and social problems that have arisen in the wake of the mass migration that has taken place on both sides of our borders. But none among them has so wide repercussions as the problem of the abducted women. No religion, no philosophy, nor even an armed conflict, can justify the bruatalities that have been perpetrated on women and children. No evil can be more reprehensible, more barbaric than the lot to which many thousands of our sisters have been subjected.

Their forced detention constitutes the foulest outrage on civilisation and humanity. It is not for us at this stage to apportion the blame between different parties. Our hearts bleed equally for all who are daily suffering untold humiliation and torture, be they Muslim, Sikh or Hindu.

The recovery of such women must be given the most urgent attention and must have priority in all schemes of evacuation. To make it a real success there must be the fullest co-operation, not only between Governments, but also between

individual citizens of the two Dominions. The Government of India is, of course, providing the necessary machinery for the recovery and rehabilitation of these women. But it is up to their compatriots, their families and their friends, to restore to them their happiness of mind, their former courage and will to live and to serve.

The Government of India undertake complete responsibilty for the care and placement of those women who have lost their relations or those who have no home to go to. The old attitude of social objection must, however, yield place to one of warmest welcome to those young women whose honour and happiness have been sacrificed in a senseless communal strife. We cannot do too much to compensate them for the agonies they have endured because of our inability to protect them.

In conclusion, I need only repeat the precept that Mahatma Gandhi has left for us on this subject:—

"I am certain", he says, "that no sin or guilt can be imputed to those Hindu and Sikh sisters, who have been abducted, molested or converted by Muslims. They should be received with open arms and given the same place which they occupied before in society. Saintly poet Tulsi Das had one said: 'Compassion is the root of religion'. If we do not show regard to these sisters of ours, we cease to have any religion at all'.

Thus says the Mahatma. Who among us will not respond to his clarion call.



# EVACUATION OF NON-MUSLIMS FROM BAHAWALPUR

THE Bahawalpur Government have agreed to the evacuation of those non-Muslims who wish to leave the State and come to India. In this connection, the following Farman was issued recently by His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur:—

"It has been my sincere desire that my non-Muslim subjects who are still in the State should be given every encouragement, protection and facilities to continue to live in their homes and to carry on their normal avocations and those who left the State during and after the unfortunate disturbances should be encouraged and enabled to return to the State.

"Under my directions my Government has been endeavouring to create the necessary conditions to enable my non-Muslim subjects to live in their homes with safety and honour and majority of Hindus, I was informed, wished to stay on. I was very glad to find that the late Mahatma Gandhi also advised all concerned that they should not leave their homes and that each Government should take effective measures to ensure the safety and economic well-being of its minorities so as to enable them to continue to live in their homes in peace and with honour. In a personal telegram to me he reiterated these views.

"In the meantime continuous efforts were being made from certian other quarters to persuade and encourage the non-Muslims remaining in the State to leave for India and constant propaganda was being made in India that non-Muslims were being dotained in Bahawalpur State against their will. My Government had made it clear that while there was no restriction on the movement of non-Muslims who wished to proceed to India, their mass evacuation was neither necessary nor desirable and that it will continue to protect the life and property of those who remained in the State.

"A few days before his tragic death, Mahatmaji sont me a personal letter through Dr. Sushila Nayyar and Mr. Leslie Cross and at my invitation they undertook a tour of the State to ascertain the wishes of my non-Muslim subjects regarding their evacuation to India. At the end of their tour they informed me that while they appreciated my desire that my non-Muslim subjects should remain in the State as also the efforts that were being made to enable them to do so, they felt that the majority of the non-Muslims wished, at least for the time being, to be evacuated to India.

Under the circumstances I cannot but with much regret agree to the evacuation of those of my non-Muslim subjects who may wish to go to India for the present. I have accordingly issued instructions that my Government should, in consultation with the Pakistan Government, provide the necessary facilities for their evacuation and make adequate arrangements for their safety up to the Bahawalpur-Indian border.

"I do, however, hope that their exodus from the State will be for a short period and they will before long return to the State and resettle in their homes."

The following is the text of the Press Note issued by the Bahawalpur Government regarding their non-Muslim employees who had left the State during the August-September disturbances:—

His Highness the Amir of Bahawalpur has graciously sanctioned leave on full pay to all non-Muslim employees of Bahawalpur Government who had to leave the State during the August-September disturbances from September, 1947, to the end of the current financial year and the lien of all such employees has been retained and it is hoped that they will rejoin duty on the termination of their leave.

Special arrangements have been made for the payment of the leave salaries and pensions to non-Muslim employees and pensioners of Bahawalpur Government at Delhi through A.M. Dewan Fatch Chand, Home Minister. The Home Minister has been authorised to receive and forward to the Accountant-General applications for the payment of leave salaries and pensions.

After the verification of such applications the Accountant-General will authorise the Home Minister to make payments at Delhi. The Accountant-General, Bahawalpur Government, is placing an advance at the disposal of A. M. Dewan Fateh Chand for this puriose.

Registered parcels for relief of refugees, containing gift clothes including blankets not exceeding 400 tolas in weight and addressed to the Chairman, Colee ion of Clothes and Work Parties sub-committee or to the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, I Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi wil continue to be exempt from the payment of potage charges and registration fee un it May 31, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General, Posts and Telegraphs on March 6.

### **Evacuation of Non-Muslims From Sind**

Arrangements regarding evacuation of non-Muslims from Sind and their movements to relief camps in India were inspected by Mr. S. K. Kriplani, Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and Mr. Y. K. Puri, Director-General of Evacuation, Government of India, who recently toured Rajputana, Ahmedabad and Bombay, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 19. Mr. Kriplani also visited Kathiawar.

It has been arranged with the Jodhpur Railway to run special trains Hyderabad or Mirpurkhas to Marwar Junction and Pali where transit camps, have been set up with accommodation, food and other facilities. Heavy luggage of refugees is to be booked to Salawas Railway station where a transit camp is being opened for a few people who must await arrival of their heavy luggage before proceeding to relief camps. Refugees arriving at Marwar and Pali will be sent by special trains to other transit camps at Ahmedabad, Ratlam, and Khandwa. From Ahmedabad refugees will be sent to various relief camps in Bombay Presidency. From Ratlam and Khandwa they will be sent to relief camps in C. P. and Central India. All refugees desiring Government help will be expected to go to these relief camps, but those who have their own means are free to travel to destinations of their choice at their own expense, except to certain areas which are already very full with refugees.

Arrangements have been made for the movement of 10,000 to 15,000 refugees per week by sea from Karachi, mainly to Bombay and a part to Kathiawar Ports. At Bombay hot food will be served to refugees on arrival and they will be sent to relief camps. There is at present a shortage of accommodation in Bombay relief camps, but measures are being taken to increase the capacity

and to open new camps. Action is also being taken to open camps in Central Provinces.

In Kathiawar arrangements have been made for the housing of about 35,000 more refugees. Apart from those who are to be kept in relief camps or otherwise accommodated in Kathiawar within the above arrangements, other refugees will not be sent to Kathiawar but will be diverted to Bombay.

The Government of India are also examining the possibilities of opening other camps for Sindhi refugees wherever possible in Rajputana as well as in Madras, Mysore or Central India.

#### HARIJANS SECTION

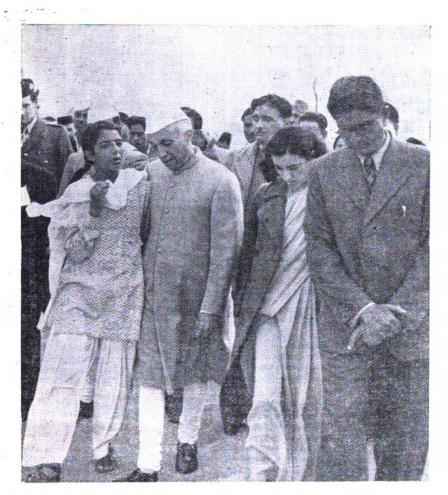
A Harijans Section has been set up by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to accord prompt and adequate attention in the matter of evacuation, relief and rehabilitation of Harijans.

The Harijans Section will work under the immediate control of a Director. The overall control and supervision of the section shall, however, vest in Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru, Head of the Women's Section who is connected with the All India Harijan Sewak Sangh.

Besides the headquarters staff of the Section at Delhi, there will be a certain number of field units and details in this respect are being worked out.

The Section will be concerned with all matters pertaining to Harijans. In so far as evacuation is concerned, the Director will be in close touch with the Ministry which will issue suitable instructions to the Director-General of Evacuation.

In matters concerning Relief and Rehabilitation, the Section will consult Provincial and State Governments.



During the Prime Minister's recent visit to Gandhi Nagar refugee camp in Jullundur, a girl ran up towards him and between sobs told him her story of suffering. Picture shows the Prime Minister, who was deeply moved, comforting the girl

# LADY MOUNTBATTEN'S VISIT TO PANIPAT

Her Excellency the Countess Mount-batten of Burma. accompanied by the Countess Limerick, Deputy Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, and Major-General Sir Treffry Thompson, British Red Cross Commissioner, visited the refugee camps and hospitals in the Panipat area on February 17.

Her Excellency made a thorough tour of the camp for Sikhs and Hindus and remarked on the efficiency of the organisation which has been set up. Lady Mountbatten congratulated the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal, and the social workers in the camp on the progress which they have made and said how impressed she was by the enthusiasm of the staff of the Camp General and Infectious Diseases Hospitals where, despite the lack of facilities, such good work is being done.

On hearing of the recent scheme for dispersal of refugees and rehabilitation, Her Excellency hoped that the project would meet with every success

Her Excellency also visited the Civil Hospital, Panipat.

## FUTURE OF MEOS IN GURGAON

The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, dated February 11, 1948, reported that Maj. General Abdul Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, met the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, and was told that it was on the express assurance of the Government of India that Meos resettled in India and that their evacuation had been stopped, Says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 24.

The correct position is that Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman inter alia mentioned that a certain number of Meos from Alwar and Bharatpur were living with their friends and relations in Gurgaon District, and they were anxious to know whether they could go back to their lands and secure their property in these two States or whether they could be rehabilitated in Gurgaon District.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman was requested to write to the Government of India so that they could make the necessary enquiries from the two States. A communication has since been received from the Pakistan High Commissioner in India and the matter is under examination.

# **CONCESSIONS FOR**REFUGEE STUDENTS

Refugees students who have migrated from Western Pakistan and are in the U. P. will now be eligible for various concessions provided for by the Provincial Government, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 27.

The Ministry of Reliof and Rehabilitation had asked the Provincial Governments to grant financial assistance to refugee students and in reply the U. P. Government have stated that all destitutes among them have been exempted from payment of tuition fees.

Orders have been issued to admit all refugee students by opening additional sections or sanctioning extra admissions and even by adopting the double-shift system wherever necessary.

Rules regarding production of transfer certificates etc. have been relaxed.

The Board of High School and Intermediate Education has framed a Special Transitory Regulation enabling refugee students to get admission in the forthcoming examinations held by the Board. A refugee who joins a recognised institution will be admitted to the examination for which he is eligible if he puts in 75% attendance from the date of his admission. If his mother tongue is Gurmukhi or Sindhi, he will be allowed to offer the same as a Modern Indian Language at the High School Examination of 1948.

### **Optional Subjects**

Refugee candidates will have a free choice of optional subjects.

A candidate who was registered for the Matriculation Examination of the Punjab or Bombay University of 1947, but either could not take the examination (in whole or in part) or whose result has not been announced, may on production of necessary evidence be admitted to the Intermediate, Intermediate in Agriculture or Intermediate in Commerce Examination of 1949 as a private candidate. He may also join a recognised College for the Intermediate, Intermediate in Agriculture or Intermediate in Commerce Examination of 1949 and shall be admitted to such examination if he attends 75% of the lectures during the period between his admission and the examination. He shall produce a certificate of identity from the Refugee Officer, admission card for fee receipt issued by the University at which he was registered for the Matriculation Examination of 1947 or stamped affidavit of the guardian attested by a first-class Magistrate.

Universities in the U. P. have been asked to frame Ordinances to enable refugee students to get admission in various classes and appear at the next University Examinations. Some of the Universities have already framed such Ordinances.

The U. P. Government have issued orders to treat refugee students at par with local students in the matter of awarding scholarships.

## MORE STATES TO ENLIST REFUGEE CONTRACTORS

More offers to enlist refugee contractors have been received from various Indian States, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 23. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation had earlier addressed the States requesting them to enlist refugee contractors to help in their rehabilitation.

Partabgarh State has issued instructions to give a chance to refugee contractors. Those who wish to take up work there should address their applications to the P. W. D. Officer.

Jaisalmer has also invited applications from refugee contractors experienced in construction of stone buildings and roads.

Datia has agreed to entrust work to refugee contractors. Provision has been made for payment to refugee contractors on the strength of running bills for the work done, and exemption from cash security will be allowed as a special case.

Other States which have already agreed to enlist refugee contractors and about whom an announcement has already been made are: Baroda, Bikaneer, Rewa, Kapurthala, Nabha, Benares, Alipura, Ragjarh Darbar, Narsingarh, Jhalakar, Kotah, Rajkot, Dharangdhara, Bundi, Indore, Banswara, Ratlam, Suket and certain small States in Orissa and Chhattisgarh State Agency.

### SIRMUR SCHEME FOR REHABILITATION

The Sirmur State Government, in furtherance of their schemes for rehabilitation of refugees, have decided to make available about 117 plots for erection of dwelling houses in the Cantonment area adjoining Nahan town, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 18.

The site is at an elevation of 3,200 ft. and is 40 miles from Ambala, 60 miles from Dehra Dun and 47 miles from Dagshai. Water and electricity are available. Lay-out plans can be inspected in the Chief Engineer's office at Nahan and the conditions of sale may be ascertained from the Secretary, Government of Sirmur (Public Works Department) Nahan.

## ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Allotment of available residential accommodation in Delhi other than the evacuoes' property taken over by the Custodian, is now made by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Wavell Cantoen, Delhi, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 17. All applications for allotment of accommodation in Delhi should be made to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Lelli and not to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

### PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

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Donations to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund received up to February 3, 1948, amounted to Rs. 3,88,574/11/.

The fund is a Central Relief Fund, which can be used for any type of emergency relief of distress and at the present time will be specially used for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Pakistan.

In view of the establishment of "Prime Minieter's National Relief Fund", no contribution should be sent to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in aid of the Refusecs, says a Press Note issued by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry on Feb. 10. Contributions totalling Rs. 1,60,681/9, which had been received up to Feb. 10 in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, were credited to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

### MORE VEGETABLE SEEDS

The Indian Ministry of Agriculture is taking a number of steps to increase the supply of seeds of the European type of vegetables. Because of the partition of India the position with regard to these seeds has greatly changed, as they came from Kashmir and Quetta. The Quetta supplies have been completely lost and those from Kashmir are also uncertain.

While the control on the import of vegetable seeds still continues, licences for imports from non-dollar areas during the current half year, are being granted very liberally. While this might help to meet the present emergency, it is realised that a permanent solution is to develop and organise the vegetable seeds industry within India. Provincial Governments have been addressed to find out if there are any suitable places for the production of European type vegetable seeds, and whether adequate facilities exist for their multiplication. The Indian Ministry of Agriculture is willing to give such technical advice and assistance which Provincial Governments might require.

# INDIA'S APPEAL FOR FURTHER FOOD ALLOCATIONS

RGENT representations have been made on behalf of India to the International Food Council, for further food allocations. Disclosing this, in a l'ress statement on Feb. 14 in Madras, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister Government of India, stated that a delegation from India was also likely to proceed to the headquarters of the I.E. F. C. to press India's case for immediate relief.

The Food Minister stated that the Government of India intended to maintain a close and continuous contact with the food situation in the Province and do the best they can to pull Madras out of the crisis. In this connection he stated that the Central Provinces had agreed to place additional quantities of grain over and above the required quota at the disposal of the Government of India.

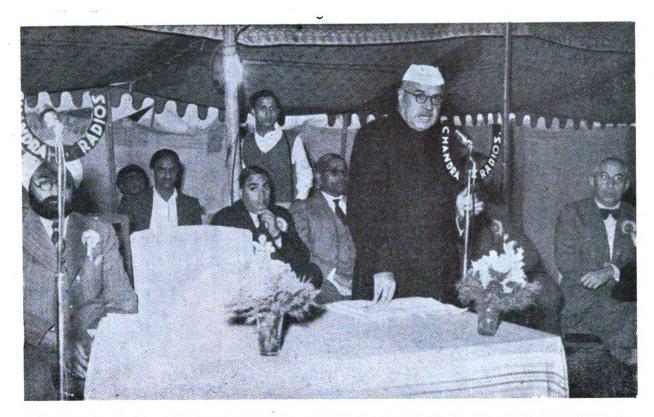
Addressing Pressmen on the food situation in the country and in Madras the Food Minister said:

"I have come here, to study the food situation in the Province. In view of all that the Madras Government and the Madras Press have put before me, I thought it desirable to visit the province and the areas affected as early as possible, so that the situation can be met effectively and satisfactorily. There are three problems which have to be studied. The first is the likely need of assistance from the Central Government in regard to food supplies. The second is how far the unaffected parts of the province, especially the irrigated areas can by a very special effort try in the two coming

seasons to increase the food supply of the province. The third is to study the substitute foodstuffs on which the people could fall back upon in an emergate."

The Food Minister stated that the present visit was only "a preliminary one." "The Government of India," he said, "intend to maintain a close and continuous contact with the situation in Madras Province and do the best they can to pull the province out of the crisis. India is nothing but its parts, whether provinces or States. It is not a question of the Government of India helping Madras; it is really a question of the Government of India helping India."

Emphasizing the need for maximising effort to stave off the crisis, he said, I expect that all surplus areas in the country will put forth their best effort to come to the aid of Madras. I had requested the Premier of the Central Provinces and also its Minister for Agriculture to meet me at Nagpur on my way to Madras. They were good enough to meet me and they also brought with them their departmental officials. As I have understood the position from to-day's discussions there, I believe the Central Provinces is very willing to place additional quantities of foodgrains at the disposal of the Government of India over and above the quota they are required to. The Government of India are also, planning in case emergency necessitates it, to arrange for additional imports from outside. I feel that if the official and non-official world co-operate in all the effort that is necessary and further maintain their self-confidence the crisis will be satisfactorily passed



Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Government of India, addressing the Seventh All-India

Cattle Show, which opened in Delhi on February 20

### ROLE OF CATTLE WEALTH IN INDIA

### AGRICULTURE MINISTER'S SPEECH

THE cattle problem in India is not merely a humanitarian problem of animal welfare but in it are substantially involved both the health and wealth of our nation. The earlier we realise this the sooner shall we see the end of poverty and disease in the country, stated Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister of the Government of India when he opened the Seventh All-India Cattle Show in Delhi on Feb. 20.

Below is the full text of his speech:

I am glad it has been possible for me to snatch some time from other urgent duties and come and open this All-India Cattle Show. I have come because I realise the important place which the cattle problem occupies in the national economy of our country. With so many big questions confronting the nation at the present moment, it may appear as if one were diverting time to a small affair in performing the opening ceremony of this cattle show. Clouds are still thick over Kashmir, scarcity and who knows worse is in the offing in Madras, our fellow Indian evacuees from Pakistan are still awaiting full response from the people of India. Other problems also occupy our present thoughts.

But despite these urgent calls on our time and attention, we cannot afford

to ignore those problems the far-sighted solution of which affects the very foundation of the nation's economuc life and, therefore, the happiness and well-being of our people. Our country has achieved its freedom. Let us fill in now the true contents of such freedom. Let us reconstruct the nation's economic life on right lines. And so in the midst of other demands on us, we cannot but spare time and energy to concern ourselves with programmes which are intended to give a proper direction to longrange plans for our country's economic welfare. Hence it is that you find me in your midst even though it be for a brief while. I have agreed to participate in to-day's function, not because I am Minister of Agriculture, but because I fully appreciate the importance of cattle wealth to our predominantly agricultural nation and, therefore, its close connection with the vital interests of the people.

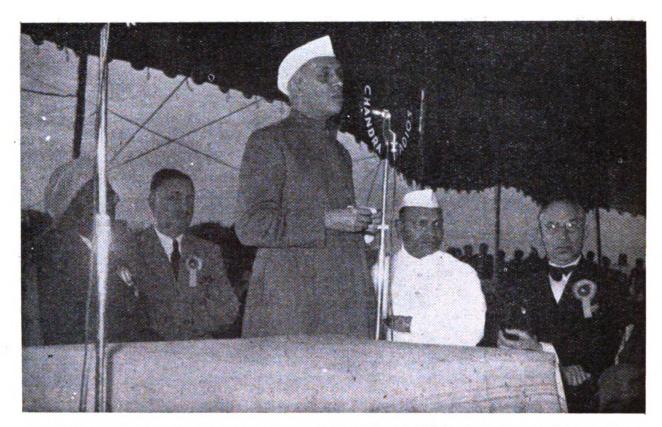
I congratulate the workers of the All-India Cattle Show Society for the good work it has been performing. The society was started by the Government of India in the year 1938 with the object of organising and establishing periodical shows of cattle and poultry and to carry out all activities for the furtherance of breeding and improvement of livestock in India, to undertake propaganda for the improvement of animals and poultry in India and to spread the knowledge of

the principles upon which better animals and poultry may be bred. Besides the central show held in Delhi, two regional shows and several smaller shows in the well-known breeding tracts are held annually with the help of Provincial and State Governments. I know the Society can do far more service if its financial resources were greater and I hope it will not be long before its funds are substantially augmented to help it to serve better the cause of agriculture.

#### Two-fold Problem

You know that India is essentially an agricultural country and cattle are the backbone of agriculture. About 80% of India's rural population is agriculturist, for whom cattle have an importance of their own. They occupy a unique position in the rural economy of this country and have therefore been an object of special care and affection in India from the most ancient times. Our problems are two-fold. We need more milk and milk products to provide an adequate diet to our people and we need better, healthier and stronger bullocks, for in all agricultural operations oxen are indispensable to the Indian farmer.

We possess one-third of the total cattle population of the world. According to the 1941 census report, the total bovine population (cattle and buffaloes) of undivided India was 208.2 millions. It is estimated that as a result of the partitioning of the country, about 30



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who gave away over sixty prizes at the Seventh All-India Cattle Show on February 25, addressing the gathering

million cattle have gone to Pakistan. In spite of our huge cattle population, the country is in short supply both with regard to bullocks as well as milk. One of the main reasons is that our cattle suffer essentially from food shortage. The slow process of starvation to which our livestock is exposed, is evident from its unthrifty condition, poor productive capacity, stunted growth, late maturity and long inter-calving period. We thus lose millions of tons of milk and an enormous amount of horse power. Do we realise what this means in terms of national health and production and therefore of national wealth. As matters stand at present, not more than 60 % of the fodder required is available and only one-fourth of the total concentrates needed can be obtained. The position with regard to the supply of milk is still worse. About 22 million tons of milk produced annually from cows and buffaloes in India. This must be increased to about 65 million tons to meet the minimum nutritional requirements of our people when calculated at the rate of 1 lb. of milk per day per head of the population (8 oz. in milk and 8 oz. in the form of milk products, ghee, butter, etc.). To allow for the feeding of calves, another 10 million tons is needed. The present per capita consumption of milk in this country is only 5 to 6 oz. In some of the other countries, it is far greater. It is as much as 40 oz. in Denmark, oz. in Australia, 35 in U.S.A. and 39 in Great Britain. It would thus be seen that although we possess the largest cattle population in the world, we supply the least quantity of milk per head for human consumption. Cattle rearing in this country is carried

out under a variety of adverse climatic and other environmental conditions. The average cattle breeder is poor. He lives on small fragmented holdings, the large majority of which are less than 5 acres. The average size of his herd consists of only two or three animals as against 27 to 28 in countries like England and U. S. A. The units are thus uneconomical and the individual owner cannot by himself introduce any appreciable improvements.

Considering the immensity of the task and the numerous complications, the solution is not easy to find, but it is evident that we must endeavour to improve our cattle by better feeding, breeding and management.

#### Better Feeding

The problem of providing more fodder and concentrates for our cattle is indeed difficult, for pressure on land is already heavy and there is serious competition between man and animal. In any plan to bridge the gulf between supply and demand as regards deficiency in cattle feed, the requirements of human beings must of course receive primary consideration, but on a careful review of the entire position in regard to cultivation and yield as a result of introduction of the latest scientific methods, it appears possible that by re-adjustment of our cropping programme some extra feed can be made available for cattle. But their total requirement can only be met if production from land can be increased by about 50 %. We must, therefore, tap every other source to supplement food for cattle. These sources can be :-

- (1) Hay and silage making out of the surplus grass which is available during monsoons should be practised all over the country. There are 136 million acres of grazing land in India. No precise data are available as to how much grass this land produces, but the limited information we have, goes to show that the production of grass is about 2 tons green per acre. At least one-third of it could easily be preserved as hay or silage. All this now goes to waste.
- (2) A number of forest areas under the Forest Departments grow large quantities of grass which should be made use of by cutting and preserving as hay or silage.
- (3) Crops which are known not only to increase the quality of nutritious fodder but also improve fertility of the soil such as Burseem should be extensively grown wherever possible.
- (4) Large quantities of oilcakes are at present used entirely for manurial purposes. It is a matter for consideration if this cake would not equally serve the object in view if some of it is passed through cattle.
- (5) The Nutritional Laboratories of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute have extensively explored the possibility of new sources of foodstuffs and it has been shown that mango seed kernel, munj, kans, jammun seed, acacia pods, groundnut husk, bawar seed are rich in feeding value and can be extensively used as feed for cattle. The methods of their preparation and use

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have been described in detail in one of the issues of the *Indian Farming* published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

- (6) The deficiencies in rice straw, if corrected by the addition of bone ash, will increase the utilisation of this food stuff.
- (7) A great deal can be accomplished if the mixed farming practices are more widely adopted.
- (8) Thirty per cent of waste can be saved if all fodder is chaffed before being fed to cattle.
- (9) More use should be made of fodder bearing trees, as their leaves and pods provide excellent fodder.
- (10) The fish meal industry in the country should be developed so that more of highly concentrated protein food is made available in the form of fish meal for cattle.

### Improvement by Breeding

Planned scientific breeding of animals is also necessary for improvement of our cattle. A number of Government farms are at present producing pedigree bulls of various breeds and these animals are distributed in the villages for the improvement of local stock. There are about 45 such farms in India which annually issue about 1868 bulls. Considering the requirements of the whole country, these 1868 bulls distributed annually do not meet even 1% of our annual requirements. To produce the bulls required annually for the whole country at the Government farms is not a practical proposition. Our efforts to improve the village cattle should, therefore, be concentrated in the following directions.

- (a) All bulls issued from farms should be located in a specially selected breeding tract and concentrated in a few villages, so that casualties and replacements are assured. From this area all other male stock should be removed. In due course, these "Key villages" would be in a position to supply the better bred animals for distribution in other areas.
- (b) Efforts should be made to evolve dual purpose breeds, that is, breeds which would produce good working ballocks and also yield a fair amount of milk. Work in this connection is in progress with some of the indigenous breeds such as the Harianas and the Hallikar. The Government of India are now setting up a farm at Jubbulpore, where it is proposed to study this problem in great detail.
- (c) The method of artificial insemination is being widely practised in several other countries, where it has definitely proved its value. Work done at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute has shown that a great deal can be achieved even under Indian conditions. Four experimental field centres set up recently have yielded very promising results. By the adoption of this method one bull can do work of 10 and extensive use can be made of really superior sizes. It is, therefore, essential that necessary steps should be taken by all Provinces and States to explore the possibilities of the use of this method to the fullest extent.
- I do not propose to deal in to-day's speech with all the problems relating

to our cattle wealth and thus blur the main outline of the picture. I want on the contrary to draw particular attention to that outline alone. Hence I propose to content myself with this brief reference to the outstanding features of the cattle problem in our country. The topical question of the prevention of slaughter of cattle or the salvage of the useful cattle from slaughter, and the insurance of cattle are all under examination by Committees and I hope their results will be before the public ere long. These and other allied questions will be, I trust, satisfactorily dealt with in due time. This will however be only possible if we realise that the cattle problem in India is not merely a humanitarian problem of animal welfare but that in it are substantially involved both the health and the wealth of our nation. The earlier we realise this the sooner shall we see the end of poverty and disease in this country.

We have met under the shadow of a great national tragedy. Within a yard from here lies a simple memorial of the life and work of the greatest well-wisher of the animal world. Let us follow his

lead in solving the cattle problem of our country and so do our duty even in a small way in keeping alive our departed leader's memory in this land.

In welcoming Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, traced the history of the All-India Cattle Show Committee which was formed in 1939. Its aims were to organise and establish an annual cattle show in India, and to carry on activities such as the furtherance of cattle breeding and the improvement of stock, and to spread a knowledge of the principles of good animal and poultry beeding.

In a feeling reference to Mahatma Gandhi, "a real benefactor of the poor cow", Sir Datar Singh said: "I cannot say whether it is mere chance or it is the result of the affection and love, Bapuji had for the cow that the site selected for his last remains is the one where we had last year's All-India Cattle Show. The spot where he has been cremated is exactly where we had the collection of our best cows last year and were going to have the competition for the highest milk-yielding cow this year".

### Indian Delegation to FAO Rice Conference

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has convened an International Rice Conference at Beguio in the Philippines to be held between March 1 and March 14, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on Feb. 29. The Indian delegation at the Conference will consist of.—

Delegate: —Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswamy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Advisers:—Dr. K. Ramiah, Director, Central Rice Research Institute; Dr. V. N. Patwardhan, Director, Nutritional Research Laboratories, Coonor; and Mr. J.S. Raj, Deputy Economics and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

The idea of a Rice Conference was originally initiated by the Indian Delegation to the Preparatory Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1946. In May 1947, a Study Group met in Trivandrum to draw up an agenda for the proposed Rice Conference and to bring together (a) statistics of production, trade and price, (h) data relating to marketing methods, price stabilization and famine reserves and (c) scientific and technical information regarding Rice culture, milling practices and storage. The Report of this Group was considered at the third annual Conference of F. A. O. in Geneva in September 1947 and later by the World Food Council of the F.A.O. in November 1947. As a result, a Conference at Government level of all the Rice producing and consuming countries has been called to examine and take decisions on the recommendations made by the Rice Study Group.

While research and experimental work in connection with increased production

of rice will be undertaken by the respective Governments, international action is called for on problems such as improvement and standardization of statistical and economic services, the use of better methods of cultivation, control of pests and diseases, maximisation of supplies through various measures of milling economy, prevention of waste in transit and storage and the rehabilitation of transport in all the South East Asian rice-producing countries.

## FUMIGATION CHARGES ON IMPORTED COTTON

Insects and Pests Act, all cotton imported into India has to be fumigated at the Bombay Port, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on Feb. 16. The expenses of fumigation, including the cost of loading the cotton into the barage, conveyance to the fumigation wharf, unloading from the barage after fumigation and delivery at the bunder are borne by the importers.

The Government have revised the rates, which are as under. The figures in brackets show the old rates:—

Rs. 3-10-0 (Rs. 2-7-0) per square bale and Rs. 2-5-0 (Rs. I-8-0) per round bale, or when cotton is landed at the special American cotton wharf in Bombay docks

Rs. 5-2-0 (Rs. 3-12-0) per square bale and Rs. 3-8-0 (Rs. 2-8-0) per round bale.

The minimum fee for fumigation of cotton imported at any one time on a single ship will be Rs. 200/- instead of the old rate of Rs. 150.

### FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITHIN FIVE YEARS

### Shri Jairamdas Daulatram Addresses Food Committee

or that department, we forget for that department, we forget for the time being our unconscious associations with sections of national activity and regard ourselves as starving citizens struggling to feed ourselves, then I hope that the scheme of food self-sufficiency which you will produce can be implemented in a very very limited number of years—not beyond five. I wish it were two", stated Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister to the Government of India, addressing on Feb. 24 members of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

The full text of the Food Minister's speech is as follows:

"I had intended to say just a few words before you entered upon the bigger portion of your task. As it has happened I have got this opportunity now and I propose to let you know a little of what is passing in my mind. I do not know whether I will be able to implement all that is in my mind and whether I will be able to implement all that you propose to chalk out in the course of the next few weeks. But I would request that none of you need feel that you are simply the members of the Committee. All of you are also simultaneously citizens of this country and the intelligence which will help you to shape out decisions should be accompanied by a determination to carry out those decisions. It is when each one of us feels that the task of implementing these decisions is on his head that probably those decisions also will be shaped correctly. Somehow, I feel that there is too much division and sub-division and too much of departmentalism in our methods of administration. Though we have one common objective, yet we, who constitute the hundreds and thousands of wheels which make up the machinery of Government, sometimes help each other to move ou, sometimes unconsciously we hinder each other from moving on. What I would wish to impress on all is that though we may be hundreds and thousands of wheels making up this large govern-mental administration, we shold now begin to feel as one single wheel moving quickly and have the determination to pull the country out of all its difficulties. It is with that background that I want to say a few more words, first about the present position and then about the future-

### **Decontrol** to Stay

Let us make no mistake about the policy of the Government. Government have determined after very very great consideration to adopt what is called the revised policy of gradual decontrol. This policy of gradual decontrol stands and we have to pursue it to its logical conclusion, of course not as theorists, but as practical men who are endeavouring to supply a good principle in actual

practice. There would be time to consider the progress of events since this decontrol policy was adopted, but that time is not yet. It may be a few weeks hence.

Though the Madras situation is before us and before you as you sit here, I regard it as an exceptional feature in the Indian scene and it has to be handled in an exceptional way, subject again to the main policy being retained, the main policy of decontrol. I do propose to take the advice of some of your members. Let them take their time and we shall thrush out in discussion with them a few suggestions as to how to meet the Madras situation. After my mind is clear as a result of consultations with them, I do propose to consult all of you in a more formal way as to certain steps which may have to be taken to deal with the Madras situation. But apart from this, we go ahead to the next part of your labours regarding the policy of decontrol as the policy of the Government.

### Scheme of Self-Sufficiency

I am wholly a lay-man. Many of you are experts; many of you have considerable knowledge of these matters; some of you are deep students possibly of agriculture; some of you are practical agriculturists in a way. Therefore, it is not for me to try and lay down the line. There is a large number of schemes already in the files of the Government and possibly elsewhere. What I would humbly suggest is that since the country has waited long enough for real, big, quick steps towards making India a self-sufficient country, we need not lengthen out our labours over months. It should be possible, after a tabulation of the contents of those schemes, to get together all your experience and talents and give us at the end of a few weeks a practical scheme for making India self-sufficient in regard to food. If, as I said at the commencement, we forget that we represent this or that department, we forget for the time being our unconscious associations with sections of national activity and regard ourselves as starving citizens struggling to feed ourselves, then I hope that the scheme that you produce would be a scheme which can be implemented in a very very limited number of years. I would not in any case put the figure beyond five-I wish it were two.

I have only one other suggestion to make. I know that the minds of some of you are in tune with the modern trend of mechanisation and more mechanisation and more mechanisation. I do not want to go into the theory of it, or the merits and demerits of it as a principle. Before me is an absolutely practical proposition and that is how within two to five years to make India a self-sufficient, if not a surplus country in regard to food.

I would, therefore, humbly request that whatever tools, whatever machinery, whatever other things are necessary for any schemes that you propound must be such as can be with us and in operation within two to five years. The scheme must be capable of complete implementation in the course of that time. I would say that if you sense that either because of this and that difficulty say the petrol difficulty, or because of any other difficulty the scheme that is suggested by you may not actually come into effect, then I would plead with you that you should give the Government an alternative scheme based on such resources as we ourselves have in the country.

### Problem of Refugees

May I illustrate? We are up against the problem of the accommodation for refugees, which I do not regard as a problem of merely settling the refugees, but as a major political and possibly economic problem of the country. would not go further into that problem except to this extent that the question of accommodating the refugees has been before the Government for months now and good schemes have been considered, good schemes have been discussed; good schemes have been adopted more or less. But because of this or that material not being available in India in adequate quantities and in proper places, we find a large number of the refugees not only in Delhi but in almost all parts of India without their own accommodation. I am certain that the refugees would not complain if tomorrow we could give to each family for a few years a small hutment made of ordinary kucha brick with such other material as is available near about the places of their residence. I am certain that they will be satisfied with that for the time being. They have a house and shelter, and one step towards rehabilitation will have been taken. I would plead that you do give us an alternative scheme based on whatever may be avilable in the country, things which we have got, things which we can manage to get and things within our means. It is such a practical scheme that I would request you to sketch out as an alternative to any other scheme that you may propose.

There is one other question— I do not know how far it falls within your terms of reference and I have not scrutinised the terms of reference this morning but if it can fall within the terms of your reference, I would request the Committee to give the Government also a well argued out and well documented chapter of your report dealing with what I would call 'Substitute Foods' and tell us what else there is in this country which is good for nutrition whether it is part of our diet to-day or not. It has been my experience for years that members of other races in the world do not take as much quantity of cereals as we do. Yet they are physically better and in health certainly more vigorous. It is true that on account of financial reasons some of the other substitute foods which they can take are not available to our people,

but yet I have not despaired of discovering cheap substitute foods which may be available to the rural population within our own country. Anyhew this is a matter which I want to tackle and I would request you to try and see if there is anything in what I am saying. I hope you will be able to frame a list of substitute foods, tell us in what way each item is good for health and how far it can be made available. I think the Committee will have thereby done a great favour to the Nation. I hope that it will be possible for you in the course of the next few weeks to complete your task. The Nation would be looking with eagerness for the result of this Committee's labours. At least I would be waiting impatiently for it. I have no doubt looking to the personnel of this Committee, looking to the great experience of the men who are round this table, men who have in the last 30 or 40 years handled public problems and grown grey while dealing with those problems, and men who have been great specialists because they have handled administrative problems, men who constitute important personnel of our Departments and who are, I know, very talented and able, I have no doubt that as a result of the combined and if I may say, cooperative effort of all the elements which compose this Committee, we shall have something on which we can go by and march ahead and as the Chairman has said do something which would satisfy the masses who are our real masters.

### Sir Purshotamdas on Gandhiji

Earlier, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Chairman of the Committee, suggested that a fitting memorial to Gandhiji would be to make whole-hearted efforts to maximise food production in India from now onwards. He said: "In normal course, it would not be possible for the Chairman of a Committee of this nature to refer to the tragedy of the loss to the country by the death of Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of the freedom of the country and the Father of the Nation. In the case of this Committee, however, I am sure that many of you feel that we must refer, at the commencement of the second part of our activities, to this great tragedy, and perhaps most people in the country would desire that we should without delay let them know what the country as a whole owes to Gandhiji in this special field to examine which we have been appointed.

Mahatmaji's interest in how food control worked and whether it was justified or not under the circumstances then prevailing, is well known. Some may have felt that Mahatmaji was seeking to interfere with the tackling of a problem which was left specifically for the consideration of this Committee. The issue referred to the Committee can be said to have been then sub-judice, but not only did Mahatmaji respond wholeheartedly when one of our colleagues, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, suggested to him that he should give us an interview, but he provided an entirely new angle of vision from which to look at the problem.

He raised the consideration of the question from one of arithmetical calculation to the higher standpoint of a

problem which affected the country's morale, and insisted that the latter standpoint was of far greater and definitely of more permanent consequences than the former under the prevailing circumstances. There is no gainsaying the fact that he and he alone could have brought the necessary tremendous morale prestige to force the consideration of the issue to this higher plane, and none else could have done it with the required tenacity and persistence.

Almost all of us have been struck by the deaf ear and the blind eye which erities chose to turn to this aspect of the question and I think the country owes to Mahatamaji a great debt of gratitude for the success with which he brought his influence to bear upon the Government and public in pressing home the moral aspect involved in this problem. The corruption which spread with the compulsory levy and the forced acquisition of crops which rationing entailed, and the steady increase of this corruption in different walks of life, both official and non-official, the hard-headedness with which the problem was looked at from the point of impersonal arithmetic irrespective of whether the data were reliable or not, are the phenomena which previled during the last five years to an amazing extent. One can easily understand how Mahatamaji's very soul revolted against the prevalence and continuance of this state of affairs in a Government which he could influence.

This should not be considered to mean that this state of affairs has been peculiar to India. In all other countries and even in the U.S.A., there have been persistent protests against the inefficiency of controls and the corruption which accompanied them. In the striving for freedom from controls lies the value of Gahdhiji's last gift to India that the moral question remained its proper place in post-war economy. The worst casualty of World War II is said to have been morality, and it was left to Mahatmaji to resurrect it in India.

#### **Fitting Memorial**

Unfortunately for the country, and, as it were, for a further acid test of the country's faith in a reversion to a sane moral standard, decontrol has been coupled by Nature with a failure of the monsoon in the South, and naturally this should give Government, and this Committee, great anxiety. But whether control was on or not, this freak of Nature could hardly have been avoided. I do not wish to enterinto details which we perhaps would consider later, but I feel that we should place on record our indebtedness to Mahatmaji for the bold and unequivocal lead that he gave whilst we were in session in the first stage of our deliberations, and I propose that we convey this to the Hon'ble Minister for Food, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Several suggestions have been made before now for a memorial to Mahatmaji in keeping with his invaluable services to India. Two days after the funeral in Delhi, which will be a landmark in history, presiding over a meeting in

Bombay, I had occasion to say as follows: "I am sure I am not asking you anything extraordinary when I suggest that we all should pledge ourselves to follow this principle of truth and fair dealing as a memorial to the man who is undoubtedly acknowledged as the Father of the Nation. Any other memorial devised for Mahatmaji would be completely inadequate and almost a mockery of a memorial for a person of the status. integrity, purity and high soul of what I would now like to call, instead of Mahatma Gandhi, Punya-Atma Gandhi." I feel that the anxiety for a memorial on the part of the vast public in the country is not likely to be satisfied unless something really meeting the want and distress in the country is devised. The greatest need of India at the moment, apart from unity, is wholehearted effort at making the country self-contained at least as far as food-grains are concerned. I would suggest to Government that as a memorial to Gandhiji, wholehearted efforts be made in the direction of maximising food production in India from now onwards. In this, the Provincial Governments and the people in the villages-the chief care of Gandhiji all through his life timeand the intellectual capacity of the better-off and educated classes will have full play, and I cannot concieve of a more useful and sound memorial to Gandhiji than the result of the efforts which I have indicated. I understand that a large number of schen.es have been suggested to Government before now. It remains for Government to select a few of these schemes for wholehearted execution.

Instead of appealing to the world powers to let India have more foodgrains, if a well thought-out appeal for the minimum amount of tools and implements necessary to grow more food in India were to be sent out for achieving the object so dear to Gandhiji's heart, it is likely that all foreign countries may be more responsive than till now. Of course, it is our duty to examine the best method of putting this through, but I suggest that whatever we put forward should be in the form of something which will not only save a good deal of human misery, and even mortality in India, but will help to build up the self-respect of India in years to come. I have no doubt that this will appeal more to the masses in India, and I hope that the Government will appeal more to the masses in India, I hope that the Government will utilise this, particularly in view of the generally deteriorating conditions in the rest of the world.

Owing to the very low stocks of tinplate required for the manufacture of tins or containers for packing kerosene at Bombay, Government regret to announce a cut of 10 per cent with effect from March 1, 1948, in the current releases of kerosene for civil consumption in the area supplied ex Bombay, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Works, Minis and Power on March 1.

Government are endeavouring to replenish stocks of tinplate to Bombay and it is hoped that the present cut will be restored in the near future.



### PROBLEMS OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

WHEN the annual general and the ninth meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee opened in New Delhi on Feb. 26 under the chairmanship of Sir Datar Singh, the following Resolution on Mahatma Gendhi's death was passed, all standing.

"The Indian Central Sugarcane Committee at its annual general and the ninth meeting held on the 26th February, 1948, mourns the tragic and unexpected death of Mahatma Gandhi, prays for eternal peace to his departed soul and places on record its sense of profound sorrow and shame at his treacherous assassination. The Committee also expresses its deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to the bereaved family".

Speaking on the problem facing the sugar industry, Sir Datar Singh in his opening speech stated that as a result of the partition it was necessary to lay down fresh targets of sugarcane and sugar production in the Dominion of Based on the figures of 1945-46, 8,25,921 tons or 87.42 per cent of sugar were produced in the territory, under the Dominion of India, 95,600 tons of sugar were produced in the Indian States acceding to the former, as against 23,279 tons in Pakistan. This reduction is not significant, but if the Pakistan Government ceases to consume Indian sugar and begins to import foreign sugar, some other venues of disposal of our own surplus will ultimately have to be found.

#### Difficulties of Industry

The problems facing the sugar industry are immense and are to be reconsidered in the light of the present day circumstances, as the existing plans for production and development were prepared much before partition. We are faced with a continuous spell of bad seasons, lack of adequate supplies of cane and lack of wagons and other transport facilities. To place the sugar industry on a sound footing early steps have to be taken to improve our lot. The 5-year schemes of sugar-cane development for initiation in the main sugarcane tracts and financed from the special grant of Rs. 75 lakhs have been approved. These will be brought formal sanction is received.

At the recommendation of the Tariff Board, the Government of India have agreed to increase its annual contribution to the Committee. We expect a grant of about Rs. 50 lakhs in place of the expected Rs. 11.75 or 12.50 lakhs and will thus be in a position to take up fresh schemes of research and new projects of translating the results of research into actual practice in agricultaral, technological, economical and other aspects of sugarcane development. Every effort will be needed to increase production by the increase 182UB of cane acreage, by improving the quality and quantity of cane produced, by evolving disease resistant and high yielding varieties of cane with different periods of maturity and harvesting, and to increase

the normal length of the crushing season to 110-130 days, by providing better supplies of caue to the factories, by providing remunerative cane prices to the growers, by providing adequate quantities of manures and fertilizers, as well as, of irrigation water.

#### **Better Cane**

The production of the maximum quantum of quality cane, with a high sacrose content, appears to be the main factor for maximising the production of sugar and lowering its cost of production. The cost of the raw material itself forms more than 60 per cent of the total cost of manufacture of sugar and hence the future advanceand hence the future advance-ment of the industry and economy in the cost of production of sugar must necessarily depend upon the proper development of the cane itself. Planning and research, both from the agronomic as well as the breeding points of view, appear to be essential factors for securing larger yields of cane per acre. The importance of resistance to and control of serious diseases and pests cannot be over-emphasized. The manufacturing efficiency of modern sugar factories in India is improving steadily and with the renovation of old and installation of new machinery as well as the utilization of more economic units, it is hoped that will increase still further. efficiency

The utilisation of the by-products such as molasses, bagasse, press-mud and the installation of auxiliary industries for the production of power alcohol rectified spirits, sugarcandy, confectionery, food-yeasts are matters which also deserve greater attention than hitherto.

During the past 2 or 3 years, the production of factory sugar is on the decline, due to the reduction in sugar acreage, brought about by the diversion of some land from cane cultivation for

the Grow-More-Food Campaign, better prices of other commodities and certain other difficulties, whereby the full crush of the season has not been possible. Steps to increase sugar production are, therefore, urgently needed.

During the year, the Bhadruk Military Grass Farm, consisting of about 553 land and some buildof ings has been taken over from the Ministry of Defence for establishing the Institute of Sugar Technology and Sugarcane Research at Lucknow. The Farm has been handed over temporarily to the Government of United Provinces who were anxious to utilize this place for their Grow-More-Food Campaign and Dairy Development Scheme until such time as the Committee required this Farm for building and/for farming purposes. If the Government of India accept the recommendations made in the last meeting, we may take over the complete charge of the Sugarcane Breeding Station at Coimbatore and its Sub-Stations. If this is accomplished, all aspects of sugarcane breeding, sugarcane agronomy and sugar technology could be thoroughly investigated under one Central organisation, the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee.

### Rs. 50 Lakhs Earmarked

A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs for the establishment of the new Institute has been earmarked by the Government of India from the Temporary Sugar Excise Fund. but this will have to be supplemented further from the annual savings in our budget. A sum of about Rs. 11 lakhs will be required for payment to the Defence Ministry for the land, fencing and buildings alone.

Concluding, the Chairman stated that in order to utilize the expected balance in the best interests of the industry, it had to be considered whether other schemes should be invited for initiating economic research, inquiries and recommendations relating to banking

### Agricultural Research Schemes

A number of research work application schemes for adoption of improved methods which should benefit Indian agriculturists, is mentioned in the Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1945-46 which has been published.

It has been found that the R. R. 27A variety of paddy can withstand submersion in water, which makes it suitable for areas liable to occasional floods. Another variety of summer paddy has been found to have a lower water requirement, which can therefore withstand drought.

Experiments show that insect posts can, to a great extent, be controlled with the help of mercury vapour, which does not affect grains for human consumption. It has been found that plastering walls of storage rooms with mud in which mercury mixed with calcium carbonate

has been added, confers immunity against insect attack.

An improved method of potato planting which consists of raising the crop from sprouts which are the beginning of future plants, is helpful in the rapid multiplication of desirable potato varieties. The problem of stering potatoes has also been successfully tackled. Potatoes stored on brick floors with a layer of sand underneath keep better, and earthen pots whitewashed with chalk and D. D. T. secure potatoes against moth attacks.

Amongst other successful experiments are a method of forcing mango trees to flower, artificial insemination of cattle, obtaining better varieties of sheep, vaccination against rinderpost and improving the keeping qualities of ghee.

and transport facilities and transport routes, for marketing facilities, improvement of crop forecasting and statistics, publication of a journal and the initiation of other research or development schemes.

The Committee approved various technological and agricultural research schemes connected with the sugar industry.

In view of the special problems of East Punjab created by partition, the Committee unanimously agreed to suspend for some years, Punjab's 50 per cent contribution to sugar research schemes and authorised the President to sanction schemes, which had already been approved for pre-partition Punjab.

A scheme for experimental work to ascertain better storage methods for gur was approved. The Gur Sub-Committee was of the opinion that the situation created by the fall in qur prices was very grave and that a high priority in movement was necessary.

It was agreed to appoint an Agricultural Engineer with specialised knowledge of implements, to design and produce suitable agricultural implements within the cultivator's means for use in the sugarcane-growing tracts.

Shri Dip Narayan Sinha was elected Vice-Chairman of the Central Sugarcane Committee for 1948-49.

### Technological Sub-Committee

The technological sub-committee of the Sugarcane Committee met on Feb. 23 under the chairmanship of Sir Datar Singh and discussed problems relating to the sugar industry. On the question of shifting uneconomic factories, the following resolution was adopted.

"Provincial Governments may be advised that before new sugar factories are started in the Provinces, they should examine the question of shifting factories which are uneconomical because of a searcity of cane or because they are situated in areas which are so congested that the several factories situated in the area cannot expect to get an economic crush".

The sub-committee also accepted a suggestion that the Government should encourage subsidiary industries by giving them protection and even subsidies for reasonably long periods. This is in view of the fact that sugar plants remain idle for the greater part of the year.

#### RAILWAY MINISTER'S SPEECH

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years, but we have not implemented our promises. I am hoping that it will be possible in the near future to make a little beginning with an honest implementation of these undertakings. It is a problem the importance of which I am quite as keenly aware of as the Hon'ble Member who spoke. As far as I am concerned I am going to see that the money we have in the Betterment Fund is devoted primarily to the question of relieving the extraordinarily uncomfortable conditions under which third class passengers now travel.

# INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION AT SINGAPORE

NEARLY 50,000 spectators drawn from all nationalities and classes are estimated to have visited the Indian Trade Exhibition since it was declared open on Feb. 21 by His Excellency the Governor of Singapore, Sir Franklin Gimson, in the presence of a very large gathering.

Many of the visitors had travelled hundreds of miles from the upcountry areas of Malaya.

The first exposition of its kind and size to be ever staged by the Government of India outside the country, the exhibition provoked unprecedented interest in Indian merchandiso.

Business circles and also the general public were particularly impressed by India's leather products, surgical instruments, silks and woollen fabrics, cotton textiles and ornamental wares of ivory and brass.

Spread over in two large halls and a number of side stalls, covering an area nearly 30,000 square feet, the exhibition represented fairly adequately the industrial capacity of India.

The art section of the exhibition which contained a large variety of modern Indian paintings, besides three statues of Mahatma Gandhi prepared by a local Indian sculptor, also proved a great attraction.

Among the distinguished guests present on the opening were high-ranking Government officials, diplomatic representatives, Trade Commissioners and leading businessmen.

Before requesting His Excellency to declare the exhibition open, the Representative of the Government of India, Mr. J. A. Thivy, who received him on arrival at the entrance of the exhibition area, said:

"This exhibition has been sent out here at a time when India is busy with

so many pre-occupations. On top of everything else an appalling tragedy befell the nation when India lost Mahatma Gandhi. But the ardent passion for international friendship and goodwill of our Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, is such that it cannot be easily rostrained even by extraordinary circumstances. Hence this exhibition?.

After referring to India's achievements in the field of analytical and contemplative thought and literature, in the course of his address in opening the exhibition, the Governor said:

"I am sure that this morning one will see that the people of Indua are again progressing in their effort to give outward expression to their natural genius and every one will rejoice that Indian culture is at present developing in a way that will enable other nations to understand better the ways of thought in India".

Occupying a covered area of more than 30,000 square feet, the Exhibition lasted for nine days.

#### Gesture of Goodwill

At a Press Conference in Singapore on Feb. 14 Mr. P. K. Panikkar, Officer in-Charge, Exhibition Section of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, who organised the Exhibition, pointed out that it was the first of its kind and size to be organised outside the boundaries of new and free India and the first ever held in South-East Asia.

"The Exhibition is something of a symbol of India's contribution to Asia's economic and industrial development", Mr. Panikkar said, "and it is also a

### Statistical Quality Control

Addressing the Statistical Branch of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Delhi recently, Dr. W.A. Shewhart, Founder of the Quality Control Movement in U.S.A., pleaded for greater attention to the qualitative side of the application of the Statistical method to agriculture in India, which at present appeared to be mostly confined to its quantitative aspect.

Dr. Shewhart said that statistical quality control could be broadly divided into two: food and drugs, and manufacture and engineering. He held that industry and agriculture were interdependent and explained the role of statistical quality control in deter-

mining the quality of agricultural products like those of linseed oil. He emphasized the role of mathematical statistics in solving new problems in agricultural and industrial researh, and the need for popularising the application of this statistical technique by suitable press articles for the use of engineers and techniquans in the industry.

Sir Datar Singh, Vice Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, explained the researches for the improvement of agricultural statistics in India by the Indian Council and the training course conducted by it for agricultural statisticians.

gesture of goodwill and friendship to the people of South-East Asia.

"Altogether the Exhibition will have more than twenty different sections, representing hundreds of different lines of India's products and manufactures. About 600 principal Indian concerns have participated in this enterprise".

He added that while it was not possible at this stage to give accurately the total cost of the exhibits, their value must run into millions of Straits dollars.

#### A Great Success

"This indeed is an astonishing display. We had never imagined Indian industry was so versatile", was the frequent comment of visitors to the Exhibition.

Her Excellency Lady Gimson, wife of the Governor of Singapore, spent nearly an hour on Feb. 26 at the Exhibition. On arrival, Her Excellency was received by the Representative to the Government of India, Mr. J. A. Thivy, who took her round the halls.

Before leaving, lady Gimson was presented with two India made handbags and a jewel-box inlaid with ivory.

The Exhibition was a great success. The number of visitors for the first five evenings was estimated at 90,000.

### CATTLE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Cattle Preservation Committee appointed by the Contral Government to consider the question of cattle wealth in all its aspects, and to recommend a comprehensive plan of action which can be put into immediate effect, met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir Datar Singh, Vice Cuairman of the Indian Council of agricultural Research, on Fel. 19.

Opening the proceedings, Sir Datar Singh stressed the importance of cattle wealth in Government's food self-sufficiency campaign and suggested a plan of relative priorities in dealing with this question. It was also necessary to avoid a "superfluity of recommendations"; practical suggestions which could be given effect to immediately were required.

The Committee discussed the problem under the heads of prevention of slaughter, salvage of city milch cattle, segregation camps for unproductive cattle, methods of dealing with scrub bulls, control of stray cattle, improvement of stock, disease control, feeds and fodder, census and statistics and the establishment of a Central Advisory Board.

The following members of the Committee attended:

Sir Datar Singh, Rai Bahadur P. N. Nanda Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India, Mr. N. B. Shahi, Director of Veterinary Service, C. P. & Berar, Dr. Zal R. Kothawalla, Dairy Development Adviser

(Continued in next Column)

## IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

# Government To Set Up Central And Provincial Bodies

In implementation of the resolution on industrial truce adopted by the Industries Conference in December 1947, the Government of India, it is learnt, are setting up shortly a Central Labour Advisory Council to co-ordinate major matters in respect of industry and labour such as profit sharing and profit distribution.

The Contral Government have suggested to the Provincial Governments that they should each set up immediately a representative Provincial Labour Advisory Board. They have also recommended the immediate establishment of a Works Committee and a Unit Production Committee in each industrial undertaking.

It is proposed to appoint an experienced whole-time officer in charge of all executive work connected with the implementation of the resolution in so far as it concerns the Central Government. In addition, he will keep in touch with Provincial Governments and advise them on matters of importance.

### Works and Production Committees

According to a tentative scheme, the Government of India consider it desirable to set up various other committees under the Central Labour Advisory Council and Provincial Labour Advisory Boards. When this scheme is implemented there will be under the Central Council five major industrial committees for coal, iron and steel, cotton textiles, cement and jute manufactures. Under each industrial committee there will be a Central Production Committee, Committee on Industrial Relations, Economic Sub-Committee an a Central Housing Board. Similarly, under each Provincial Board Simithere will be a sub-committee and a Regional Committee for each industry.

The Works Committee and the Unit Production Committee, the setting up of which are considered essential, will be the primary units of each undertaking. The Government think it desirable to have these two separate even though the same persons may be members of both. For maintaining proper liaison,

#### (Continued from Column 1)

to the Government of India, L. Hardev Sahai, Secretary, Gau Rakishini Sabha, Hissar, Rai Bahadur J. N. Manker, Honorary Secretary, Bombay Humanitarian League, Sardar Bahadur Harchand Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Patiala, Shri Dharam Lal Singh, Secretary, Bihar Gowshala Federation, Sadaqat Ashram, Patna, Mr. Satishchandar Dass Gupta, Khadi Pratisthan, near Calcutta and Shri Mahabir Parshad Poddar, Gorakhpur.

it is proposed to have joint meetings of both the committees.

The provision in respect of Works Committees already exists in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and in similar Provincial laws. Immediate formation of Unit Production Committees is expected to be useful for the other committees to be set up, as a good deal of spade work could be done by them.

Besides these, it is also proposed to have Provincial committees on production, on wage fixation, on profit distribution and on industrial relations and provincial Housing Boards. The set-up of these committees will be decided upon after consulting the Provinces and the Central Labour Advisory Council and the Provincial Boards.

The Government, it is understood, are of the view that modifications may be necessary to suit local conditions.

### DECONTROL OF COFFEE PRICES

In pursuance of Government's general policy of progressive decontrol of commodities, the statutory control on coffee prices has been withdrawn, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on Feb. 18.

The Government have received the assurance of the Indian Coffee Board that prices will be kept down to reasonable levels, and are confident of receiving the co-operation of the industry, the trade and the general consumer in the production and equitable distribution at these levels.

The Government are, however, as is their general policy, prepared to consider the reimposition of the control should circumstances render this necessary.

## RELIEF TO OVERSEAS EVACUEES

In a Press Note issued in May last, the Government of India announced their decision to close down finally on Feb. 29, 1948, their schemes of financial assistance to evacues from Burma, Malaya and other countries.

Government want it to be clearly understood that in no circumstances will any exception be made and no useful purpose will, therefore, be served by applications to Government for continuance of assistance, says a Press Note issuded by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Feb. 27.

# PRODUCTION FIRST: PRIME NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES

SPEAKING in the Indian Parliament on Feb. 17 on a resolution moved by Kazi Syed Karimuddin urging that the economic pattern of India shall be socialist economy based on the principle of nationalisation of key industries, the Prime Minister said:

I should like to say a few words right at the beginning of this discussion in order to indicate the general policy of Government in this behalf. The Honourable Mover has referred to various statements previously made by the National Congress, by me personally and by others; and then he has drawn attention to other statements made by Members of Government and pointed out certain discrepancies therein. There may be different viewpoints and certain discrepancies if various statements are compared; but I think the real fact of the matter is—and I plead guilty to that—that Government as such have not put forward before this House or before the country any fully worked-out policy in regard to these matters, not that the Government do not attach a good deal of importance to it, but for the simple reason that events of various kinds rather overwhelmed us and the matter could not be dealt with—if I may say so with all respect—in the manner the Honourable Member suggests, by a kind of Resolution vaguely talking about nationalisation and putting every-thing into effect immediately. It is a much more intricate matter.

We may call ourselves by any name we like—socialists or any other name—but if we have to tackle these problems we cannot tackle them in vague terms but have to do it precisely. And it is Government's business certainly to deal with long-term policies, but even more so with the immediate present and what they have to do with the immediate present. And so we have had these other difficulties to face, and many matters which probably we would have considered by now have had to be postponed.

#### Planning Commission

For instance, it was our desire to consider the appointment of a Planning Commission which could be given general terms of reference and which could then precisely lay down priority, and how to plan and co-ordinate various sectors of economic life. We have been unable to do that, I am sorry to say. I hope that before very long we shall be able to take some steps in that direction. Meanwhile, as the House is aware, in a very small way we have appointed a Rehabilitation and Development Board which, though it primarily concerns itself with rehabilitation of refugees, is also intimately concerned with deve-lopment and it will have to consider the various development schemes and try to plan them with the object in view of rehabilitating the refugees.

In the past many years I have had occasion to express my general views on this subject many times, and for some years I was Chairman of the National Planning Committee where all these matters came up. We did a lot of good work in that Committee. Unfortunately that did not bear fruit in the shape of a final report, but a large number of sub-committees' reports and a considerable number of our own resolutions bear witness to the work that was already done.

I am glad to say that many of these reports of the Sub-Committees are now available for such persons as are interested in this problem. If they read those reports as well as the other material which we have, they will find that these questions are extraordinarily intricate, overlapping and they cannot be solved by just some formula.

### No Vague Formulae

The formula gives the mental outlook of the person who uses it. That is true, but a Government cannot speak in vague formulae. The Government has to consider every aspect of the question and more especially what it can do for the immediate present.

Now it is well known and we have often stressed this, that production is perhaps one of the most important things before us today: that is adding to the wealth of the country. We cannot overlook other factors. Nevertheless production comes first and I am prepared to say that everything that we do should be judged from the point of view of production first of all as well as other points of view. If nationalisation adds to production, we shall have nationalisation at every step. If it does not, let us see how to bring it about in order not to impede production. That is the essential thing.

It is not so easy as the Honourable Member seems to think that we can legislate and then by some kind of jugglery we can produce results. Taking such steps may often lead possibly to some kind of petty disasters; actually graver crises may follow. So it is not merely a question of adopting a certain economic outlook, but of tiding over it, of priorities, how to do it, in what manner and when to do it that is the most important factor. It is not enough to put aside or break up a certain system but you have to put another system in its place. All these factors have to be borne in mind.

The resolution that the Honourable Member has put forward suffers from all manner of defects, including the kind of defect that he was blaming us for. It is vague. It has little meaning except to show the goodness of heart of the Honourable member. It talks about doing things immediately all over the place in agriculture and industry. I just cannot conceive how any Govern-

### MINISTER ON

ment, whatever its views may be as regards economic problems, can accept such a resolution.

I think far too many of our friends and our countrymen here and those in other countries continue to think in terms of wealth in an age which has more or less passed. They continue to adhere to what might be called 19th century economic ideology, which may have been very good in its time, but which is not applicable to-day in a large measure, and I think many of the ills in the world today are due to the fact that that particular economic system, which grew in the 19th century does not fit the circumstances in the middle of the 20th century.

#### **Economic Malaise**

We find therefore all over the world an economic malaise, and it may be that many of our political ills are due to the fact that we do not settle down all over the world in a more sensible manner befitting the times. However that may be, the point we have to consider is not just destructive criticism but constructively what we can do to meet it. What we can do to meet it depends a great deal of course on circumstances in our own country: partly also on circumstances outside in the world, because these events act and react on each other.

In judging of the circumstances in our own country, we have to consider all manner of factors and we have to plan accordingly and go ahead step by step so as not to break up something we have got without replacing it immediately with something better. It is fairly easy to break up things. It is not so easy to construct. It is quite possible that in an attempt to change the economic system you may have a period of semi-disaster. You may even stop production which we aim at. Ultimately, perhaps very gradually, you may build up a new kind of apparatus. But for the moment you may break up the existing apparatus. That is undesirable when all our energies have to be concentrated on production.

The Honourable Member referred to a certain report which came out of a sub-Committee of the All India Congress Committee, of which I had the honour to be Chairman. I would commend to him and to other members to read that report fairly carefully because that report was a carefully drafted document. It was not by any means a final report about anything. It was a report to be considered firstly by the Working Committee of the Congress and secondly by the All India Congress Committee. In the report itself it is stated that this is just a rough blue-print and these matters will have to be considered by the Planning Commission which was recommended.

Certain other factors were laid down in it in regard to the nationalization of defence industries and key industries. Now it is perfectly true that so far as the National Congress is concerned, it accepted this principle about 17 years ago—the nationalization, ownership or control of defence and key idustries and public utilities, and I do believe that such industries have to be nationalised some time or other. Then again the Congress in its various resolutions has also indicated that this process of nationalization should go a little further in other directions. But when you come down to giving effect to this you have to think as to which to choose first and how to do it without upsetting the present structure and without actually interfering with production.

Now this document which I have referred to, by the Economic Programme Sub-Committee of the Congress has given rise to a great deal of criticism, or some criticism anyhow, on either side. Some people think it does not go far enough and others think it is a revolutionary departure which will upset our economy and it is in fact a sudden jump to socialism. Of course it is nothing of the kind either way. It is very far from socialism. It is the continuation of a process which is going on all over the world, including the capitalistic countries of the world, excepting perhaps the biggest of them all, the United States of America. In other countries you will see this process going on in some places and in some faster than in other countries. This report merely indicates a strong tendency towards socialism, which certain industries earmarked for earlier socialism than the rest, and even in this report it is stated definitely that every step should be taken so as not to interfere with production.

### New and Old Industries

I should just like to read out to the House one or two passages in it. First 'it is emphasized that the report is not a blue print but an outline programme the details of which will have to be filled in by the permanent Planning Commission which has been recommended." Then it referred to definite and key industries and here again may I say that the use of the word 'key' industry is very vague. Opinions may differ as to what is a key industry whether we are referring to just a few or many. Deliberately it has been left vague there, because the next stage of defining them would be sometime later, when the matter is considered by the Standing Committee. Quite apart from defining them, the question of the definition of nationalization would also depend on that commission or whatever authority might consider the problem.

There is another matter which has been referred to in this report and that is this. We have specially stated that apart from certain obvious industries of vital importance, we consider the State should nationalise or start nationalising new industries of a particular type, that is to say, we should not waste our resources at the present moment in trying to nationalise existing industries, except where it is absolutely necessary but rather conserve our resources and start new industries.

I thought that a very sound principle, because, after all, whatever we may do, it will have to be limited by our own

# INDUSTRIALISTS MEET PRIME MINISTER

A deputation of some of the leading industrialists led by Sir Homi Mody waited upon the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Minister for Industry and Supply on Feb. 17, says a Press Communique issued by the Prime Minister's Secretariat on the same date. Those present were:—

- 1. Sir Homi Mody.
- 2. Mr. A. D. Shroff.
- 3. Mr. G. D. Birla. 4. Sir Shri Ram.
- 5. Sir Badridas Goenka.
- 6. Sir Biren Mukerjee.
- 7. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai.
- 8. Mr. D. M. Khatau.

On behalf of the deputation Sir Homi placed before the Government the views of industrialists on the economic policies of Government and the situation prevailing in the country. There was a full and frank discussion and the deputation were informed that their point of view would be carefully considered by Government.

resources. We have to choose which to take up first. If we squander our resources in merely acquiring for the State existing industries (that we have acquired them may be for the nation's good) for the moment we may have no other resources left and we would have rather stopped the field for private enterprise too. So it is far better for the State to concentrate on certain specific vital new industries rather than go about nationalising many of the old ones, though, as I said, in the case of some specific vital industry of national importance that might be done.

This has many advantages, one advantage being, as I said, that the State's resources are applied to new industries according to production, etc., without interfering with the existing apparatus except where it is absolutely necessary. All the work that the State does would be constructively adding to production rather than merely being a changeover. After a period (which is hinted at in this report), after five years or so, the State may reconsider the problem and see what else it can do, how far it can go.

### Why Five-Year Period

Now what is the point in putting in this five-year period? As a matter of fact whatever period might be put in it has little significance in the present changing dynamic world. One does not know and I doubt if any member of this House can say what will happen in India two years hence or three years hence either in the political or economic domain, so that putting down any timetable or programme does not help much, except that it gives us some picture in our minds which we can work up to.

Why five years was put down there was really to give a kind of assurance to those who might be somewhat put out by the prospect of these changes, that

is to say. that we are not going to upset existing things, we are leaving them as they are more or less but that we are enlarging the domain in other fields, more or less specified fields, so that there may be no grievance that something is done which upsets much of the existing structure.

I have been surprised to read criticisms of this rough outline report, criticisms from industrial magnates and others, because I had thought that this report had carefully considered many of the problems that face the country, even from the point of view of industrialists and others. We had provided for many of these things, may be some things had to be overlooked, which can be considered later, but generally speaking, we had carefully provided that there should be no sudden change in a way which might upset the present structure without its being replaced.

Ever since this report was drawn up, this House decided on the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank of India. Changes go on taking place in that way. It may be that if we merely talk in terms of big changes all over the place, the result would be no change at all because that would be merely a paper decision, which could not easily be given effect to. Therefore I submit that the proper way to deal with this matter is not to pass a resolution of this kind, but to consider it carefully in the context of what can be done, the general policy being laid down the general outlook, or if you like, the general objective. The ultimate objective may not have to be reconsidered but many of the things leading up to it may have to be reconsidered from time to time, because all manner of changes are taking place.

#### Progress in Technology

For instance, if I may put one aspect of the case before the House, I think that the progress being made in technology and in science is so enormous and so rapid that within a fairly short space of time, let us say 15 years, the whole conception of modern industry will change completely. New sources of power will come in and those sources of power will upset all the methods of production that exist today, much more so than what the Industrial Revolution did 150 years ago in England and also in Europe.

All these enormous changes are going to take place and I find that many of us, whether we call ourselves Socialists, Communists or Capitalists or by any other name, are singularly unaware of these big changes taking place; they are so unaware of this that they think merely in terms not of the greater wealth coming into existence by fresh methods but rather of only changing the ownership of industry which of course may be important from the point of view of creating equality and we should do that.

Distribution is most important but what is far more important is the dynamic future. In the changed situation all over the world, new sources are coming up which might completely revolutionise our agriculture as well as our industry. Therefore, what I think utmost important for the State is this.

Whatever may happen to the existing sources of production, these new and novel sources of production should always remain in the hands of the State. We should not allow these new methods to go into private hands and thus become private monopolies. And in regard to the existing sources we should proceed step by step and avoid any dropping in production or upsetting of the economic structure, in so far as is possible.

### River Valley Projects

The House knows that we have got a large number of big schemes or projects dealing with river valleys. These schemes deal with constructing big reservoirs, hydro-electric works, irriga-tion canals, prevention of erosion and malaria prevention and so on and so forth. These schemes are going to require a vast deal of money and by far the most important thing is that they will be the basis of all future growth. They will go a long way in solving our food problem, in providing that power which is essential for all industrial growth. Once you have got that power you can go shead pretty fast. So the Government decided to concentrate on the rapid development of these river valley schemes and not to fritter away their energy on more or less temporary expedients here and there. If we are going to concentrate on these big schemes are we going to divert our energy from them to acquiring this or that little industry which may make some or no difference at all, which will create upsets here and there and not lead to that basic foundation on which all industry should rest in future?

Therefore, even from this point of view of socialisation we should proceed with the foundations first, lay them down, have a system of priorities and timings, take over any sector of the national economy and socialise it when the time is ripe for it. When the time will be ripe I cannot say. We require not only money but what is far more more important, trained human material:

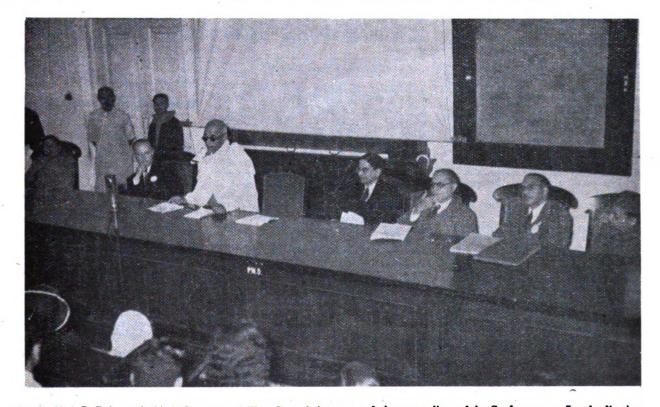
In fact that is the only thing in the ultimate analysis, whether it is industrial or any other department of life. Let us admit we have not got a sufficient quantity of that trained human material in any aspect of life in India today. We have produced very high class persons in every department of life—in science, in industry. We have some of the finest scientists in the world. Nevertheless they are few. They are not enough.

### Scientific Manpower Committee

The House may remember that Government appointed a Scientific Manpower Committee some little time back because we attach the greatest importance to using the scientific manpower we have got, to increasing it and rapidly augmenting it. That Committee reported and its Report was considered by Government. Many of its recommendations were adopted. We are trying our best to increase our technical and other personnel by sending people abroad and getting people from abroad to come here to teach our students here. All this is the real basis, the foundation, that is being laid down for future progress and the other rather theoretical and

doctrinaire approach of stating that we are going to make these big changes, does not help much. On the other hand it gives a completely wrong picture to the people who do not realize what is to be done, what preparations have to be made, before the various steps can be taken. Therefore I submit that a resolution of this kind will not be helpful at all. I hope that some time during this session, if it is possible, we may come up before this House with certain specific proposals or policy statements in regard to industrial programme. Naturally whatever programme we may adopt would have to have the sanction of this House.

To refer back to the Congress Sub-Committee's Report. Naturally, if any programme, economic or other, receives the final sanction of the All India Congress Committee and that Committee calls for that programme to be adopted, most of us in this House are bound by that mandate. The final authority no doubt is this House for any programme that has to be adopted, but most of us are bound by any programme definitely and precisely put forward by the All India Congress Committee and we shall have to place it for adoption before this House. But the All India Congress Committee after all is not an executive body; at the most it is a policy-laying body. It will lay down the general policy, again, naturally leaving it to this House or to the Government to time it as it thinks it expedient, to give certain priorities and to go ahead with it at a pace which may be considered right and proper.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the proceedings of the Conference on Standardisation and Quality Control held recently at Calcutta. Dr. W. A. Shewhart, President of the Conference, is on His Excellency's right. On his left are Professor P. C. Mahalanobis, Director, Indian Statistical Institute; Mr. N. C. Driver, Vice-President, Indian Standards Institution and Dr. L. Verman, Director of Indian Standards Institution

The House knows that in regard to the land system our general policy has been to put an end to what is being called the zamindari system. The pace has been slow, not due to any lack of effort but because all manner of difficulties cropped up. Still I hope that the matter will be gone through fairly soon. That again is one of the foundations on which we can build anything else. There has been talk about collective farming. I should like collective and co-operative farming in this country. I hope that in any event, if not on a large-scale, on a small scale, we shall begin soon with co-operatives and, may be, with collectives. But it is obvious that before you can think of them you have to put an end to the present land system which prevails in the greater part of Indiafirst of all the big zamindari system, then, may be, other aspects of it—and that is not such an easy matter.

It is not a matter of a few, whom you might call capitalists, disliking it, but possibly a very large number of peasant proprietors disliking it. Obviously, whatever decision we may make must have the consent of the large number of people. We cannot force it down the throats of the vast majority of our peasants. We have to convert them. The best way to do that is to give a living example by co-operatives, how they will function, and then only can they be converted. India is a huge country. We may have various types of agricultural economy side by side and gradually the one that is best suited will prevail. Even in co-operatives there are so many types. I cannot say immediately which is most suited. May be that one type may be suitable in one part of the country and another in

#### **Industrial Programme**

Finally, therefore, I would assure the House that so far as we are concerned we are very anxious to draw up a particular statement of policy in regard to our industrial programme. I do not think at this stage that statement will go very far into the future. It is risky to go far into the future. It is for nonofficial organizations to look far ahead into the future, but for a Government to commit itself in the long distance is not safe. We will come up before the House. I should like to assure others who may not be in the House that whatever we may do, we want to put production first. We think it is most essential. Production obviously depends on a very great deal of co-operation between those people who are most concerned in production. Obviously we want the good-will of the industrialists of the country. The question is often asked, "Have you got the personnel to nationalise industries?" Well, as I just now said, we have not got enough. But the question rather surprises me, because it is the same personnel that might be used whether industry is nationalised or not. The personnel which functions in private industry won't leave the country when it is nationalised. It is the same personnel, including the captains of industry who will also be utilized bc-cause of their very special ability,

- (Continued in next Column)

# IMPORTANCE OF WEATHER SERVICE TO INDIAN FARMERS

### Communications Minister's Address

THE vital importance of countrywide weather service to the Indian farmer was emphasized by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, when he addressed a conference of the Directors of the India Metereological Department in New Delhi on Feb. 28.

The need of the hour, Mr. Kidwai declared, was to reach the un-lettered peasant and convince him of the soundness of the forecasts put out by the experts. He expressed the hope that efforts to this end would very soon be made with the co-operation of the Provinces and the Broadcasting Services. The Minister congratulated the Department for starting its weather bulletins for farmers in the languages known to them and for maintaining a high standard in respect of forecasts for aviation and shipping, which was essential in view of the vital place India occupied on international air and sea routes.

Welcoming the Minister, Dr. S. Banerji, Director-General of Observatories, described the working of the Department and its plans for auture development. He disclosed that India would soon have four more seismological observatories, one more magnetic observatory in the equatorial region, one more astronomical observatory with a large size telescope and five hundred more rain-gauge stations.

#### (Continued from Column 1)

managerial executive etc. Now, the point is that in any programme that we put forward we must have the largest measure of good-will. We must not allow it to affect production, etc. At the same time we must lay the foundations of future progress in the direction we aim at. That was the outlook with which we framed the Sub-Committee's Report. That is a document for you and the country to consider. We had paid very special attention in this to the fact of not having a break, of not having any big upsetting factors, but of gradually and nevertheless fairly quickly making a changeover in such sectors of economy which are most capable of bearing it to the national advantage and then making other changes. I would therefore beg the Honourable Member not to press a resolution which on the face of it cannot be given effect to.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin's Resolution

"This Assembly is of opinion that the economic pattern of this country shall be socialist economy based on the principle of nationalization of key industries and co-operative and collective farming and socialisation of the material resources of the country and that the Government of India shall adopt the said principle immediately."

Besides the daily weather forecasts to the public through All India Radio and newspapers, the Department was putting out nearly 1,00,000 forecasts in a year to pilots. In addition to medium (3 to 17 days) and long range (monsoon and winter rainfall) reports to agriculturists weekly and monthly summaries of weather reports were also issued.

Warnings for storms and cyclones to shipping, ports, and aviation and of rainfall to irrigation, Railways and Telegraphs Departments were among the other important services rendered. Accurate time signals through telegraph, wireless and broadcasting stations were also arranged by the Department. The Department compiled many tables and published hand-books and atlases.

During the last two years efforts were made to develop a net-work of obser vatories for measurements of snow and rain in different catchments. This work was important in view of the many multi-purpose river projects planned for India. It was also proposed to bring out an Indian Journal of Meteorology for publication of the results of the research conducted by the Department.

Scientific activities carried on by the Department covered detailed study of meteorology in all its branches, allied subjects like radiation and atmospherics, geophysics including torrestrial magnetism, earth currents, and atmospheric electricity, seismology, astronomy and astrophysics, particularly, the relationship between solar and terrestrial phenomena.

#### Manufacture of Instruments

The Detaitment was the only institution in Asia which manufactured all the instruments like radio-sonces, raingsuges, seismorgraphs, balloons, clockwork, etc. required for taking coservations.

For this work the Department was maintaining at present six first class forecast centres, eleven small centres, four Met-broadcast stations, twelve radio-sonde stations, thirty nine aero-drome reporting stations, 48 pilot baloon observatories and 550 surface observatories in the Indian Union.

In addition, there were six observatories—four seismological, one magnetic and one astronomical observatory at Kodaikanal. Nearly 2500 rain-gauge stations existed in the country.

After the inauguration ceremony, the Minister was shown round the various sections of the Department where charts were mapped, instruments for recording were made and research was conducted.

Mr. Kidwai also saw the sending up of a radiosonde and the recording of signals transmitted by the instrument from the air.



The General Council of the Indian Standards Institution met in New Delhi on February 24. Mr. S. F. Verkataraman, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Supply, presided in the absence of Dr. S. P. Mockerjee. (L. to R.) Mr. P. C. Bhattacharya, Financial Adviser, I. and S. Ministry; Dr. S. S. Bhattagar. Director, Council of Industrial and Scientific Research; Mr. M. P. Pai, Joint Secretary, I. and S. Ministry; Mr. S. A. Verkataraman; Dr. L. C. Verman. Director, Indian Standards Institution; Dr. Shewhart, American Expert on Quality Control and Dr. P. C. Mahalanobis, Director, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta

### INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

### **Complete Support from Industrialists**

THE Indian Standards Institution (ISI), which started functioning in June, 1947, has won both complete support from Indian industrialists and recognition as an important member of the International Standards Organisation. Presiding over a meeting of the General Council of ISI on Feb. 29, Mr. S.A. Venkataraman, Secretary of the Industry and Supply Ministry, spoke of this two-fold achievement, which was again referred to by Dr. W. A. Shewhart, the American expert on quality control in a tribute to the work of the Institution.

The General Council which had been called to consider changes necessary in the rules and regulations of ISI, necessitated by the partition of the country, adopted such modifications in its constitution as would enable the Institution to function as an all-India body facilitating at the same time the participation of neighbouring countries in its activities. The Government of Ceylon have already joined the Institution as a member and it is expected that the Governments of Burma, Nepal, Bhutan and Malaya may join shortly.

IS1 has 345 members, of whom 326 are sustaining members, who are corporate bodies like governments, commercial organisations, etc. An important

amendment carried at the meeting of the General Council, consisted in creating a new category of sustaining members, which might make it possible for small-scale industrial firms and learned and scientific bodies to enlist themselves paying a subscription suited to their capacity.

An account of the work done by ISI during the last 8 months, submitted to the General Council by Dr. Lal C. Verman, Director, reveals that the Institution has established a Textile Division Council and an Engineering Division Council, which are already handling scores of standardization problems through a number of Sectional Committees. At the same time, a Chemical Division Council is also being formed, nearly 80 subjects for standardization awaiting its consideration.

One of the earliest undertakings of ISI made at the instance of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, consisted in preparing a memorandum on the designing of a rational Coin Series for India and more recently the Director of the Institution submitted to the Government a report recommending the adoption of a metric system of weights and measures.

In its role of collaboration with the National Standards bodies of other

countries, ISI has received so far more than 170 references. The Institution represents India on the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO), which has now established its headquarters at Geneva and out of the 67 technical subjects for which the latter has proposed to set up Secretariates, two have been entrusted to ISI, namely, shellac and mica.

A special committee, which considered proposals made by the U. S. S. R. regarding agricultural products, has expressed the readiness of ISI to offer its services as Secretariat for ISO Committees dealing with subjects like condiments and spices, jute, oilseeds, etc. in which India had special trade interests.

### INFORMATION ABOUT MISSING PERSONS

Information has now become available about certain persons who were previously reported missing, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on Feb. 18. Those interested may call at any of the Search Service Bureaux at refugee camps in Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Kurukshetra and Delhi. This will also be available shortly in Ferozepur and Ambala.

At Delhi, people may contact Search Service Headquarters, 'P' Block, Room No. 58, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

### MODEL VILLAGES AND FACTORIES Mr. Gadgil had no doubt that the Cor-IN DAMODAR VALLEY

ESCRIBING the Damodar Valley Project as 'a great adventure in sectional planning', the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works Mines and Power, disclosed in the Indian Parliament on Feb. 16, that the Government's intention was to have model villages and factories owned and conducted on a co-operative basis in the Valley after its development. He was replying to the debate on the Damodar Valley Corporation Bill.

Mr. Gadgil also declared that the three members of the Board in charge of the Corporation should have 'the vision of the poet, the zeal of the pioneer and the capacity of a practical administrator'.

He expressed the hope that in India, which is rich in material as well as human talent, it would not be impossible to find out three top-ranking men of that description, who would rule the destinies of 50 lakhs of people that would be committed to the care and custody of the Corporation.

Mr. Gadgil added that there were four essential qualifications which the members of the Board should possess. Of them the foremost was high integrity and incorruptibility; the second, high intelligence; the third, a clear conception of economic development in India on modern scientific lines especially in the industrial and agricultural fields and the alignment of economic life on a cooperative basis and lastly, a fairly wide experience of men and affairs.

The Minister informed the House that these appointments would be made after consulting the respective Provincial Governments viz. the Bengal and Bihar, who along with the Central Government would participate in the scheme. He also assured that merit and no other govern other consideration would appointments.

#### History of the Project

Giving a history of the project, the Minister said that the preliminary scheme was prepared by the Central Technical Power Board. After that, three experts from America were appointed to go through the details of the scheme. Indian talent, Mr. Gadgil assured, was associated with the project from the very beginning and would continue to be associated till it became a reality. He revealed that the scheme was discussed in various conferences attended by the representatives of the Provincial Goveraments of Bengal and Bihar and by the representatives of the Central Government. They included experts from the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, also Chief Engineers from the Provinces of Bengal and Bihar, as well as representatives of coal interests, financiers etc.-in fact any interest that was considered to be relevant. The scheme was thereafter subjected to criticism for about two years and ultimately the provisions of

the Bill which was now before the House were accepted by the Governments of Bengal and Bihar. Mr. Gadgil omphasized that at every stage expert advice had been taken and at every stage from designing to construction, from con-struction to utilisation, expert advice whether foreign or Indian would be associated. He assured the House that scheme involving crores of rupees must be proceeded with caution, as such huge sums came from taxes paid by all the people and promised on behalf of the Government that every precaution would be taken.

### Rate Policy

Dealing with the question whether the supply of power generated would be on a cheap rate, the Minister explained that the rate policy especially of a State owned public utility was increasingly based not on what the traffic would bear but on what the service would bear. He continued: The rate should be fixed at or near the lowest level compatible with the overall financial soundness of the utility concern so as to leave the customers a relatively high benefit for consumers a surplus. This social con-sideration was often reinforced by an economic one. Lower rates stimulated consumption so that the total revenue might increase inspite of a lower margin of profit. This was known as Henry Ford's principle—the lowest margin of profit on the largest possible turn-over. poration would take all these factors into consideration before finalising the rates.

As regards acquisition of land. Mr. Gadgil stated that the normal law of the land viz, the Land Acquisition Act would apply and in cases where immediate possession of any particular area was needed, Section 4 of that Act would be involved. The Minister repeated his assurance that as compensation land would be given for land and where it was impossible or not wanted, adequate cash compensation would be paid. He added that the people who would be unsettled, expropriated or uprooted would get cottages for hovels, honest means for doubtful living and faith for fetishism. All attempts would made, he continued, to see that those who are resettled did not feel themselves in some strange unknown world, but in fairly familiar circumstances.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF REFUGEES**

Of 27,319 refugees registered during the month of January 1948, at the Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices of the Ministry of Labour in the Indian Union, 4,284, involving 16,797 dependents were placed in employment, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment on Feb. 19. The placement figures for January have exceeded those for last December which were the highest recorded then.

The total number of refugees registered with the Exchanges upto the end of January 1948 was 91,543, of whom 14,850, involving 64,139 dependents, were dependents, were placed in employment.

#### **Employment Placings** New Peak ln

During the month of Januray 1948, the Employment Service in the Indian Dominion, has again for the fourth time in succession, set up a new record of placings, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General of Resettle-ment and Employment on Feb. 25. 16,571 applicants, of whom 7,570 were ex-Servicemen, were placed in employment by the 54 Exchanges in the Indian Dominion. Up to the end of January, 14,850 displaced persons from West Pakistan were placed in employment.

These figures show that the Employment Exchanges under the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, steadily gaining in popularity among employers.

The total number of persons placed in employment, since the inception of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation, up to the end of January, 1948, was 2,93,933, of whom 1,83,787 were ex-Servicemen.

During the same month, 3,027 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 265 training centres in the Dominion of India, bringing the total number selected and posted up to the end of that month to 45,735. Postings during the above month include 2,931 ex-Servicemen posted to vocational and technical training centres, and 96 disabled persons posted to training centres for war-disabled. The total number of persons under training, at the end of the month, was 10,767, including 803 displaced persons.

Replying to a question in the Indian Parliament on March 2, the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, informed the House that automatic telephones would be installed in Calcutta when a factory, which was proposed to be set up in India, went into production. He added that the setting up of the new factory, which involved considerable negotiations with the countries abroad, would necessarily take time.

The Minister stated that in Calcutta steps had been taken to instal new switch boards and 500 new telephones might be provided after April 1948. The Department hoped that this number would progressively go upto 4000 in a year's time. There were 20,398 telephones at present in Calcutta as against 12,760 in 1935 and a waiting list of 17,362. The maximum number of appl cants who could now be granted telephones was 207. boards and 500 new telephones might

Answering a supplementary question Mr. Kidwai gave the assurance that the Government would extend the system of public telephone booths in the city.

### INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

### Twenty-fourth Session At Jaipur

THE 24th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission was held in Jaipur from Feb. 21 to 23 and was inaugurated by the Maharajah of Jaipur. In the unavoidable absence of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Dr. Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, Secretary, Ministry of Education, presided.

This was the first meeting of the Commission since August 15, 1947 and all the Provinces and principal States of the Indian Dominion as well as Universities and other educational institutions were represented in the Session. The Commission has been considerably strengthened by the appointment of some of the most eminent archivists of Europe and the United States of America as corresponding members.

A number of interesting historical papers based on unpublished documents were read and archival questions of international importance discussed by the Commission.

Inaugurating session on Feb. 21, His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur said: "It gives me great pleasure to extend a cordial welcome to you. Besides possessing special architectural features, Jaipur is a place of historical interest and I trust your session here will be a fruitful one.

#### Important Changes

"Constituted in 1919, the Indian Historical Records Commission can hardly be said to have a long history. Nevertheless, the years of its existence have witnessed important changes, both in its composition and its scope of activities. With a total strength of only seven experts, comprising officials and non-officials, the Commission confined itself originally to advising the Government on the preservation of records and granting facilities to research workers. Today your activities include the countrywide explanation of records and manuscripts, application of modern scientific methods to preserve them and devising a scheme for their publication. Nor does the Commission propose to limit its attention to Indian manuscripts. It has before it an ambitious plan for making available to our scholars the unpublished records of other lands as well. It is in the fitness of things, therefore, that you now draw your membership not only from Provinces and states but also from universty bodies and other learned societies.

"Under the auspices of the Commission, the National Archives of India is preparing a scientific index of records in its possession and the publication of an archives journal. It is also imparting instruction in archives administration. This will supply the necessary trained personnel to Record offices in Provinces

and States. My Government has already taken advantage of these training facilities, and I must express appreciation of the courtesy of the Department in giving expert assistance in running our Records Section.

"The broad function of the Commission is to get together the raw materials of Indian history. But to build up the structure of our country's past completely is no ordinary task. A great writer who defined history as ' Philosophy teaching by experience' mentioned from his point of view two difficulties:
Before Philosophy can teach by experience, Philosophy has to be in readiness and experience has to be gathered and intelligibly recorded.' We do not lack philosophy in this country. The salvaging, acquisition and interpretation of records will also yield to the patient efforts of our workers. But the editing and publication of material is a responsible work which calls for men of special attainment. A mere artisan, who does not approach this task with insight and reverent humility, and who works in some selected department of history without an eye for the whole, often loses his balance and proportion. Fortuna-tely, India has already produced eminent historians with the necessary vision, and I am sure as time goes on their number will increase.

### SCHOLARSHIP OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

The Government of India have received information regarding the award of a scholarship by the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, U. S. A., to enable an Indian student to pursue studies in any one of the following subjects: mining, metallurgy, geology, petroleum production and petroleum refining, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on Feb. 18. The scholarship is awarded annually beginning with the academic year 1948-49.

The scholarship, renewable up to a maximum period of four years, is of the value of 475 per annum which covers all tuition fee. It makes no provision for living or other personal expenses.

Candidates must be bona fide residents of India and must possess a good degree in science or engineering from any of the recognised universities in India.

A training course for officer recruits of the Indian Land Forces will commence at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, in July, 1948. It will be the fifth Regular Course at the Academy since the conclusion of World War II. Full information and application forms are available from all Sub-Area Headquarters.

### HISTORICAL RECORDS EXHIBITION

Declaring open the Historical Records Exhibition, organised at Jaipur in connection with the Indian Historical Records Commission's session, Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, Prime Minister of Jaipur, said: "No nation can afford to be indifferent to its past history, and reconstruction of the past can only be based on a critical examination of contemporary records."

He added that in India the task of collecting, preserving and studying historical records had been long neglected; but, thanks to the labours of the Commission and a succession of distinguished scholars, "we have become record conscious". Exhibitions held under the Commission's auspices were assisting in achieving this objective by bringing together interesting historical records.

After referring to the notable part played by religious foundations in Rajputana, sepecially Jain foundations, in preserving valuable manuscripts, the Prime Minister added that he hoped an organisation would be set up for selecting and publishing manuscripts of historical and cultural interest from among these collections. Many aspects of Rajputana's history, its culture and its arts still awaited detailed study, and he trusted that the establishment of the University of Rajputana and the holding of this session and Exhibition would quicken interest in this fascinating field.

Stating that records in the Jaipur State archives had a special interest of their own, he referred to exhibits some of which are being displayed for the first time. These include Pothikana records of Maharaja Mansingh, correspondence relating to Shivaji's escape from Aurangzeb's fortified capital and the part played in the reign by Kunwar Ram Singh, manuscripts and paintings which give evidence of Jaipur rulers' contacts with the Moghul Court and their interest in the cultural life of that period, for example, the Rozanamah.

Reports have appeared in a section of the Press that arrangements are being made to import into India from the United Kingdom 100,000 cheap broadcast receivers and that the Government of India proposes to r.lax import control in favour of these goods, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 4.

Actually, no licences have been issued for the import of these sets; and at present there is no intention of altering the procedure for securing import licences as lad down in the Import Central Notification dated December 12, 1947.

### CULTURAL REGENERATION OF INDIA

# Dr. Bhatnagar's Address At Historical Records Commission

alive to its responsibilities in fostering the cultural regeneration of our country and as soon as the immediate and more pressing demands are met, it will give all possible facilities to scholars who are engaged in reconstructing our country's past and shedding more light on our glorious deeds', observed Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, F. R. S., Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, while addressing the 24th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Jaipur on Feb. 21.

Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, who presided over the Session in the unavoidable absence of the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, said:—

It is my pleasant duty to express on behalf of the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission and myself our sincere thanks to Your Highness for consenting to inaugurate the Session and to your government for extending to us a warm and generous hospitality. This duty was to be performed by our celebrated leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who adorns the portfolio of Education and Art in the Government of India. It is most unfortunate that urgent public duties have prevented him from being present at this function. He asked me to convey to Your Highness and this gathering his greetings and good wishes. He is very sorry that he could not fulfil his engagements at Jaipur on this occasion.

#### Jaipur's Ancient History

The Indian Historical Records Commission, designed as it is for tendering expert advice on the care, preservation and salvaging of records and the best methods of making them available for historical research, has naturally chosen as the venue of its sessions places where these objectives are most likely to evoke sympathetic response. As such, a Session at Jaipur was long overdue. This territory abounds in historical memories and can boast of many still extent memorials in stone and paper. We can trace its history back to the remote antiquity, for this is the Matsyadesa, celebrated in the epic Mahabharata as the abode of the Pandavas during their last year of exile and Bairat, its Capital, situated only about 42 miles from Jaipur city, may have taken its name from Birat, the host of the Pandavas. The claim of descent of the Kachwahas of Amber or Jaipur from Kush, the second son of Rama, may be based on no surer historical foundation than tradition, their connexion with Raja Nala may be useful only as providing an inspiring theme for bardic songs and the derivation of the name of the city of Ambar from either Ambikeshwara (Siva) or Ambarisha, the son of Mandhata may be nothing more than an interesting legend; but the discovery at Bairat of the Asokan inscription which, in the hands of James Princep, became the key for unravelling and deciphering the edicts of King Piyadasi, whose Dharma Chakra serves yet to give us strength and inspiration, is no myth, and gives Bairat antiquity and importance which no historian can question.

Coming to more recent times, the fort of Ranthambhor claims an age of about a thousand years. It passed through many vicissitudes and defied many a siege. These places together with Chatsu Daora and the comparatively modern city of Jaipur, planned and built by Sawai Jai Singh, provide enough material of interest to students of history. Coming to the rulers of this region, the Machwaha Rajputs can boast in Mansingh, Mirza Raja Jai Singh and Sawai Jai Singh a galaxy of successful rulers whose paternal rule gives benevolent despotism a plausible, if unstable, justifiication. Warrior, diplomat, mathematician, astronomer, seientist and town planner, Sawai Jai Singh, in the words of our esteemed leader and Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, would have been a remarkable man anywhere and at

### Preservation of Records

As a successor of these distinguished rulers, scholars in this country naturally expect Your Highness and your distinguished Prime Minister to take a lively interest in the records which enshrine their history and achievements. The rulers of Jaipur played in the palmy days of the Mughal Empire an all-India part; in fact, their activities often took them far beyond the geographical limits of our country. Their personal correspondence and official records cannot therefore be of mere parochial interest. Your government has, I understand, already taken steps for their safe preservation. If I may be permitted to say so, experts feel that the organization of a record office under a qualified keeper is an indispensable preliminary to a proper utilisation of records for historical purposes and I look forward to the day when record offices will be set up and records made available to bona fide students in all Provinces and States to facilitate the task of writing and rewriting history from a national view

Since the Commission met last at Indore, many things have happened in our country. The freedom which we have attained makes new history and the importance of your Commission will grow more and more as we progress on this new road. I must recall here the untimely and sad death of Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan. He was an old President

and a close associate of the Commission. India has not escaped the birth pangs of independence which are still convulsing its body. We meet here under the shadow of partition and many familiar figures are not with us today. We shall miss their valuable contributions to our deliberations. I am sure, however, that their experience would be useful in their new sittings and our common allegiance to the historical muse will yet keep us close together in spirit. In the field of historical research the material separation cannot divide us very far.

As the last year has been a year of great trial for all of us, the results achieved by us in our special spheres of activity have naturally fallen short of our expectations. Our publication scheme has met with a stumbling block in the lack of printing facilities. At least half a dozen volumes are now ready for the Press but we have not been able to make suitable arrangements for printing Comthem. The Regional Survey mittees, where formed, have not functioned as effectively as we might have wished though they have brought several important documents to light, in other places, their formation has been ratarded. We are unable to report establishment of any new record office. Our promised scientific service to smaller record offices has not yet been forthcoming as the mechanisation of the repairing section. of the national Archives has been delayed by non-arrival of machinery ordered from abroad but some of it is already on its way. Our laboratory has not been idle and has within its limited resources done good work. We are glad, however, to say that the archives training scheme in the National Archives is drawing an increasingly larger number of trainees for whom, more and more facilities are being offered by the Government of India. I am also happy to say that two issues of the quarterly iournal The Indian Archives, the publication of which was undertaken by the National Archives at the suggestion of the Commission, have already been out and have received a warm welcome from competent quarters.

#### The Soul of India

Before I conclude, I would wish you not to be disheartened by the not very encouraging picture of our achievements portrayed by me. I can assure you that the National Government is fully alive to its responsibilities in fostering the cultural regeneration of our country and as soon as the immediate and more pressing demands are met, it will give all possible facilities to scholars who are engaged in reconstructing our country's past and shedding more light on our glorious deeds.

I cannot end without expressing our profound sense of overwhelming grief at the untimely and tragic end of the precious life of Mahatma Gandi—an apostle of truth, non-violence and love and the most outstanding man of the presnt century. He was the soul of Inoia and the Father of our nation. His achievements and work will form a very important chapter in the life history of our nation for he really made history for all of us.

# SALVAGING OF MANUSCRIPTS IN PRIVATE CUSTODY

N the second number of the Indian Archives, which has just come out. Sir Maurice Gwyer contributes an interesting article on Raw Material of History, and is mainly concerned with the salvaging and preservation of manuscripts in private custody. Regretting the fact that in times past many valuable manuscripts of all kinds have been exported to foreign countries and that very often they have been looked after far better in their new than in their old homes, he expresses the hope that "with the growth of the national consciousness all measures taken by Governments in India, both Central and Provincial, for the protection of these national treasures will receive an ever increasing support from Indian citizens of every class and community". He points out that there is a great deal of romance about collections of old manuscripts and believes that there must be a great many collections in India in which a researcher can never be certain that he may not come unexpectedly upon some hidden treasure beyond all price. The article concludes with an appeal to the owners of private manuscripts who are earnestly requested to get into touch with the Regional Survey Committees and cooperate with them in every way for rescuing from oblivion these national treasures.

A remarkable study on Manuscripts on Birch-bark (Bhurjapatra) and their preservation is contributed by Dr. Jean Filliozat, Head of the Department of Oriental MSS, La Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. The study contains a brief history of the use of birchbark as writing material and the various processes used at the repair workshop of the Bibliotheque Nationale and elsowhere for cleaning and rehabilitating decaying MSS. Of particular interest to researchers in India will be the methods recommended by Dr. Filliozat for transport of new finds of birch-bark manuscripts to a safe shelter. He rightly sounds a note of warning that failure to take precaution in these cases can only result in the deterioration or destruction of the MSS.

### Laws of Archive Science

Among other articles of interest are Laws of Archive Science by Professor S. R. Ranganathan of Delhi University, Library of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute by K. K. Guha Roy and a note on "Sulph-arsenic" by Messrs S. Chakravarti and P. C. Majumdar of the National Archives of India. The last describes the results of the research carried out in the National Archives of India laboratory on the effect of insecticide called sulph-arsenic developed by Proessor Sita Ram Iyer, and testifies, to the warning given some time ago by Dr. H. J. Plenderleith of the British Museum against the employment of insecticides which have not been carefully tested in contact with writing

and binding material by an expert.

There is a great deal in the Report published in the present issue of the Anglo-American Historical Committee on Editing of Modern Historical Documents which both historians and archivists in this country will find instructive. Equally illuminating is the illustrated article by E. A. BACK of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on Book Worms which contains practical instructions as to how to fight this most formidable enemy of written and printed word.

The Section entitled 'News Notes' contains summaries of the activities of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the Imperial Record Department (now the National Archives of India and many of the record offices and manuscript libraries in India and abroad.

### Contribution To Gandhi Memorial Fund

A purse of Rs. 3,037-5-0 was handed over to India's Minister for Health, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, at a meeting of RIAF personnel of No. 3 Wing, Palam on Feb. 16. Wing Commander E. W. Pinto presided. The amount represents their contribution to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Fund.

Addressing over 1,000 airmen and officers who had gathered to pay their homage to the Father of the Nation, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur gave an intimate account of Gandhiji's qualities which earned him a unique place in the hearts of his countrymen. The secret of Gandhiji's compelling charm was his broadbased sympathy.

The Minister in her one-hour speech emphasized the need for discipline in the Armed Forces. Discipline, she said, made a nation as surely as its absence would pull the nation down. Gandhiji, she said, was perhaps the strictest disciplinarian.

### PRESERVATION OF GANDHIJI'S WRITINGS

A resolution recommending the compilation of a list of important records, published and unpublished, bearing upon the national struggle for freedom and a request to the Government of India to make an initial grant of Rs. 25,000 for the collection of material for an authoritative history of the Indian national struggle was passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission, which concluded its three-day session at Jaipur, on Feb. 23.

The Commission also resolved to request the Government of India and the Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Committee either to transfer all the original writings of Mahatma Gandhi and other relevant records to the custody of the National Archives of India for preservation, or to associate the Director of Archives with the supervision of measures necessary for the preservation of these records.

That pre-1902 confidential records, Central and Provincial, both military and civil, be thrown open to bona fide students of Indian history under such conditions as the respective Governments may consider necessary, is recommended in another resolution adopted by the Commission.

#### Inter-Dominion Facilities

Questions arising out of the partition of India also figured prominently. The Commission adopted a resolution recommending that care should be taken to preserve the integrity of important series of records. The resolution adds that should one of the Dominions be in need of any records in the custody of the other, micro-film copies of the originals

should be supplied and all facilities given to bona fide scholars from either Dominion. The Commission also recommended that the Government of West Bengal should be directed to consult the Regional Survey Committee before arriving at a decision regarding the distribution of records between West Bengal and East Bengal.

In another resolution, the Commission decided to restrict the membership and scope of activities of the Bengal Regional Survey Committee to West Bengal. This Committee was asked to continue to function for Assam also till the Government of Assam could set up a Regional Committee.

The Regional Survey Committees have been asked in another resolution to prepare a five-year programme of work within the next three months. This will be co-ordinated by a sub-committee of five experts.

Other recommendations of the Commission are: enhancement of stipends for trainees in the National Archives of India; payment of equal honorarium to Honorary editors of records in Oriental language and English; undertaking of suitable legislation for preventing the export or transfer of records, historical documents and manuscripts out of the Indian Union and their unwarranted destruction; transfer of all documents formerly in the custody of British Residencies in Indian States to the National Archives of India; transfer of all books, National manuscripts etc. in the possession of the late India Office to the National Archives of India; adequate grants by Provincial Governments to historical institutions for the preservation of manuscripts and historical documents.

## ANTI-DEMOCRATIC TRENDS NOT TO BE ENCOURAGED, SAYS MR. GADGIL

**66 ▼ FEEL** that after the 15th August there can be only one castethat of Indian-and one religion —that of humanity—but the Government have to deal with practical aspects of administration and have no clean slate to write upon. I should, therefore, like to put forward the views of Government as precisely as possible", said the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, speaking on a resolu-tion moved by Mr. R. R. Diwakar in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 17, urging the Government not to recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in State service and that in future Government should abolish mention or entry of caste or sub-caste or sect or religion in form supplied by Government or registers kept by Government.

Mr. Gadgil continued: In so far as the Mover's object is to abolish distinctions of caste, religion, community, etc., from public administration, public services and other spheres of State activity, I do not think there can be any serious controversy or difference of opinion. In fact it is what we have been fighting for over period of years and what we have tried both to preach and practise. Our struggle for the abolition of untouchability in all forms is not only symbolic of our outlook but it is in itself a clear testimony of the sincerity and the conviction with which we hold this view. Indeed we have already gone some way to achieve the object which the Mover has in view. In the census of 1941, for instance, no caste or religion tabulation was done; instead it was confined only to classification by communities. The result was that instead of presenting statistics under hundreds of heads we tabulated them under half a dozen. 1 am sure Honourable Members will appreciate that this was a notable advance in the direction of simplified sub-national classification.

#### Legacy of Divisions

Then in the public services the alien Government introduced all sorts of water-tight compartments in the so-called desire to give minorities a fair deal. Their main object was to vivisect rather than integrate the nation; and they sought to do it systematically and in an orderly fashion. They first started with patronising the Anglo-Indians and Christians; that was understandable. They then took kindly to Mussalmans, an affection which grew as the years rolled by until it became an overmastering passion. Then they thought as a purely side business about Scheduled Castes. The Sikhs were soon added to the fold. In provinces backward classes, the advanced classes and intermediate classes were devised. The tribal classes were also employed. It is curious that all this solicitude was manifested since 1923. That is only after our peaceful struggle for freedom. I am mentioning all this not with a view to have a fling at those who have gone. It is not my habit to indulge in such a pastime, but

to say how during the last 25 years of British rule in India, divisions and further divisions have been created and what a logacy we have succeeded to. Nevertheless, as soon as we started we initiated action to abolish these anti-democratic trends. It has been the constant endeavour of this Government to rid the public services of communal reservation and we have now reduced reservation in services to which recruitment is by competitive examination to only one, that is in favour of the Scheduled Caste.

In the constitutional field also, we have now abolished reservation on the basis of separate electorates. We are also doing away with recognition of communal and caste distinction.

#### Need for New Outlook

Our attitude to the Honourable Mover's resolution, therefore, is not only of sympathy, but of continuing action directed to achieving the objectives laid down in it. At the same time, I would remind him and the House that we have legacy of years to live down. The Gordion Knot which man and time have combined to tie in ever-increasing complication cannot be cut in one stroke but has to be smilingly unravelled. So long as we are still used to think in terms of the past and act by force of acquired habit, so long as we have to deal with entrenched vested interests, it would not be possible to abolish these distinctions by one stroke of the pen. We have to acquire a new outlook. We have to take a new vision. All that will take some time. Until we have gone long way in changing people's habits and minds, such distinctions will persist. But I have no doubt that their intensity will not only gradually but, rapidly decrease. With people becoming used to democracy and acquiring the new idea of human dignity and seeing national viewpoints in action, the progress towards the goal which the Mover has set in his resolution will be more quickly reached than we ever believed it could be. It would then be a new India, an India throbing with a new life, instilled with a complete sense of unity among its people. That is what we have aspired for and that is what we hope to achieve, if not in this generation, then at least in the generation to come.

I would ask the Mover of the resolution not to force the pace too much but to have patience until the unmistakable forces at work themselves bring about the consummation of our joint efforts to make this cast-ridden country a caste-less nation. We have made some progress in that direction. We have to make more and quicker progress than we could have done some years ago. We shall examine afresh in what further directions we can proceed on the lines chalked out in the resolution and I may assure the House that we shall not

hesitate to act in the spirit of the resolution in so far as it may be immediately feasible.

I hope that in the light of this assurance, the Honourable Member will withdraw his resolution.

At the same time, Sir, whatever legislative or administrative measures this Government may take, the real, solid and binding progress will depend upon social conscience and social conduct. And in so far as they are concerned, nothing is calculated to stir them more than the suggestion made by my honourable friend, Fandit Thakurdas Bhargava, that everybody who calls himself a member of the Congress, or for the matter of that an Indian citizen, should take up the pledge here and now that neither in his word, nor in his action, nor in his thought he will think except in terms of nationalism".

## UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF BUILDINGS

Both in New and Old Delhi refugees have taken unauthorised and unlawful possession of properties belonging to the Government of India and meant for office and residential purposes of Government employees, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power on Feb. 19. Hundreds of officers who opted for service in India and who have come here as employees of the Central Government are without accommodation. Over 800 tenements are thus unauthorisedly and unlawfully occupied by refugees. Some office accommodation also has been similarly occupied.

The Ministry of Works, Mines and Power has been considerate and has done as much as it could for the refugees, but the duty to accommodate officers and employees of the Central Government is supreme. It is, therefore, necessary to warn the refugees that such state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue any longer. Orders have been issued that wherever the refugees have occupied office accommodation they must be removed at once, if necessary, with police help. As regards the unlawful occupation of Government quarters meant to house the Government employees the refugees are asked to vacate them before the 29th of this month. If they fail to do so, necessary steps will be taken to evict them. There is accommodation available for them in the Purana Qila Camp.

In response to the appeal of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a committee known as "The Defence Ministry and Armed Forces Headquarters Gandhi National Memorial Fund Sub-Committee", has been formed with Mr. M. K. Ganguli, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Defence, as President. The Committee, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Headquarters has issued appeals to all the employees to contribute to the fund.

### UNITY SHOULD BE INDIA'S WATCHWORD

### Sardar Patel's Appeal to People And Rulers of Rajputana

THE duty of Rajputs and the Rulers of Rajputana in the crisis which faces the country today was the theme of a stirring call to duty which the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Deputy Prime Minister, made before an enthusiastic audience of 20,000 men, women and children, who had flocked at very short notice to the Rajrishi College Sports Ground to offer him a warm and cordial welcome on his first visit to Alwar, in the last week of February.

Sardar Patel pointed out: "It is your privilege and duty to bear the sword. It is equally your responsibility to ensure that the sword is not used to harass the weak, but to protect them. You should use it in a manner that the world will say you are inheritors of an ancient civilisation and are true to the real traditions of the chivalry of Rajasthan. You have to remember that you are born in a country which has produced a great saint like Gandhiji, whose life-long mission it was to plead for and espouse the cause of the weak, the downtrodden and the outcust".

### The Alwar Episode

Sardar Patel began his speech with a reference to the circumstances which had compelled the Government of India to take over the Administration of Alwar. Events had occurred which had brought Alwar a bad name. The Maharaja might or might not be at fault, but the fact remained that his name had become involved and had to be cleared. "The moment his name is cleared there will be no objection to his return to Alwar".

The fate which had overtaken him was a reminder to the people and Rulers alike that the old traditions of rule could not be carried on. The times were changing, new ideologies and new traditions had gripped the people. That grip was not going to relax merely because there was a section of the people who still dreamt of the power of their sword and still thought of carving out a kingdom for themselves. Where was that desire when India was under bondage? he asked.

Sardar Patel then made a feeling reference to Gandhiji's death and pointed out how it was because of his sacrifices that the country had learnt to make sacrifices for the cause of the nation. "It was to him that we all owe the freedom that we had achieved. It is, therefore, a crying shame that it was the hand of one of us that had smitten him to death; that a saint of his standing and his achievements should have found this end at the hands of an Indian was a disgrace which history and ages would find it difficult to wipe out. For this unspeakable tragedy we all have to bear the responsibility. Alwar also shares

the blame. Why were the people of Alwar sleeping when a person in the garb of a sadhu was distributing leaflets which asked for Gandhiji's death in a most brutal and criminal fashion? The sadhu was not a man, he was a rakshasa. You should beware of such persons".

Reverting to the theme of freedom which Gandhiji had secured for them, Sardar Patel queried whether people appreciated that they had won freedom, and whether they would be able to safeguard it, if the signs that were already visible persisted in their fateful course. "Freedom", Sardar Patel emphasized. "was not won by the sword and will not be protected by guns alone. Guns can protect Freedom from aggressive designs of neighbours or other foreign States.

But internally, it is the honest core of the people and the true realisation of the responsibilities of a free citizen that alone can save freedom from the machinations of self-seeking and interested parties and individuals who are out to exploit our weaknesses and make capital out of them for their own ends. When Rajputana was involved in slavery, the foreign Government kept it steeped in old customs and traditions of internecine dissensions which had so often proved the bane of Rajputs. If, after the foreigners had gone, the same evil persists, how can we say that we have achieved real freedom? Such freedom can be achieved only when we realise Gandhiji's dream of Ram Raj."

### India's Might

Proceeding, Sardar Patel emphasized that unlike in the past, the might of India was not concentrated in Rajputana alone. Army was no longer the monopoly of the so-called "military" castes. Persons of all provinces and all castes had now a share in the defence of the country. The days when Rajputs alone could have boasted of protecting the country were gone. It was now the duty and the responsibility of every citizen to feel that the country was free and it was his duty to protect it. The Rajputs must, therefore, think for themselves as to why Indians had become slaves despite the prodigies of valour and sacrifices committed by the sons and daughters of Rajasthan. The answer was simple. It was because neither the Rajputs nor the country at large had imbibed the lesson of unity. Every Indian must now forget that he was a Rajput, Jat, Sikh, Brahmin, Kshatriya or Harijan. They must remember that they were Indians who had equal claims on and responsibility for India.

Expatiating on the respective roles of Rulers and people in the present circumstances, Sardar Patel went on, "The

### LOHARU AND BANGANAPALLE

The Nawab of Loharu has agreed to merge his State in accordance with the wishes of his people with the East Punjab, and similarly the Nawab of Banganapalle, with the Madras Province, says a Press Communique issued by the States Ministry on Feb. 18. The merger will take effect immediately in both the cases.

Rulers must understand that they are trustees of the people and servants of the State. Their relations with the people are those of father and children. They must jealously and zealously safeguard the interests of the people whose welfare must be their primary concern. In the context of present-day conditions it implied that they must stand out as constitutional rulers, exercising their influence by their benevolent advice rather than by any active interference in the sphere of administration. It was similarly for the people to realise their responsibility towards their Rulers. They must regard the Princes as their own, and must wish them well, and be watchful of their welfare, not by flattering them, but by pointing out their true interests and speaking the truth.

### New Rajasthan

Small States cannot now subsist as they did in the past. They had also to realise their destiny in the present scheme of things in the country. That destiny they could never realise if they persisted in their weak and isolated state of today. They could only play their true and honoured part by merging themselves in bigger and more sizeable entities. "The watchword of India, "Sardar Patel said, "should be unity. India had made a tremendous sacrifice for freedom. A part of living India had been torn away. The rest cannot but be and must be a whole. We are trying to achieve that unity. Many Princes have realised their duty. Orissa, C. P. and Kathiawar Rulers have pointed the way by making heavy sacrifices for the sake of Indian Unity. We hope Malwa and Bundhelkhand Rulers will follow suit. If within five or six months of India's attaining freedom all this can happen, can Rajasthan afford to lie low? It has to get up, walk about to lie low? It has to get up, walk about and run. That is the only way that Rajputana can march with the times. Those who are still dreaming of establishing a Rajput hegemony are clearly out of place in the modern trends of circumstances. No consideration of power, prestige or class can now fit in. The sweeper's broom is no less useful today than the sword. Just as a mother tends a child, similarly the persons at the helm of affairs are looking after the country's interests. They are entitled to the same devotion, the same respect and the same regard".

Sardar Patel then referred to the duty of the majority community to protect the minority whose interests, as

it were, came as part of a trust to the former. Muslims, after all, numbered only four crores. Hindus totalled about thirty. It was incombent on them, therefore, to protect the Muslims who were left with us. They should not worry about what had happened in the past. Both sides had made mistakes, and grievously erred. Those who had other loyalties had gone. Those that have remained deserved their full protection. If any of them still harboured disloyal feelings, they would have to go to Pakistan. They should, therefore, live in harmony and peace. If others had forgotten their duty, there was no necessity of our forgetting our own. 'It is only when a sense of responsibility guides us in adversity that we can show to the world our manly virtues. You must retrace your steps from the wrong path which you have taken in the past and follow the correct one. You should be under no illusion that anybody can establish now a Rajput Raj or a Hindu Raj. Let not posterity say we achieved freedom and lost it'. The surest way of losing it would be by failing in our respectively. ponsibilities to those who are entitled to our protection. "I would, therefore, ask", proceeded Sardar Patel. fore, ask", proceeded Sardar Patel, "everyone who is harbouring Muslim girls in this State to come out and produce them so that they can return to their homes. After all, what have these innocent creatures done to us? Those who perpetrated wrongs have gone. It is inhuman to take revenge on those who are innocent. It is also unchivalrous and unbecoming. To deal with women and girls as though they were cattle and chattels was the worst crime that any man could commit. They must all, therefore, own their mistakes and redress the wrong".

### **Need for Unity**

Finally, emphasising the need for unity in their ranks, he appealed to the people not to create dissensions amongst the Praja Mandal. Dissensions do no good to anybody. Those who create dissensions, sow greater discord for the future. Unity in the conduct of administration was essential in every State, more particularly was it necessary in the case of Alwar whose finances seemed to be in a precarious state. The lower subordinates were ill-paid. All that had to be remedied. The Administration would also have to be carried on within the income they were realising. Recurring deficits in such limited income were bound to lead to bankruptcy. All this had to be remedied and required both unity and watchfulness. But they would have to manage their state of affairs with selflessness and devotion to duty. The extra money needed must come from those who were in a position to pay and not from the poor. He hoped the people would heed the advice he was giving them, and follow the guiding principles which he had laid down.

"Rajputana has yet to realise its duty. It has yet to breathe the air of freedom. Gandhiji's message of removal of untouchability has still to find an echo in every Rajput's heart. You must realise that you cannot raise the country's

(Continued in next Column )

# JUNAGADH REFERENDUM RESULTS

THE Referendum n Junagadh and other smaller States has now been completed, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of States on Feb 24. The voting in favour of accession to India is virtually unanimous Every polling booth has been supervised by a Committee consisting of both Hindus and Muslims. Secrety of the ballot has been scrupulously observed and freedom of voting fully ensured.

The Government of India are grateful to Mr. Nagarkar for the efficient and impartial way he has conducted the plebiscite. The franchise for the Referendum is more liberal than that adopted for the Bombay Legislative Assembly.

The result of the voting is as follows:-

	No. of voters on the elec- toral rolls	Muslims	Non-Muslims	No. of voters who east their votes for	
				India	Pakistan
Junagadh	200,569	21,606	178,963	190,779	91
Mangrol	12,997	•••	•••	11,833	8
Manavadar	8,680	520	8,160	8,436	11
Bantwa (Bara)	1,427	249	1,178	1,091	10
Bantwa (Chota)	1,432	39	1,393	1,412	
Sardargarh Taluk		231	3,162	3,241	2
Babariawad	5,880	243	5,637	5,392	8

## FREE MEDICAL AID FOR SERVICE FAMILIES

Families of VCOs, ICRs and noncombatants (enrolled) of the Indian Army and of equivalent ranks in the Royal Indian Navy and Royal Indian Air Force will receive free medical treatment in military hospitals under a scheme recently sanctioned by the Government.

The scheme which came into force on March 1, 1948, will be in the nature of an experiment for one year.

Additional nursing and subordinate staff has been provided to meet the new requirements. No hospital stoppages will be recovered in respect of personnel afforded medical treatment.

### (Continued from Column 1)

prestige abroad if you still have a section of the people in a condition worse than slavery. Even a slave is not shunned as much as some of them avoided the so-called untouchable". He hoped, therefore, that people would bestir themselves in the cause of removal of untouchability. He also advised the women who had assembled there not to be content with a state of unemployment. They should produce their own cloth and thereby contribute to the country's economy. He emphasized that only by this way of each one contributing his own share that we could build this land into a great country and we could all take our place of pride among the nations of the world.

### AIR MARSHAL SIR THOMAS ELMHIRST

Air Marsl.al Sir Thomas Elmbirst, Chief of the Air Staff and Air Marslal Commanding the Royal Indian Air Force, made a tour of Rajputana, including Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaipur States, in the third week of February.

While at Jodhpur, the Chief of the Air Staff inspected a Guard of Honour provided by the cadets of the Elementary Flying Training School, RIAF. Addressing the cadets, he exhorted them to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the recent decision of the Government of India to grant permanent commissions in the RIAF to those who pass out creditably.

In his addresses to the officers and men at the RIAF Station Jodhpur, the Air Marshal stressed the importance of discipline among all ranks and loyalty to the service.

#### ST. DUNSTAN'S FUNDS

The funds held by St. Dunstan's on February 29, 1948, for the aid of warblinded in India will be divided between India and Pakistan in the proportion of 76 to 24.

The basis of allocation, which was evolved by Sir Clutha Mackenzie, Representative of St. Dunstan's London, is on the basis of the domicile of the blinded soldiers. Contributions received after February 19, will be held by the Indian Committee for use in the Indian Dominion.

## FREEDOM WITHOUT HEALTH IS MEANINGLESS

WHAT is the background of the public health in India today against which we have to plan a healthier and happier India without which the freedom we have achieved after several years of arduous struggle and with the sacrifice of many lives has no meaning to the people of this country? Judged by the commonly applied standards of mortality and sickness rates we are far behind most of the civilised nations of the world.

Our general death rate is about two and a half times those of the more progressive countries; more than five times as many infants die in India as in Australia and New Zealand, two of the healthiest countries; the mortality rate among women as the result of childbearing, which should normally be a physiological process, is about seven times that of England, and, in respect of certain infectious diseases such as cholera, small-pox and plague, we have in India such a high incidence that our country is considered as a reservoir of these infections and the enforcement of quarantine measures by various governments for regulating the entry of men and goods from India is a common feature of international sanitary control.

A broadcast by Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, from A. I. R. Calcutta, on Feb. 23.

The incidence of certain diseases in India is so high that the morbidity figures are trully staggering to contemplate. For instance, it is stated that 100 million cases of malaria take place every year or every fourth man falls a victim to the disease. Tuberculosis experts hold that at least two and a half million active and infectious cases of this disease exist in the country while the number of leprosy patients is considered to be in the neighbourhood of one million.

#### Public Health Programme

Many other forms of sickness, such as hookworm, filariasis and guinea-worm infection are also prevalent in different parts of the country and these, although they may not contribute appreciably to the mortality rate, help to reduce the vitality of the affected persons and to decrease their working capacity as well as their enjoyment of life.

It is against this background of ill health that we have to plan a programme of public health endeavour in free India. In attempting to do so let us consider what the essential conditions are for enabling our people to lead healthy lives

In the first place let us recognise the supreme importance of a hygienic environment for our urban and rural

populations, without which medical care, however elaborately planned, will largely fail to achieve permanent results. A healthy environment will include hygienic houses and clean surroundings, the provision of a proper drainage arrangement and of safe water supplies, adequate supervision over the quality and purity of the food made available to the people, effective control of the breeding and dissemination of insect vectors of diseases such as mosquitoes, flies, fleas and lice and the provision of parks, gardens and other open spaces with the necessary facilities to promote recreational and cultural activities.

No less important than environmental hygiene is the expansion of existing health services in order to provide adequate curative and preventive medical care to the many millions of patients that exist in the country. While it is true that an effective improvement of the environment on the lines indicated is essential to remove the causes of sickness and thus promote a permanent raising of the standard of the public health, there is equally an insistent demand for the relief of suffering and for the restoration of working capacity as far as possible to those who are today not only deprived of the enjoyment of life but are also a burden on others as the result of ill health.

### Raising Health Standard

Moreover, in respect of many diseases, the patient is often an active disseminator of infection and the treatment undertaken for his cure forms an important part of the preventive campaign. Thus it is clear that a combined attack on the problems of ill health is necessary in order to achieve satisfactory results. The conditions essential for healthful living should be secured through a concentrated effort to improve the environment. At the same time as comprehensive a provision as possible should be made to provide remedial and preventive care to the sick and to the healthy who are exposed to infection.

Other measures which are necessary for raising the standard of the public health include an improvement of the standard of nutrition, an extensive programme of physical education and of recreational activities, including within its scope both sexes and different age groups of the community and education of the people in personal and communal hygiene in order to enlist their active co-operation in the preservation of their own health.

Having thus enumerated some of the essential elements of a national plan for improved public health let me now proceed to suggest certain standards in respect of the necessary provision under various heads as well as put forward some proposals which, in my view, deserve earnest consideration by the authorities concerned. It is obviously impossible to deal here with these matters at any great length and my remarks are only

intended to stimulate thought and discussion so that an intelligent appreciation of the urgent needs of the country in the field of public health may be promoted.

### Housing Conditions

Housing conditions in India tcday are extremely unsatisfactory, both in urban and in rural areas. In rural areas houses have often no water supply and latrines, lighting is insufficient and inadequacy of ventilation is a common feature. Many houses are in a state of disrepair. Overcrowding exists to an extraordinary degree in towns, particularly in Industrial centres, while the hygienic condition of the houses occupied by the lower sections of the community is far from satisfactory. The following quotation from the Report of the Bhore Committee gives some indication of the existing conditions in industrial centres:—

"The filth and squalour which we saw in Cawnpore or the bustees of Calcutta are indescribable. A dark dingy room of about 10 ft. by 8 ft. in size, built in such a manner that neither light nor air can enter it and with, as in the case of the coal mines area, as many as 8 or 10 persons not infrequently living in it, represents the type of living accommodation which workers have to accept in these congested industrial centres. Washing and bathing facilities as well as latrine accommodation are often nonexistent. Indeed, men and women have to go sometimes two or three furlongs in muddy roads and without light to answer the calls of nature. The inconvenience they have to undergo is aggravated during rains.

We have taken Cawnpore and Calcutta as examples. The position is no better in other large industrial cities such as Bombay, Ahmedabad, Madura and Coimbatore. In the plantations we were shown quarters into which we could enter only by crawling. In the coalmines area housing conditions are equally unsatisfactory."

#### Water Supply

It is this depressing state of existing housing conditions which will have to be altered and improved considerably as an essential part of our health campaign. Certain minimum standards for housing have been recommended by the Bhore Committee, suggesting certain requirements in respect of floor space, ventilation, built-up area and the provision of essential sanitary conveniences. These requirements should, in my opinion, be kept in view as the standards to be achieved in respect of all housing construction.

The Bhore Committee reported that the proportion of population served by protected water supplies was about 4.5 per cent for the country as a whole and that this percentage varied in the different provinces from about 4.1 to 9.0 per cent. Presumably, in the

absence of safe drinking water for an overwhelmingly large section of the population, the existing high incidence of cholera and other bowel diseases from year to year can hardly be checked.

Provincial Governments have, it is understood, begun to realise the importance and urgency of this problem and, in practically every province, the five-year post-war plans provide for the expenditure of large sums of money on the improvement of water supplies. But the success of these schemes will depend to a large extent, it seems to me, on concerted action in which the Centre and the Provinces should fully co-operate with one another.

In the first place the necessary expenditure may have to be financed largely from loans and co-ordinated effort to raise funds would, therefore, seem to be a wise step towards the fulfilment of the programme.

Secondly, the water-supply problem is interlinked, particularly in certain provinces, with the conservation of river water on an interprovincial basis. The training of public health engineers, the production of pipes and other appliances that are necessary on an adequately large scale to meet the country's requirements, the enforcement of certain desirable standards of purity on a common basis—these are also matters in which inter-provincial co-ordination can usefully be developed to the advantage of India as a whole. It is hoped that these and similar questions will receive the consideration of the authorities concerned.

#### Health Services

I do not propse to elaborate here any detailed plan for the development of health services. The Bhore Committee has, after considerable study, put forward certain proposals of a short-term and a long-term nature to facilitate the development of these services. These proposals deserve the serious attention of all administrators. The Committee itself emphasised the fact that it had put forward no blue-print for adoption by health administrations and that its recommendations should be modified conditions. Such changes would seem to be necessary and desirable now, particularly because recent events following the partition of the country have brought to the fore the refugee problem and other matters, the demands of which on the public purse are so insistent as to necessitate a more attenuated health programme than the short-term ten-year plan of the Bhore

In a convocation address last month at Bombay to those who received the diplomas of the College of Physicians and Surgeons I put forward certain proposals which included concentration of effort on rural medical relief through the establishment of hospitals or expansion of existing ones at the head-quarters of taluka and sub-divisions and leading up to the provision of 250-bed hospitals at the headquarters of districts, the medical aid available at these smaller institutions being supplemented by a travelling team of experts. This is a line of development which, is, I believe, well worth consideration.

In order to promote such expansion of medical relief I advocated the training of an increased number of doctors in existing medical colleges through the double-shift system. Side by side with such developments preventive health work should also be expanded through the utilisation of large numbers of non-medical personnel, who can carry out a variety of preventive duties such as inoculation against epidemic diseases, sterlisation of water supplies and control of the insect vectors of diseases. The idea was put forward that instruction for such workers should be in the local mother tongue in order to promote a larger out-turn of trained personnel than in the past.

I also emphasised that cheaper methods of construction should be adopted in order to provide the large number of hospitals, dispensaries and other medical institutions that will be required and urged that research should be undertaken in regard to building construction so as to ensure reasonable efficiency and cheapness, all useful methods such as the use of local material and the standardisation and mass production of necessary parts such as doors, window-frames etc., being pursued towards the achievement of this end.

I recognise that these suggestions do not constitute in themselves an integrated plan of health development but these proposals, if carried out, will help materially towards an expansion of existing medical and preventive health activities. What is more, they can fit in eventually into any larger scheme of health services which may, in due course, be developed throughout the country.

An essential condition for an adequate expansion of medical care, curative and preventive, is the production of the necessary drugs and other medical supplies in the country itself so as to make India largely self-sufficient in these directions. Failure to pursue this policy with vigour will retard materially the development of the health programme and will also place the country in a position of great disadvantage in the event of an international emergency impeding the free flow of such supplies from abroad to this country. No time should, therefore, be lost in proceeding with the measures necessary to achieve this end.

### Hygienic Living

The need for pressing forward with plans for raising the nutritional standard of the people, for promoting physical culture and for their education in the hygienic mode of life is so obvious that no special emphasis seems necessary. Without adequate efforts in these directions much of the work that the health services can accomplish will fail to achieve adequate results. Efforts in these fields require concerted action by a number of Departments of Government such as the Agriculture, Education, Co-operative and Health Departments and the machinery for planning and execution should, therefore, be broadbased enough to include them all. I would urge that, in the Central and Provincial spheres, the establishment of such co-ordinated effort should receive early attention.

Lastly, all the suggestions put forward here require for their fulfilment the active support of the people. Such support can be forthcoming only if they participate in the programmes of development. Any process of spoon-feeding, whereby the measures introduced have behind them only or mainly the support of the authorities, is bound to fail because, as soon as such support is withdrawn, there will surely be retrogression and an evontual stoppage of the beneficent activities which have been brought into existence.

A practical approach towards the enlistment of the support of the people appears to be through the utilisation of the co-operative movement in the development of as many activities as possible, multi-purpose co-operative societies being promoted towards this purpose. A many-sided attack on community life so as to improve the economic and cultural standard of life can alone place the building of national health on firm and secure foundations.

Today, the common man, and even the educated section of the population, is apathetic to the large amount of preventible suffering through sickness and mortality that exists in our country. A sufficiently broad programme of national regeneration will, by its own momentum, sweep away this cloud of apathy and should also help, it is to be expected, to promote the progressive realisation of improved national health and prosperity.

## EVACUATION OF ABDUCTED WOMEN FROM MIRPUR

During question hour in Parliament on Feb. 25 the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, made a statement regarding evacuation of women abducted from Mirpur and certain other areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said: "From Mirpur a very large number of women were also abducted and taken away. The Government of India have been greatly concerned about this matter and have been trying their utmost to recover them. Their efforts have now succeeded to a certain extent and about four or five days ago a batch of about 400 women with about the same number of children was re-covered from a camp in West Punjab near Kashmir border. They are now in Lahore being looked after at the Gangaram Hospital. They came back in such an unfortunate condition that they were physically hardly capable of travelling much further. So, they will take rest there for a few days and then it is proposed to transfer them to better surroundings. Then ultimately after they have recovered somewhat we shall send them back to their homes."

The Prime Minister added, "Yesterday I was in Jullundur and they have got excellent establishment thore to lock after these women who come back in every way and I was going to suggest to my colleague to have these women from the Mirrur area who were in Lahore sent to the Jullundur camp. We expect also to recover quite a considerable number of these women from the Jamma area, Mirrur and other areas, who have come to West Punjab in the course of the next fer days."

## "KEEP FLAME OF PROGRESS ALIVE"

### Health Minister's Address To Dental Conference

LL men and women of goodwill must, both collectively and individually, in their own spheres, try to keep the flame of progress alive by concentrating effort on such beneficent activities as are likely to promote the health and happiness of the community in the faith that improved conditions of life developed as the result of organized offort will promote the growth of that fellow-feeling which forms the basis of civilised life in the home, in the village, in the town, and in ascending scale in individual countries and throughout the world", said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, in her inaugural address to the Ail-India Dental Conference in Bombay on February 19.

Following is the full text of the address:

"We are meeting today under the shadow of the great tragedy which was enacted in Delhi three weeks ago and which has deprived not only India but the whole world of the light and guidance of Mahatma Gandhi. Ihat light and guidance, in human eyes and understanding was greater today than ever before when the darkening gloom of hatred and violence is threatening to shut out mutual trust, goodwill and fairplay as fundamental factors governing the relationship between man and man and between nations. But God's ways are not our ways and He knows best. It is impossible to conceive the disastrous consequences which will follow if man becomes a votary at the shrine of the law of might. In this land, at any rate, Gandhiji had brought us to our goal of political freedom by another way. Having won through thus far it was his hope that we would continue to work for the larger freedom which alone can make a nation great and good-and in his language great and good were synonymous terms-but no sooner had we unturled the flag of political freedom than we were plunged into fratricidal warfare, the consequences of which, if it continues, are fraught with disaster to both Dominions. It was agony to the great soul to sense hate all around and to be a witness to the cult of violence that was beginning once again to rear its head in this unhappy land. For such a man the manner of his passing was a glorious ending to a glorious life—it was the hour of his greatest triumph. One can only hope that we shall profit by the richness of his sacrifice. Today is a great testing time for us. I can only hope that our defeat is momentary and that we shall win through by dedicating oursives anew to single-eyed service of our fellowmen for that alone can lead us in the paths of righteousness and peace.

In such circumstances all men and women of goodwill must, both collectively, and individually in their own spheres, try to keep the flame of progress alive by concentrating effort in such beneficent activities

as are likely to promote the health and happiness of the community in the faith that improved conditions of life developed as the result of organised effort will promote the growth of that fellow-feeling which forms the basis of civilised life in the home, in the village, in the town and in ascending scale in individual countries and throughout the world. Every step undertaken to extend activities in such fields as health and education is, therefore, to be welcomed as a conscious attempt to advance the cause of progress in the life of the community. While it is true that the All-India Dental Conference was scheduled to meet in Bombay today long before Gandhiji's death, I am glad it has not been postponed for I feel that it and similar constructive work on behalf of the nation in the wake of the great tragedy can do a great deal to help to lighten the gloom and stimulate the flow of national effort into channels dear to Gandhiji's own heart. I, therefore, particularly welcome this opportunity to associate myself with this Dental Conference and consider it a privilege to be permitted to open its proceedings.

### **Noteworthy Achievement**

Let me congratulate the All-India Dental Association on the success it has achieved within the short period of its existence. Its inaugural meeting took place in January 1946, and, within a period of a little over two years, the organisation has secured for itself a membership of 900, a noteworthy achievement when it is remembered that the number of qualified dental surgeons in the country is probably only 1,000 and the total number practising dentistry of good, bad and indifferent quality is perhaps under 5,000. The record of progress has been clearly set forth by Dr. Bery in his annual report for 1947 and the work accomplished in so many directions has been commendable. To me, however, this achievement is no surprise because, within the past few months, ever since I was called to serve in the Health Ministry of the Central Government, I have had numerous op-portunities of discussing dental problems with Dr. Bery, Dr. Ahmed and other members of your association and what has struck me most is the energy, enthusiasm and single-minded devotion to the cause of dentistry in India which these leaders of the dental profession have displayed on every occasion.

The position today in respect of dental education and of dental services to the people is, as we are all painfully aware, far behind that attained by the medical profession and the leeway to be made up is therefore great. I am, however, convinced that the zeal and perseverance with which your association has taken up the problem will enable you to make such rapid advance as to achieve practical success in your triple programme of raising the status of the dental profession, of providing adequate undergraduate and

postgraduate training facilities in dentistry in India and of promoting the growth of a dental service for the people.

I must confess that, within the past six months of tenure of office of our National Government, it has not been possible for us to concentrate on constructive work for India in a manner commensurate either with the requirements of the country or with our own desire to speed the pace of progress. As you are all aware we were faced within a few weeks of our assumption of office with the refugee and other problems of such an urgent nature that the Provincial and Central Governments have had no chance to get down to the task of attempting to plan national reconstruction on an adequate scale, much less of initiating schemes for achieving progress in specific fields of national effort. Further, our financial resources have had to be diverted, within the last few months, to the insistent demands of these urgent problems to such an extent that it is impossible to envisage, at this stage, what the magnitude of our financial commitment is likely to be in discharging our obligations in these directions. Evensol can assure you, on behalf of my colleagues in the Central Government and on my own behalf, that we are determined to find ways and means to promote with the least possible delay progressive realisation of nation-wide programmes of constructive effort in such spheres as health, education, agricultural and all-round economic development and progress of the co-operative movement in order to lay firmly the foundation on which a fuller and richer life for the common people may be built.

### Raising Status of Profession

As regards dentistry, your Honorary Secretary, Dr. Bery, has described in his report the efforts which the Central Government have made and are proposing to undertake to further advancement of dental education and to place the growth of the dental profession on sound lines through appropriate legislation. I had hoped that I should today be in a position to share with you the delight of us all at the passing of the Dentists Bill but unfortunately the measure was not able to be brought before the House before I left Delhi. However, I trust it will be on the Statute Book within a very few days. It will be the first step in the raising of the status of the Profession and I hope it will spur you all to render further and more fruitful service in what is a very important branch of medical science. Let me acknowledge, on behalf of my Government, the assistance we have had in all these matters through the advice and guidance with the All-India Dental Association extended to us at every

I may also assure you that the question of raising the Nair Dental College, Bombay, and the Calcutta Dental College to the university standard will receive, in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned, our sympathetic consideration and that the establishment of a Dental College at Delhi will be promoted as part of the programme for creating an All-India Medical Institute in India's capital. I

must plead for patience in regard to the latter for, immensely keen as I am to have a super-institute in Delhi which will enable us to give postgraduate courses to medical students in every department of medicine comparable to any in the world, our snip of finance is very heavily laden owing to circumstances beyond our control and any extra weight might cause it to flounder. In the immediate present we will have to be content to raise the standards of the existing colleges and that, in itself, will be no mean achievement.

It will also be necessary to establish Dental Colleges at the neadquarters of other Provinces and the Government of India will do its best to assist in their creation through its existing scneme of central grants to promote provincial reconstruction programmes. The overseas dental scholarship scheme, which was inaugurated last year, will be continued in order to facilitate the postgraduate training of a sufficient number of dental surgeons to equip them for manning the new dental teaching institutions required in the country.

### **Travelling Units**

The Bhore Committee has put forward a plan for providing dental service to the people through the establishment of dental departments in existing hospitals and through the provision of travelling dental units. I know that the achievement of all plans is largely dependent on the availability of adequate trained personnel and of funds. I am confident that a planned programme of national reconstruction will, in time, provide both, although the present situation may not appear to be bright because of the many difficulties that the country has to face and overcome today.

In conclusion I would lay stress on the importance of extending dental aid to the real India, i.e., the India of the villages. No medical work in the cities, however good, will touch the fringe of our health problems unless we take the villages within the orbit of our endeavour. And while on the subject of villages I must again recall to your minds the age-old maxim 'Prevention is better than cure'. Our people are sadly ignorant so far as observance of the laws of life is concerned. We must impart simple education to these simple folk by means of leaflets, posters, pictures, the film, the radio and our travelling dispensaries, We must insist on compulsory dental examination of our school and university going children and youth. We must educate the mother and the teacher and the village social worker. It is for you gentlemen, met in Conference to consider and suggest to your governments the best ways and means of educating the general mass of our people.

With these few remarks I have much pleasure, in declaring your Conference open, I wish your deliberations every success and I am sure they will be carried on in the true spirit of service which is or, at any rate, should be the hall-mark of all members of the noblest of professions—a profession which seeks to bring relief from suffering to all human beings, rich and poor, high and low alike, and whose best reward is the restoration to health of those whom they are privileged to serve.



French gift for India: M.P. Fouchet, French Charge d' Affaires in India, presenting to the Hon'ble Rejkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, chests containing 300,000,000 units of Specilline (Penicillin) and 700 tubes of Ganidon for the use of refugees. Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Health (second from left), and M. Longchamps, Attache, French Embassy (extreme right), may also be seen in the picture

## FRANCE'S GIFT OF PENICILLIN

Monsieur P. Fouchet, French Charge d'Affaires in India, presented on Feb. 18 300,000,000 units of "Specilline" (Penicillin) and 700 tubes of "Ganidon" tablets to the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, as a gift from the French Government to the Government of India for the relief of refugees in India.

The French Government are sending, M. Fouchet said, another gift parcel containing 1,000 dozes of "anti-Gangrene Serum 20 c.c." and 4,000 dozes of "anti-Tetanic serum".

The Health Minister and Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Director-General of Health Services, expressed their gratefulness to the French Minister for this valuable gift.

### RS. 25,000 AWARDED TO DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN

With a view to enabling War-disabled Ex-Servicemen, who have undergone a course of vocational training under the training scheme, to become useful citizens, unaffected by their physical disability, and to set up their own independent business as skilled tradesmen and artisans, the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour have so far sanctioned awards to about 150 persons, involving a sum of about Rs. 25,000, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment on Feb. 17.

The funds for these awards were donated by the Central Joint War Committee of the Indian Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation, which placed Rs. 2,50,000 at the disposal of the Government of India for this purpose. In selecting the trainees for the awards, preference is given to persons whose disability renders it necessary for them to take employment under 'sheltered' conditions.

### INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEHERAN

India's Ambassador to Iran, the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Ali Zaheer, gave his first Press conference on Feb. 16 in Teheran. He began by referring to the death of Mahatma Gandhi, whom he described as the embodiment of the spirit of India and the foremost citizen of the world. He thanked the Government, the Press and the people of Iran for their spontaneous and widespread sympathy.

Continuing, he stressed the strength and the permanence of the bonds linking India and Iran. The visible links today, he said, were the Urdu language and the Parsi community of India, who still claimed Iranian origin, but were the most loyal citizens of the Indian Dominion.

Referring to partition, the Ambassador said that freedom had been indeed accomplished but not without pangs. A united India would have contributed to the greatness of the Asian continent. The Mussalmans of India who were a powerful minority in united India had now been split and their influence reduced.

### India a Secular State

He went on: "India today is a secular State. Members of all creeds and communities are citizens of the Indian Union and are entitled to equal rights and protection. The old bonds with Iran must be re-established. We are working with our face to the future, to make India great among the nations, and foremost in the arts of peace and progress "

Stressing the need for cordial relations with the Press of Iran, the Ambassador referred to the opening at the Indian Embassry of the Information Office and suggested that the Iranian Press should make full use of it to obtain accurate information about India.

He referred to Kashmir, vindicating the Indian Dominion's stand. Concluding, the Ambassador said: "I am here to extend the hand of friendship on behalf of the people of my country to the people of Iran. 1 have no doubt you will accept our hand and help me in my task of promoting and strengthening the bonds of friendship which my country so strongly desires ".

The addresses of several officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers (Indian Wing), who are not on the active list in the Indian Army, have changed since August, 15, 1947.

To bring the records up-to-date non-British Officers of the A. I. R. O., who are nationals of the Indian Union, will forward their new permanent postal addresses to the Military Secretary, Army Headquarters, India, New Delhi, as soon as possible.



Dr. Syud Hossain, India's Ambassador to Egypt photographed with Friends at the Palam aerodrome, New Delhi, before his departure on February 16

## **HONOURED**

The Government of India have conferred the Honorary rank of Lieutenant General in the Indian Army, on H. H. Maharaja Sir Padma Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Nepal, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on Feb. 19.

New designations for the chiefs of the three services have been approved by the Government of India. They are Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army; Chief of the Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy; and Chief of the Air Staff and Air Marshal Commanding, Royal Indian Air Force.

### NEPAL PRIME MINISTER CONSULATE GENERAL IN SHANGHAI

The Government of India have decided, with the concurrence of the Chinese Government, to elevate the Indian Consulate at Shanghai to a Consulate-General, says a Press Communique issued by the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Ministry on Feb. 18. Mr. E. S. Krishnamoorthy of the Finance and Commerce Pool has been appointed as Consul-General and will shortly proceed to Shanghai to take up his appointment.

His Highness the Raya of Pudukottah discussed the question of the future of his State with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel yesterday, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of States on March 3. Sardar Patel advised His Highness that both in the interests of the people and himself he should merge his State with Madras Province. The Raja has accepted the advire and signed the Merger Agreement. The administration of the State will be taken over by the Government of Madras on March 3, 1948.

# IN INDIA

Besides the astronomical observatory at Kodaikanal and the magnetic observatory at Bombay, the India Meteorological Department maintains 315 observatories of various categories. In addition there are four seismological observatories to provide information regarding earthquakes.

These facts were disclosed by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafl Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, in answer to a question on Feb. 20 in the Indian Parliament.

Further details given by the Minister are as follows: Of these observatories fourteen are first class surface observatories which take continuous records of all meteorological elements such as pressure, temperature, humidity, wind velocity, wind direction, rainfall, etc. The second class observatories number 202, third class 10, fourth class 8, fifth class 16 and sixth class 5. These take observations of meteorological elements thrice or twice at once daily. There are 48 pilot baloon observatories which take observations of the velocity and direction of wind in the upper air, and 12 radio-sonde observatories which make daily sounding of the atmosphere to find out the pressure, temperature and humidity at different levels in the upper atmosphere, In addition, there are about 2,500 raingauge stations maintained mainly by Provincial Governments and Indian

The astronomical observatory at Kodaikanal, makes continuous observations of the phenomena on the surface of the sun. The magnetic observatory at Bombay maintains continuous records of the magnetic variations of the earth. The seismological observatories are in Bombay, Kodaikanal, Delhi Calcutta.

All these observatories are provided with accurate Chronometers and precision clocks. The Meterological Department makes accurate determination of time in the observatories by astronomical methods and by reception of radio time-signals issued from Greenwich.

Under the Essential Services (Temporary Powers) Act 1946, it has been decided to continue the Fruit Products Control Order during 1948-49, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on March 3.

The Order, which is administered by the Fruit Development Adviser to the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture, requires all manufacturers of fruit products to take out licences for the manufacture of specified products. The Government thus ensures the manufacture of products in conformity with quality standards.

Provincial Advisory Boards on which the interests of consumers as well as manufacturers are adequately represented, have been const tuted to advise the Fruit Development Adviser in administering the Control Order.

### OVER'320 OBSERVATORIES DESIGNS FOR INDIA'S NEW **SWARAJ STAMPS**

ESIGNS for India's new "Swaraj" stamps were selected by a judging committee which met in New Delhi on Feb. 23 and 24 to consider hundreds of entries submitted by various artists in India for the competition.

Fifteen designs were selected in New Delhi for the award of prizes in the competition for India's new Swaraj stamps by a panel of five judges on Feb. 24.

Entries submitted for the competition numbered nearly 1750. There was no award of the first prize as no full series for all denominations was selected from any one competitor.

The best individual design which won the second prize of Rs. 1000 was based on the motif of the Mahenjodaro Bull signifying prosperity. It was sent by Mr. K. Vembu of Masulipatam. The award of Rs. 500 for the second best individual design was won by Mr. F. G. Fernandes, J. J. School of Arts, Bombay for his design of three lotus flowers. A special prize of Rs. 300 was won by Mr. Makhan Lal Dutta Gupta of Calcutta for his design of a peacock-ship in sail.

Twelve more designs were selected for the award of extra prizes of Rs. 250 each. Two of these were from Mrs. Karuna Shaha (Calcutta), two from Virmati D. Jadhav (Poona) and one each from Dipendra Kumar Bose (Calcutta), Pratap Chosh (Calcutta), K. Vembu (Masulipatam), K. K. Sen (Delhi), D. D. Thakur Das (Delhi), Chitra Niva Chowdhery (Delhi), Saroj Kumar Chaudhury (Delhi) and V. M. Kothare (Bombay).

The judges were of the view that the response to the competition was satisfactory although many artists did not follow the conditions prescribed for the

The panel of judges consisted of Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director General, Posts and Telegraphs (President), Lt. Col. Posts and Telegraphs (President), Lt. Co. R. C. G. Chapman, Master, India Security Press, Nasik, Mr. D. P. Roy Chaudhury, Principal, School of Art, Madras, Mr. V. N. Adarkar, Deputy Director, Sir J. J. School of Arts, Bombay and Mr. N. D. Cooper, Philatolic Society of India. Bombay.

The competition was arranged by Indian Institute of Art in Industry for the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Artists were invited about two months before to submit for the competition designs having a definite relation to India's new status. The effigy of the King will no longer be a feature of India's stamps.

#### NEW AIRPORTS FOR INDIA

The Government of India propose to construct new civil aerodromes in 14 places riz. Ajmer, Aligarh, Berhampur, Calicut, Cuddalore, Dehra Dun, Hubli, Mangalore, Nellore, Ootacamund, Salem, Ratnagiri, Saugor and Surat.

This was disclosed by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, during question hour in the Indian Parliament on Feb 24.

At present India has three big airports at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi (Palam) maintained on international standards, seven major aerodromes at Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Lucknow, Madras, Nagpur, Patna and Vizagapatam, thirteen intermediate aerodromes and twenty-two minor aerodromes. Besides these there are 26 aerodromes in the States which have acceded to the Dominion. In addition, there are landing grounds at a large number of places but they are not being maintained upto normal stand-

Mr. Kidwai revealed that the cost of maintenance of the civil aerodromes under the Director-General of Civil Aviation in India is estimated at Rs. 40,59,000!- for 1947-48. The revenue for the same period from fees for the grant and renewals of licences and certificates, landing and housing fees, rents of lands and buildings at aerodromes etc. is estimated at Rs. 16,65,930!.. The net receipts from surcharges on inland and foreign airmails during 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 1,41,32,000/.

Answering another question, Mr. Kidwai said that major construction works were in progress in the three international aerodromes, six major aerodromes, two intermediate aerodromes and three minor aerodromes. The works programme was to cover a period of five years.

A statement was laid by the Minister on the table of the House showing 32 new air routes for which applications for grant of licence were under consideration by the Air Transport Licensing Board.

The Government did not propose to extend the benefits of the postal life insurance scheme to members of the public as their policy hith rto had been that the postal insurance scheme should not compete with private insurance companies, stated the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Communications, in the Indian Parliament on March 2 during question hour.

Mr. Kidwai added that it was proposed to conduct the valuation of the fund as on August 15, 1947 as soon as the required data for such Valuation was available and, if sufficient surplus was disclosed, to declare bonus to policy holders. The bonus would be payable with the sum assured as an addition

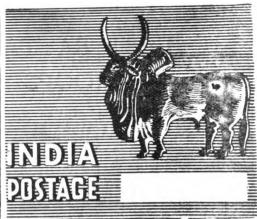
On 30th September, 1947 there were approximately 92,101 effective policies amounting to Rs. 18,94,01,000 under the postal life insurance scheme. The total amount under the postal insurance fund was Rs. 11,25,28,000, exclusive of interest.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MARCH 15, 1948 Digitized by Google









INDIA'S SWARAJ STAMPS: Designs for India's Swaraj stamps selected recently by a panel of Judges presided over by Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-Geoveral, Posts and Telegraphs. L. to R. (1) Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, a design which won an extra prize for K. Vembu of Madras; (2) The Ship of State which won a special prize for Makhan Lal Futta Gupta of Calcutta; (3) The Lotus, symbolizing purity, which won the third prize for F. J. Fernandes, Delhi; (4) The Mohenjo Daro Bull, symbol of prosperity, which won the second prize for K. Vembu of Madras. (Below) The panel of Judges consisted of Mr. Krishna Prasada (extreme left); Lt.-Col. R. C. G. Chapman, Master, India Security Press, Nasik; Mr. D. P. Roy Chaudhury, Principal, School of Art, Madras; Mr. V. N. Adarkar (centre) Deputy Director. Sir J. J. School fof Arts, Bombay and Mr. N. D. Cooper (second from left) Philatelic Society of India, Bombay



# LAST BATTALION OF BRITISH TROOPS LEAVES INDIA

THE band of the 1st Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry played "Vande Mataram" in salutation to the country they were leaving, just before they, the last battalion of British troops to leave India, got into launches on Feb. 28 at the Gateway of India to embark on a troopship, the Empress of Australia, anchored in midstream. An R. I. N. band and the band of the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners played "God Save the King". The ceremonial parade on this occasion marked the closing down of the Headquarters, British Forces in India.

H. E. the Governor of Bombay, Sir Maharaj Singh, addressed the Battalion and Major-General L. G. Whistler, Commander of the British Forces in India, made a suitable reply. A presentation was made by Maj.-Gen. S. M. Shrinagesh, Adjutant General, Indian Army, on behalf of Army Headquarters, and Bombay area also made a presentation. Lady Maharaj Singh presented a flag of the Indian Union to the Senior Sister of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, who was leaving with the Battalion.

The Indian units which took part in the ceremony were the 1-5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (which fought in Italy), 3-5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Burma, Malaya, Java), 3rd Indian Gronadiers (Burma), 2nd Royal Battalion the Sikh Regiment (North Africa and Italy), the 1st Mahratta Light Infantry Western Desert. (Italy and Japan), and crews of R.I. Nessels who had seen action in the Bay of Bengal during World War II.

The lst Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) first came to India in 1822 when it was known as the 13th Regiment of Foot. The Battalion had served in India and Burma for the last 17 years.

The 1st Battalion of the British Army to arrive in India was the Dorsetshire Regiment (39th Foot) who landed in Madras in September 1754.

#### Gen. Whistler's Address

Addressing senior officers at Army Headquarters, India on Feb. 18, Maj-Gen. L. G. Whistler said: "I want you to know and feel that the British soldier has tremendous affection—really tremendous—for his Indian counterpart and I think that affection is built up in two ways. First because our fathers and grandfathers have served out here and have served India. In my own case, my father, grandfather and brother served in the Indian Army.

"The task that was ahead of us all was to see India—with the Indian Army—standing on her own feet, and now that task is completed.

"Another way affection and comradeship have been built is, of course, in battle where British troops served with Indians in Burma, in Africa and in Italy. As time went on we built up this comradeship and I suppose the greatest way was in battle.

Concluding his address, Gen. Whistler said: "In the future we shall watch you with great sympathy and with great pride. We pride ourselves that we have helped in what has taken place. I, representing today the British soldier—the fighting man of Britain—wish you the very best of luck in the future. I know your responsibilities are terribly heavy now and I feel that you will succeed in the task ahead of you".

Maj. Gen. Whistler came to India in January 1947, to act in an advisory capacity to the Commander in Chief in India in all matters relating to the welfare of British troops.

Commissioned into the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1917, Gen. Whistler took part in the campaigns in France and Belgium during World War I. He also saw service in China and Palestine.

He won the D. S. O. in 1940, a bar to it in 1943 and a second bar the following year. He was appointed C. B. in 1945 and was mentioned in despatches three times during the war. Before coming to India, Gen. Whistler commanded the 3rd (British) Infantry Division in the Middle East.

### RADAR CONTROLLED AIR DEFENCE

A modern type of Radar, by which hostile aircraft approaching from a distance can be seen on a television screen and intercepted by fighter aircraft controlled by radio, is in use in the R. I. A. F.

The Government of India have detailed selected officers of the R. I. A. F. for specialised training in the U. K. in the use of the type of Radarknown as G. C. I.

This type of Radar can locate hostile aircraft at a distance of over 150 miles, and indicate their height above ground, their direction and number. In the event of hostilities the equipment enables the C. G. I. Controller to watch on a television screen a pictorial representation of the raiders as they approach. Through his radio telephone, he can direct R. I. A. F. fighter aircraft to take off and make for the raiders.

The Controller, who can see both the raiders and the fighters on the screen, then gives detailed instructions to the pilots of the fighters for intercepting the raiders. When sufficiently close, the fighter pilots locate the hostile aircraft visually or by the help of their own Radar. Then they take over from the controller and manoeuvre and attack on their own initiative. The Controller, however, watches the fight of his screen all the time and after it is over, he guides the fighters back to their base.

### RECRUITMENT TO R.I.A.F.

In view of the very large number of applications received for recruitment in the Royal Indian Air Force, Air Headquarters, India, have explained the procedure to be adopted by applicants, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Feb. 23.

Recruitment in the R. I. A. F. is at present confined to applicants for Commissions for General Duties (Flying) branch and airmen for technical trades. Preliminary selection of applicants for both these categories is carried out by Air Force Recruiting Officers located at the following places:—Ambala, Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bombay, Madras and Bangalore.

### Scientifically Devised Tests

Applicants for commissions in the flying branch are called up for preliminary interview by Air Force Recruiting Officers who are specially trained to assess as to whether they have a reasonable chance of being finally selected by the R. I. A. F. Seelection Board.

The names of applicants recommended by Air Force Recruiting Officers are forwarded to the R. I. A. F. Selection Board who call them up for final interview and selection at Dehra Dun. The R. I. A. F. Selection Board during an elaborate three-day programme administer scientifically devised tests in order to ascertain the caudidate's potential officer—qualities, physical fitness, mental alertness etc. The methods adopted here follow closely the lines adopted for selection of officers in the armed forces in the U.S. A. and other countries.

Applicants called up for interview with the Selection Board are granted free travel facilities and are boarded and housed at Government expense at the Selection Board.

As far as recruiting of other ranks is concerned, Air Force Recruiting Officers administer tests specially designed to assess their suitability for enlistment in the technical trades in the R. I. A. F.

Applicants for recruitment in the R. I. A. F. are advised to contact Air Forces Recruiting Officers whose tour programmes are published in newspapers from time to time.

## GIFTS FOR THE WOUNDED IN JAMMU

With gifts from Delhi a number of ladies, headed by Mrs. Kalwant Singh, wife of the JAK Force Commander, visited recently the wounded personnel undergoing treatment in the Military hospital Jammu.

Seth Manohar Lal of 45, Lekhraj Road, Daryaganj very kindly gave 300 lbs. of sweet and the Imperial Tobacco Co., Delhi also contributed 100 packets of cigarettes. The troops expressed their appreciation and welcomed these gifts.

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Her Excellency Lady Mountbettee distributing prizes at the finel match of the Delhi Women's Hockey League on February 21

### PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN R. I. N.

Candidates desiring permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy will appear at an examination to be held by the Federal Public Service Commission on June 21, 1948 and subsequent days, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Feb. 20. The examination will be held simultaneously at Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi Madras and Nagpur. About 15 men will be recruited to the permanent cadre from among the candidates.

Successful candidates will be sent to the United Kingdom for training at Government expense. Private expenses, exceeding £116, of those selected will however, be borne by the parents or guardians. Some provincial Governments have undertaken to cover the parents' liability by way of scholarship and others are considering a similar proposal.

Candidates must have been born, not earlier than Jan. 1, 1929 and not later than Jan. 1, 1931.

Copies of rules and application forms can be had from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Camp Office, Council Chamber, New Delhi; the Commodore-in-Charge R. I. N. Office, Bombay; the Naval Officer-in-charge, Cochin and Vizagapatam and the Resident Naval Officers, Madras and Calcutta.

Applications with relevant documents, should reach the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission not later than April 1, 1948.

Full details are published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Ministry of Defence Notification and Resolution No. 297 and 298, respectively, dated February 14, 1948.

# SERVICE PERSONNEL FROM PAKISTAN

Great difficulty is experienced at present in contacting the next of kin or legal heirs of service personnel, who have migrated from Pakistan to the Indian Union before or after August 15, 1947, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Feb. 24. Those affected are. therefore, requested to send the following information to the auhorities mentioned below at the earliest opportunity.

The next of kin or heirs of Officers should intinate their present temporary or permanent addresses and any changes thereafter, to the Ministry of Defence (D-9), Government of India, new Delhi.

In case of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers. Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks the next of kin should notify their present addresses and any subsequent changes to the Record Office or Regimental Centre concerned.

In case of all service personnel whose next of kin have not yet settled down in any part of the Indian Union the temporary addresses of the next of kin should also be notified in accordance with the above instruction or failing this as soon as they get temporarily settled some where.

Applications received by the Government of India under the newcomers' scheme for the export of Madras hand-kerchiefs, for the period July-December 1947, have been considered and Government's decision on individual applications has been communicated to the Export Trade Controller, Madras. Applicants are, therefore, advised to contact that officer direct, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 26.

# ROAD ACCIDENTS

Replying to a question by Mr. R.K. Sidhwa in the Dominion Parliament on Feb. 26, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel stated that during the last year (1947) there had been 82 road accidents in Old Delhi and 191 in New Delhi.

Describing the steps taken by the Government to minimise the number of such accidents, Sardar Patel said that substantial improvement in the reduction of traffic accidents despite an increase in the number of cars on the roads had already been made. Government felt, however, that there was scope for further improvement in traffic arrangements and several steps had been taken recently to that end. One way traffic has been introduced on various congested roads in New Delhi and Old Delhi.

He added that speed limits had been reduced to the minimum at congested roads and speed checks were held to detect offenders guilty of rash driving who were suitably dealt with. Municipal authorities had been urged to improve the street lighting near dangerous crossings by providing arc lights and round abouts. The strength of the traffic police staff was also being increased.

Continuing Sardar Patel said, instructions had already been issued to the police to regulate traffic so as to minimise the number of accidents.

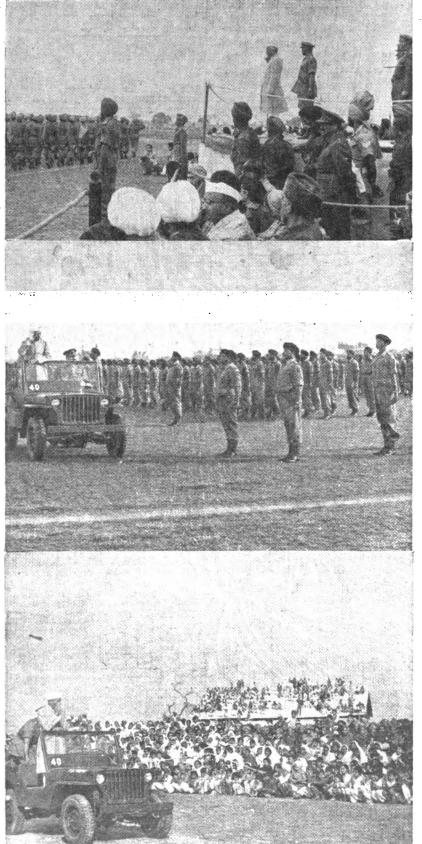
### German Businessmen Can Visit Foreign Countries

For the first time since the war, German businessmen will now be permitted to visit foreign countries to negotiate contracts, examine new products, study new industrial processes, obtain information directly at the source regarding price and find new export outlets and customers outside Germany, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 3.

Indian businessmen are therefore now at liberty to invite German businessmen to India for the negotiations of contracts etc., with German businessmen. On receipt of such invitation they should apply to the Joint Export-Import Agency for sponsorship and travel document: Travel may be financed in one of the following 3 ways:—

- (1) They may travel at the expense of a private firm in the country which issued the invitation.
- (2) The expenses of German business firms who send their engineers or salesmen abroad to transact export business may be net from the foreign exchange credit of the concerned firms.
- (3) The Joint Export-Import Agency may advance foreign exchange for the purpose from the German Dollar Fund.

INDIAN INFORMATION





# Prime Minister in Jullundur

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Jullundur on Feb. 24, when he inspected Indian Army troops and took the salute at the largest ceremonial parade beld in India since August 15, £1947.

(Above) Jamedar Joginder Singh is being descarated with the Indian Order of Merit by Pandit Nehru. (Top Left) Troops merching past the Prime Minister. (Centre) Pandit Nehru, in a jeep, inspecting troops drawn up on parade. (Left) Pandit Nehru returning the salutations of the vast gathering assembled to witness the parade.

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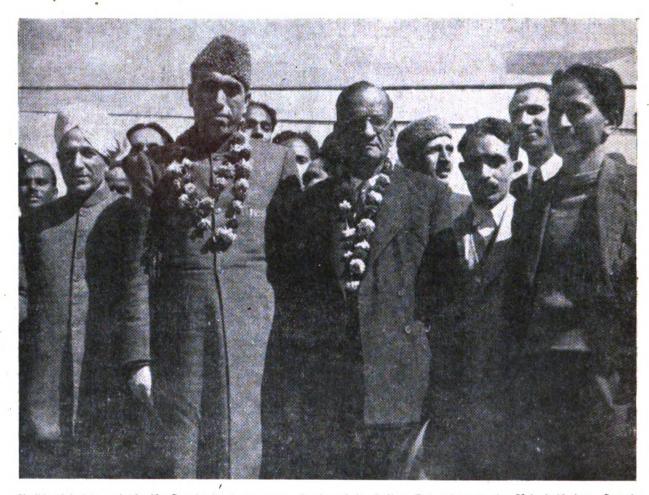
Vol. 22. No. 227 April 1, 1948

KASHMIR

NUMBER

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PRICE 4 ANNA



Sheikh Abdullah and Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Council, photographed at the Palam aerodrome on Feb. 16. on their return from Security Council for the Government of India

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AIM:—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.	
FORMAT:— Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are	
inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in them- selves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.	Page
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accepted.  SUBSCRIPTION:—(Indian Edition):—Annual subscription	White Paper on Kashmir
in India: Rs. 5; outside India: Rs. 7/4. Single copy in India: Annas 4; outside India: Annas 5/6. Subscrip-	Sheikh Abdullah's Tribute to R. I. A. F
tions, trade enquiries and all communications regarding supply are to be addressed to the Production Manager. Press Information Bureau, Government of India, New	Mr. Gepalaswami Ayyangar's Speech in Security Council
Delhi.	Indian Army's Exploits in Jammu 408
Edited by A. S. Iyengar, Principal Information Officer.  Government of India.	Cover Picture: Baramula, devestated by raiders.
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# KASHMIR ISSUE NOT PROPERLY CONSIDERL

BY SECURITY COUNCIL

# PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

must confess that I have been surprised and distressed at the fact that the reference we made (to Security Council) has not even been properly considered thus far and other matters have been given precedence. If the facts we stated in our reference were correct, as we claim they were, then certain consequences naturally flowed from them, both in law and from the point of view of establishing peace and order", said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, in the course of a statement on the Kashmir situation in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on March 5.

Following is the full text of the state-

Sir, I crave your leave and the indugence of the House to make a statement
on Kashmir. I would beg the House to
bear with me for a while, because there
is a great deal to say, however briefly
I might say it,—not that I am going to
make any sensational disclosures, there
is nothing very secret about what I
am going to say and the facts have
appeared in the public pre s and in other
places frequently enough during the last
few months. Nevertheless, it is right
that I should place before the House
some kind of a consecutive account of
what has happened. In order to lessen
my task and to help Members of the
House, we have prepared a White Paper
on Kashmir which will be distributed to
Members. This White Paper does not
bring matters right up-to-date. It is
practically up to the period of the reference to the Security Council. It is
not an absolutely complete paper in
the sense that every telegram and
every letter is included, but, on the
whole, most of the messages that passed
between us and the Government of
Pakistan or connected messages have
been given in this White Paper.

Now, before I speak on this particular Kashmir issue, I should like by your leave to say a few words on a wider issue of which the Kashmir issue is a part. We have been living through strenuous days; we have been passing through a period of dynamic history in India. Much has happened during the past six months, much that was good and much that was very bad. But, perhaps, when the history of India comes to be written, when much of the horror of today has been forgotten, one of the biggest things that will be mentioned, will be the change that has come over India and that is coming over India in regard to the Indian States. We see something very remarkable happening. It is perhaps difficult for us who live in the middle of this charge to appreciate the bigness of what has happened. But it is an upsetting in a very curious way i.e., a peaceful way—of a structure that has endured in India for the past 130 or 140 years, more or less ever since the beginning of the 19th century.

We see the sweep of history suddenly coming, the big broom of history, and changing this 130 years' old structure and putting something else in its place. We cannot definitely and absolutely say what the final and precise outcome of all this will be, though the picture is clearing up fairly rapidly. It would almost appear that there is the hand of destiny functioning. What is happening is nothing that we did not expect. In fact, many of us for the last many years have had certain objectives in regard to the Indian States and we have worked for them both through our political and other organisations in India, through the people of the States, through the people of the provinces and otherwise. And, on the whole, what is happening today is in line with the objectives we had laid down. So, it is not surprising. Yet, may I confess to you Sir, that even I who have been rather intimately connected with the States' peoples movement for many years, if I had been asked six months ago what the course of development would be in the next six months since then, I would have hesitated to say that such rapid changes would have taken place.

Many factors have gone to bring about these rapid changes. Ultimately, I suppose, they are the forces of history working, the unleashing of all manner of forces which had been repressed for so long. For we had during these 130 years a strange phenomenon. The British Government had constructed a State structure in the course of a quarter of a century in the early days of the 19th century. Whether it fitted in, in reality, with conditions then existing in India or not, it is a little difficult to say, that is to say, minus the British Government what have happened. Anyhow, that dominant power of the British created this system, no doubt, for their own advantage as they thought it. That system continued, not because of any inherent strength, as is obvious today, but because of the continuance dominant power, of the paramount power as it was called. All manner of changes were going on in India and in the outside world and yet this Indian States struc-ture continued. Many of us said that it was rather archaic, it was out of date, it had to change and must change and so on and so forth. But now that protecting hand of a foreign Government having been removed, the repressions are removed. The forces that had been kept in check suddenly began to function and we see them n action. in rapid action. The forces are there, of course; they have not been curbed by any of us, but I think in the manner of dealing with this situation,—an intricate and difficult situation—this House will



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

agree with me that we owe a debt of gratitude to my friend and colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister.

So it is in this mighty context of a changing India in regard to the States that we have to view any particular aspect of it. We saw unfortunately six months back a partition of India, a splitting up of India, a part of India going out of India. Immediately after that process of cutting off, another process started, or rather, always we have had these two processes—the process of integrating India. We have seen this process of integrating India going on in regard to the States, and not only in regard to the States but to some extent even in regard to the Provinces, but much more so in regard to the States. So, these two things have gone on together,—a process of cutting away and a process of integration,—and in the balance it is difficult to say how far we have gained and how far we have lost. It is difficult to say also how far this process of integration will take us ultimately. Nevertheless, it is interesting for us living through rather strange and dynamic period of India's history to look at it in some perspective, not as actors in the drawa but rather as historians looking back on what has happened. The historian who looks back will no doubt consider this integration of the States into India as one of the dominant phases of India's

Well, Sir, the process is taking various shapes. There has been an actual merger of a large number of small States into India; there has been a bringing together of a number of States into Unions of States which form units of the Union of

# KASHMIR NOT A COMMUNAL ISSUE

India and a certain number of maior States remain as separate entities. But what is equally important—and if I may say so, even more important—is not this integration externally but an inner integration, that is, the growth of democratic institutions and responsible government in the States, because that brings about a real integration, not at the top levels of Government but at the level of the people. Both these processes have gone on and both these processes, may I remind the House, are in line with the objectives for which we have laboured for many years,

# Kashmir and Hyderabad

Now it is in this context of changes in the States system that I would like this House to consider the particular case of Kashmir, although it stands apart and many other factors come in the play. Today in India two States stand quite apart from the rest in regard to these processes. Those States are Hyderahad and Kashmir. I am not going at this moment to say anything about Hyderabad. In regard to Kashmir, it stands apart for many reasons, partly because it has got entangled in external politics, that is to say, it has got entangled in the relations between India and Pakistan and so the two essentially State issues there are somewhat submerged. It is an odd thing that it should get so entangled. That it got entangled is not odd, but the manner of its entanglement, because the Government of Pakistan have assured us time and again that they have nothing to do with recent events in Kashmir, raids and invasions etc.—they go on repeating that; nevertheless, they seek to profit by those events. They seek political advantages out of those events, so that while disclaiming all responsibility for what has happened they do want to share in whatever they might get out of it. Anyhow the Kashmir problem stands apart.

# Growth of Inner Freedom

But for the moment, leaving out this external implication of the Kashmir problem, if you consider it, it is essentially the same problem, that is to say, a problem of the growth of the freedom of the people and the growth also of a integration. Now, we have been aiming, the Government of India and the States Ministry have been aiming at the growth of this inner freedom of the people of all the States. If many of the States have agreed to merge in India or come into closer contact, it is not because the States Ministry took a big stick and threatened them with consequences. It is because of those forces, rising up from the people. other forces, and, fundamentally, the sudden withdrawal of an external force which had kept the States together, or rather the States system together, the might of the British Government and the sanctions behind it.

That disappearing, immediately the atructure began to collapse and his an astonishing thing this sudden collapse of a structure which seemed so solid just a few months or a year ago—, not

surprising to those who knew the facts, but undoubtedly surprising to those people who take a superficial view of things. So essentially we have been aiming at the freedom of the people, knowing and realising that ultimately it will be for the people of the States to decide what their future will be. We are not going to compel them. We do not propose to compel them, and indeed we cannot compel them in the context of the world today in any State. There are other compulsions the compulsions of geography. That is true; one cannot ignore it. There are many other compulsions.

And naturally in considering the problem, we that is, the Government of India, have always to consider the interests of India as a whole,—the interests of India in regard to security, defence etc.,-but apart from that, we do not wish to exercise any other compulsion in the slightest over the growth of freedom. In fact, we want to encourage it in the people of the States. We know well that if there is that growth of freedom and freedom of decision by the people of the States. that it will be a powerful factor to bring them nearer to our people, because we hope that whatever constitution we might adopt in India, it will be based completely on the will of the people.

Now, may I say a few words before I go on to the Knshmir issue and that is this: In this matter I feel a slight difficulty because the matter is being, or going to be again discussed in the Security Council of the United Nations and I would not like to say anything which might be construed into, shall I say, into putting any difficulties in the way of coming to a settlement either in the Security Council or elsewhere. Because we earnestly desire a settlement, we earnestly desire that these great forces should be allowed to function normally and to achieve their results, because any other resu't will be an artificial result. We cannot impose a resultcertainly Pakistan cannot impose a result; ultimately there is no doubt in my mind that in Kashmir as elsewhere, the people of Kashmir will decide finally, and all that we wish is that they should have freedom of decision without any external compulsions.

#### A Sign of Hope

Now, there is one other factor which I should like to put before the House in regard to Kashmir. We have got too used in India unfortunately to thinking of every problem or many problems in terms of communalism. of Hindu wersus Muslim or Hindu and Sikh wersus Muslim and so on and so fort. That has been an unfortunate legacy of ours and the extent to which it took us cannot be fargotten by us and the tragedies that it has led to. We are trying. I hope, to get rid of the spirit of communalism in this country, in India at least. We hope to put an end to it, not suddenly perhaps, but certainly fairly rapidly.

Now in this context? of communal conflict the case of Kashmir stands

apart, because Kashmir is not a case of communal conflict; it may be a case of political conflict, if you like; it may be a case of any other conflict, but it is essentially not a case of communal conflict. Therefore this struggle in Kashmir, although it has brought great suffering in its train to the people of Kashmir it has placed a hurden on us-on the Government of India, and the people of India: nevertheless it stands out as a sign of hope that there we see a certain co-operation, combination and co-ordination of certain elements, Hindu and Muslim and Sikh and others on an equal level and for a political fight for their own freedom.

I wish to stress this because it is continually being said by our opponents and critics on the other side that this is a communal affair and that we are there to support the Hindu or the Sikh minorities as against the Muslim masses of Kashmir—nothing can be more fantastically untrue. We could not for an instant send our armies and we would not be there if we were not supported by very large sections of the population, which means the Muslims of Kashmir. We would not have gone there in spite of the invitation of the Maharaja of Kashmir. if that invitation has not been backed by the representatives of the people of Kashmir and may I say to the House that in spite of our armies having functioned with great gallantry, even our armies could not have succeeded except with the help and co-operation of the people of Kashmir.

### Fight for Freedom

Now we are charged by people outside, beyond the borders of India, for going to Kashmir to support an autocratic monarch. The House will remember that one of the condi ions that we made at that critical moment, when we had to decide whether to send the Indian Army or not, whether to accept accession or not, one of the conditions was that there must be a popular Government there, and not as a goal and an but immediately. It was an immediate thing and it was given effect to immediately in so far as it could be given effect to. So, it is strange that this charge should be brought against us. Look at this charge in another context. These people, men and women of Kashmir, who are with us and who are fighting for their freedom and liberty there, they are not newcomers in the struggle for freedom for the greater part of a generation, they have fought for the freedom of Kashmir, in Kashmir; they have suffered for it and some of us have deemed it a privilege to be associated with them in this fight for the freedom of Kashmir against autocratic rule. These people are with us today. Who are their opponents, who are against them in Kashmir or elsewhere? What has been their record in the past ten, twenty years in regard to the freedom of Kashmir? It is an interesting speculation and an interesting inquiry, because these gentlemen who talk about the autocracy of the Ruler of Kashmir, who talk about autoeracy there, what did they do during these last ten, twenty years? They never fought for the freedom of the people of Kashmir; most of them ported that autocracy; most of them

opposed the freedom movement in of Pakistan officials, both military and Kashmir.

Now because of entirely different reasons, they became the champions of the freedom of Kashmir. And what is the type of freedom they have brought into Kashmir today? The freedom so-called that they have brought into Kashmir is the licence to loot and murder and burn that lovely country and to abduct and carry away the beautiful women of Jammu and Kashmir State; and not only carry them away, but place some of them in the open market place for sale! So, let us have this background before us when we consider this Kashmir story. It is a stirring background of events and many of us have been distressed at the strangely marrow view that people in the Security Council have taken on this matter.

I do not desire to enter into the details of what happened in the Security Council or not, but I do feel that this background must be appreciated. It is not a Hindu-Muslim question in Kashmir; it is not a question of certainly our standing for any autocracy or anything. We have already not only during the last lifteen, twenty years shown where we stand in regard to the States with the people and the rulers. In regard to Kashmir, more particularly, we have shown by our actions from the very first day we went there in October last up to today, and I shall have something more to say about it before I finish, as to how we feel about the freedom of Kashmir.

#### Events in Kashmir

Now, Sir, I shall go into some slight detail about events in Kashmir.

The House will recall the statement I made on Kashmir on the 25th November 1947. In that statement I recounted briefly the course of events in the Jammu and Kashmir State up to that day, the part played by the Government of Pakistan in these events, and our own objectives.

Our complaint against Pakistan was that it incited and aided tribesmen from outside and its own nationals to wage war on Jammu and Kashmir State. The month of December showed an intensification of military pressure on the State. Nearly 19,000 raiders had been reinforced in the Uri area. 15,000 raiders were operating against the western and southwestern borders of the State. Incursions by the raiders into State territory. involving murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women were continuing. The booty was being collected and carried to tribal areas to serve as an inducement to tribesmen to swell the ranks of the raiders.

In addition to those actively participating in the raids, a large number of tribesm n and others estimated at 100,000 had been collected in different places in the districts of West Punjab bordering upon Jammu and Kashmir State, and many of them were receiving military training under Pakistan nationals, including officers of the Pakistan Army. They were being looked after in Pakistan territory, fed, clothed, armed and otherwise equipped and transported to the terrtory of the Jammu and hashmir State with the help, direct and indirect,

of Pakistan officials, both military and civil. The equipment of the invaders included modern weapons such as mortars, medium machine guns, the men wore the battle dress of regular soldiers, fought in regular battle formation and used the tactics of modern warfare. Man-packed wireless sets were in regular use and even Mark 'V' mines were being employed.

More than once the Government of India had asked the Pakistan Government to deny facilities to the invaders, facilities which constituted an act of aggression and hostility against India, but without any satisfactory response. On the 22nd December, I handed personally to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in New Delhi a letter in which the various forms of aid were briefly recited, and his Government were asked to put an end to such aid promptly and without reservation,

As no reply to this letter was received for some days I sent a reminder by telegram on the 26th December. On the 31st December the Government of India informed their Ambassador in Washington to convey a message to the Chairman of the Security Council of the United Nations. This message was a reference to the Security Council under Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations. On that same day the full text of the message was sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan by telegram.

On the 1st of January I received a reply from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to my letter dated 22nd December. The contents of this letter revealed no heapful approach to a solution of the kasmur problem. They consisted only of a series of fantastic charges against India, e.g., a determination to crush Pakistan, organise genocide of Muslims in India, and the procurement of the accession of Kashmir by force and fraud. This letter, even if it had been received earlier, could not have modified our decision to request the Security Council of the United Nations to ask the Government of Pakistan:

(1) to prevent Pakistan Government personnel, mintary or civil, from participating and assisting the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir State: (2) to call upon other Pakistan nationals to desist from taking part in the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir State; (3) to deny to the raiders (a) access to and use of its territory for operations against Kashmir; (b) military and other supplies; (c) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.

### Despatch of Forces

The House will remember the circumstances in which we had sent our forces to Kashmir. Kashmir State territory, that is, after accession to Indian Dominion territory, was being invaded, to the accompaniment of murder, arson, loot and the abduction of women. The whole countryside was being ruined. Fresh raiders were continually coming from Pak stan territory into Kashmir State. All the fighting was taking place in Indian Dominion territory. The invaders had their principal bases across the border in Pakistan, received supply and reinforcements from them, and

could go back there to rest and recuperate in safety. Our troops had strict orders not to enter Pakistan territory. The normal course to prevent raids on Indian territory would have been to deny the use of any bases to them in Pakistan. Since Pakistan was unwilling to co-operate with us in this manner. the alternatives left to us were to send our armed forces across Pakistan territory for dealing effectively with the invaders, or to request the United Nations to ask Pakistan to do so. Any resort to the first course would have involved armed conflict with Pakistan. We were anxious to avoid this and to try every available method to find a peaceful solution. Therefore the only course left open to us was to make a reference to the Scurity Council.

### Security Council's Attitude

I shall not take up the time of the House with a detailed account of the proceedings of the Security Council; these have been fairly fully reported in the press. I must confess that I have been surprised and distressed at the fact that the reference we made has not even been properly considered thus far and other matters have been given precedence. If the facts we stated in our reference were correct, as we claim they were, then certain consequences naturally flowed from them, both in law and from the point of view of establishing peace and order.

On behalf of Pakistan there was a repetition of the fantastic charges against India which had been made previously in the letter of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to which I have referred. Pakistan refused to act at once, to deny assistance in men and material to our enemies in Jammu and Kashmir, to prevent further incursions through Pakistan into the State, and to ask the tribesmen and Pakistanis now in the State to withdraw unless a previous agreement was reached and announced to the effect that the Indian armed forces should be withdrawn completely from Jammu and Kashmir State and the administration of the State should be replaced by another administration. There were some other matters in dispute also but the principal ones were the two I have mentioned above.

### Pakistan's Admission

In effect Pakistan not only admitted that they were aiding the raiders but made it clear that they would continue to do so till certain political objectives of theirs were achieved by them. This was a proposal to which the Government of India could not agree. For such an agreement would have been not only a betrayal of the people of Kashmir to whom they had pedged their word, but also a surrender to methods of violence and aggression, which would have had disastrous consequences both for India and Pakistan. It was impossible for us to withdraw our forces without grave danger to the State and without handing over the people of the State who trusted in us to an unscrupulous and cruel invader who had already brought so much misery to the State and its people. Nor could we share the responsibility of protecting the people of Kashmir with any other outside force. It was equally

# ROLE OF INDIAN ARMY IN THE CONFLICT

impossible for us to agree to the replacement of Sheikh Abdullah's administration by any other.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is now no longer an autocratic government: it is a government representing the largest popular party in the State and is under a leader who, during these many months of unparalleled stress, has sustained the morale of his people, maintained an effective administration over the greater part of the State, and generally has inspired effective resistance to the brutal attempts of the invaders to overrun and destroy Kashmir. There is no alternative administration possible in Kashmir, unl ss that administration rested on coercion. If Sheikh Abdullah were not there by the will of the people, he could not have survived, much less could he have accomplished what he has done during these difficult months. It is for him to choose any national of Kashmir to assist him in his government and it would, be improper for us to interfere with his discretion in this matter,

### Charges Against India

I regret greatly that the representative of Pakistan before the Security Council should have made any statements and charges against India which have no foundation in fact. A great deal has happened in India and Pakistan during the last six months or more which has brought shame to all of us and I am prepared to admit at any stage and at any time the errors of our own people, for I do not think that it is good for the individual or the nation to lapse from truth. That is the lesson our Master taught us and we shall hold to it to the best of our ability. Many horrible things have happened in India and Pakistan during these past months and while we hold strong views as to the initial responsibility for all the frightfulness that has occurred, all of us in a greater or lesser degree have a certain responsibility for it.

But so far as the events in Kashmir are concerned. I am convinced in my mind that every action that the Government of India has taken has been straight and above board and inevitable in the circumstances. Our going there at the end of October was thrust upon us by the course of events. Not to have rushed to the rescue of the people of Kashmir when they were in dire peril would have been an eternal disgrace, a gross betrayal and a deep injury. We feel deeply about this matter and it is not merely a question of political advantage or disadvantage. It has been and is a moral issue with us apart from other aspects of the case, and because of this at every stage and at every step I consulted Mahatma Gandhi and had his approval. In the confusion of a welter of charges and exaggerated statements, the basic facts are apt to be forgotten. I should like to know from anyone who studies our record in Kashmir since that fateful day when the raiders swooped down at Muzaffarabad and started their career of rapine and arson, I should like to know that major step we took that was morally or otherwise wrong.

The role of the Indian Army in this conflict, which I repeat was not our seeking, has been conspicuous for its discipline, impartiality, endurance and gallantry. They have extended their protection to every section of the people of the State.

To suggest that they should be withdrawn before complete order is restored is to suggest something which is neither practicable nor reasonable and which is further a reflection on the exemplary record of our forces in Kashmir. We are in Kashmir and our forces are there because legally we are on unassailable ground. But even apart from law the moral case of the Indian Union in Kashmir is equally unassailable. If we had not gone there and if our armed forces had not been rushed at great peril into Kashmir, that lovely country would now have been sacked, destroyed and ruined and its men and women who have been noted for ages past for their intelligence and their cultural traditions would have been crushed under the heel of a barbarian invader. No Government in India could tolerate such happening so long as it had the strength to resist it with all its might and if such a fate befell Kashmir what freedom or security would we have in the rest of India?

We have only two objectives in Jammu and Kashmir State; to ensure the freedom and the progress of the people there, and to prevent anything happening that might endanger the security of India. We have nothing else to gain from Kashmir, though Kashmir may profit much by our assistance. If these two objectives are assured to us we are content.

### Reference to Security Council

Our making a reference on this issue to the Security Council of the United Nations was an act of faith because we believe in the progressive realisation of world order and a world government. In spite of many shocks we have adhered to the ideals represented by the United Nations and its Charter. But those very ideals teach us also certain duties and responsibilities to our own people and those who put their trust in us. To betray these people would be to betray the basic ideals for which the United Nations stands or should stand. Even at the moment of accession we went out of our way to make a unilateral declaration that we would abide by the will of the people of Kashmir as declared in a plebi-scite or referendum. We insisted further that the Government of Kashmir must immediately become a popular government. We have adhered to that position throughout and we are prepared to have a plebiscite, with every protection for fair voting and to abide by the decision of the people of Kashmir.

Our delegation has gone back to Lake Success after full discussions with us. They have gone back with a clear appreciation of the position of the Government of India and of Indian opinion and fortified with the knowledge that they have our full support. I should like to express my gratitude to Shri Gopala-swami Ayyangar and his colleagues for the ability and firmness with which they presented our case before the Security Council. Sheikh Abdullah has not gone back because his work lies with his people at this grave juncture. He has to assume a heavier responsibility. I feel confident that he will discharge this new responsibility with that strength and vision which have endeared him to Muslim. Hindus and Sikhs in Kashmir. His place in the delegation has been taken by Shri Girija Shankar bajpai, Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Aflairs, who has been a tower of strength to me during these difficult months.

## **Military Situation**

I shall not say much about the military situation in Jammu and Kashmir. We have had our moments of anxiety but at no time have I had any doubt about our capacity to meet the enemy and defeat him. Our officers and men are in high spirit, ready to meet any challenge. We have good reason to be proud of our officers and men both of the Army and the Air Force. In particular, I should like to pay a tribute to Brigadier Usman, whose leadership and success have been in keeping with the highest traditions of India's army.

The representative of Pakistan before the Security Council has brought in nony charges against us which have little bearing on the Kashmir issue. He has talked of what he called our aggression in Junagadh and, genocide and of much else. I do not wish to take up the time of the House in dealing with these matters. We wish to conceal nothing and if the Securi y Council desires any investigation we shall welcome it.

Now I should like to inform the House that today the Maharaja of Kashmir is issuing a proclamation and I shall briefly place the contents of that proclamation before the House or I might as well read the whole proclamation.

[Proclamation on Page 349]

1 am placing this Proclamation on the table of the House.

I should like to congratulate His-Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir on this decision that he has taken. But the burden now lies on Sheikh Abdullah and his colleagues and the people of Kashmir. I have no doubt as to how they will discharge their burden, because they are not newceners and we have seen them functioning in the face of all manner of difficulties curing the last few months. So I lock forward with a certain measure of assurance to the future o Kashmir in spite of all difficulties.

I am, Sir, also placing a copy of the white Paper on the table of the House.

[White Paper on Fages 350-392]





Some prisoners captured during Kashmir operations

# POPULAR INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN KASHMIR

# Maharaja's Proclamation

THE following proclamation was issued by His Highness Maharaja Hari Singh Indar Mahindar Bahadur of Jammu and Kashmir on March 5, 1948.

In accordance with the traditions of my dynasty I have, from time to time, provided for increasing association of my people with the administration of the State with the object of realising the goal of full responsible government at as early a date as possible and in pursuance of that object have, by the Jaminu and Kashmir Constitution Act of 1996 (XIV of 1996) established a constitutional government with a Council of Ministers, a Legislature with a majority of elected members and an Independent Judiciary;

I have noted with gratification and pride the progress so far made and the legitimate desire of my people for the immediate establishment of a fully democratic constitution based on adult franchise with a hereditary Ruler from my dynasty as the constitutional head of an Executive responsible to the Legislature:

I have already appointed the popular leader of my people, Sheikh Mohammad

Abdullah, as the Head of the Emergency Administration;

It is now my desire to replace the Emergency Administration by a popular Interim Government and to provide for its powers, duties and functions, pending the framing of a fully democratic Constitution;

- I Faccordingly HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:
- 1. My Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister and such other Ministers as may be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. I have by Royal Warrant appointed Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as the Prime Minister with effect from the 1st day of March 1948.
- 2. The Prime Minister and other Ministers shall function as a Cabinet and act on the principle of joint responsibility. A Dewan appointed by me shall also be a member of the Cabinet.
- 3. I take this opportunity of giving once again a solemn assurance that all sections of my people will have oppor-

tunities of service, both civil and military, solely on the basis of their merits and irrespective of creed or community.

- 4. My Council of Ministers shall take appropriate steps, as soon as restoration of normal conditions has been completed, to convene a National Assembly based upon Adult suffrage, having due regard to the principle that the number of representatives from each voting area should, as far as practicable, be proportionate to the poulation of that area.
- 5. The Constitution to be framed by the National Assembly shall provide adequate safeguards for the minorities and contain appropriate provisions guaranteeing freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly;
- 6. The National Assembly shall, as soon as the work of framing the new constitution is completed, submit it through the Council of Ministers for my acceptance;
- 7. In conclusion I repeat the hope that the formation of a popular Interim Government and the inauguration, in the near future, of a fully democratic Constitution will ensure the contentment, happiness and the moral and material advancement of my beloved people.

# FACTUL INFORMATION ON KASHMIR CASE

# Government of India Issue White Paper with military pressure in the form of border raids. Conditions in the State

N March 5, the Government of India released a White Paper on Kashmir setting out the facts relating to the Kashmir dispute with the relevant documents. The White Paper was divided into four Parts containing material on (i) the events leading up to the accession of the Jammu and Kashmir State to India, (ii) the invasion of the State by raiders from Pakistan, (iii) Pakistan's complicity in the invasion, and (iv) India's objectives.

Each Part consists of a brief narrative and the texts of connected documents.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is situated in the extreme north of the Indian sub-continent covering an area of 84,471 square miles, and is the largest of the Indian States. It consists of three Provinces—the Frontier District, Kashmir Province, and Jammu Province which includes the Jagirs of Poonch and Chenani. To the north-east it is bordered by Tibet, to the north by Chinese Turkestan (Sinkiang) and to the north-west by the Soviet Republic of Turkestan and Alghanistan. To the West it borders Pakistan and to the South, Pakistan and India.

The country is almost entirely mountainous, and it may be geographically divided into three areas; Tibetan and semi-Tibetan tracts in the north, containing the districts of Ladakh and Gilgit; the middle region of the "Happy Valley" of Kashmir; and the large level areas of Jammu in the south. These three regions are divided from each other by the snow-bound outer Himalayan ranges.

Srinagar is the summer, and Jammu, the winter capital of the State. The Jhelum Valley road connects Srinagar with Pakistan via Rawalpindi and Abbottabad. The Banihal Rad, provides a link between Srinagar and Jammu over the Banihal Pass. From Jammu one road leads to Sialkot in the Pakistan Province of the West Punjab, and another to Pathankot in the East Punjab (India).

#### Total Population

According to the census of 1941, the total population of the State was 4,021,616. This was made up of Muslims 77.11 per cent; Hindus 20.12 per cent; Sikhs, Buddhists and others 2.77 per cent. The majority of the Hindus are found in Jaminu district and Srinagar city also has a fairly large Hindu population.

The present dynasty, represented by Maharaja Sir Hari Singh, has ruled the Jammu and Kashmir State, as at present constituted, for just over a hundred years, by virtue of the Treaty of Amritsar of 1846, concluded by Raja Gulab Singh with the British. At that time Gulab Singh held Jammu, Ladakh and Baluchistan; while Kashmir and Gilgit were

under the Sikh rulers of Lahore. With the defeat of the Sikhs in the Punjab by British forces, the Kashmir and Gilgit territories held by them were transforred to the present dynasty. According to the Imperial Gazetteer "The general and practical result, therefore, of the Treaty of Amritsar was to confirm Gulab Singh in what he already cossessed, and to transfer to him the Province of Kashmir with its newl acquired authority over Gilgit".

The text of the White Paper is published in the following pages.

# EVENTS LEADING UP TO ACCESSION

JAMMU and Kashmir, until August 15, 1947, was an autonomous State in treaty relations with, and subject to the Paramountey of, the Crown of England. Like other Indian States, it had, however, no international existence. On that date, the Indian Independence Act came into force, and the new Dominions of India and Pakistan came into being. The Indian States became free to decide whether they would accede to one or the other of the two Dominions.

The position of the Indian States on the transfer of power was made clear in His Majesty's Government's Declaration of June 3rd, 1947, supplemented by the Statement issued by the British Cabinet Mission on May 16th, 1946.

A large number of States acceded to the Dominion of India, and copies of the Instrument of Accession, as well as of the Standstill Agreement governing the administrative arrangements between the States and the Government of India until the new Constitution should come into force in India, are appended.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir announced its intention of negotiating Standstill Agreement with both India and Pakistan. In fact, however, the State signed a Standstill Agreement only with Pakistan and entered into no agreement with the Government of India, prior to its accession on October 26th, 1947.

### Standstill Agreement

The object of the Standstill Agreement was to provide for the continuance of economic and administrative relations between the State and Pakistan on the same basis as had existed before the creation of the new Dominions. Nevertheless, in an effort to coerce the State into accession to Pakistan, the Pakistan authorities cut off supplies to Kashmir of food, petrol and other essential commodities, and hindered the free transit of travellers between Kashmir and Pakistan. Economic pressure was thus applied simultaneously

with military pressure in the form of border raids. Conditions in the State were made more difficult by the communal disturbances which broke out in the two Punjabs after the announcement of the partition. There was a arge influx of refugees into the Southern districts of the State, and the State became a channel for the passage of Muslim refugees moving from Fast Punjab to West Punjab and for non-Muslims moving in the opposite direction.

#### Preliminaries to Invasion

Preliminaries to the invasion of Kashmir and Jammu, which finally decided the Maharaja and his people to accede to the Indian Dominion Dominion, began soon after the partition on August 15th. On the 29th of August, 1947, the Maharaja of Kashmir received a telegram from one Raja Yaqub Khan on behalf of the public of Hazara, alleging attacks on Muslims in Poonch, and informing him that the Hazara Muslims were "much perturbed", The telegram continued, "We are ready to enter the State fully equipped to fight with your Forces. You are requested to ease the situation soon, otherwise be ready to bear the consequences". Throughout the month of September, reports of infiltration into the State territory from the border districts of Pakistan continued to come m. The State Government made representations to the authorities of these districts. The representations brought denials, but no

On the 31st of August 1947, Major-General Scott, General Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir State Forces, submitted a report regarding the situa-tion in the State. About Poonch he " Damaged said, communications. Telegraph and wireless under repair. Hostile casualties 20 to 50". He continued, "Army action to be confined to maintaining order and arresting persons known or suspected of rioting, looting, murder or inciting. No reason to think that troops had acted otherwise". He also reported, "situation in Hazara and Rawalpindi areas very unsatisfactory. There is little doubt that the recent disturbances in Bagh Tehsil were led by armed gangs from Pakistan. Exaggerated reports of events in Poonch circulated in these Pakistan districts in which State troops are cited as the aggressors. Possibility, even probability, of further intervention in much greater force must be provided against. On the 4th of September, Major-General Scott reported that "500 hostile tribesmen wearing green and Khaki uniforms. and leather and web equipment" were seen. A protest in the following terms was made direct to the Pakistan Army and to General O. de T. Lovett, Officer Commanding, 7th Infantry Division. "Gangs sattis armed estimated 200 to 300 from Tehsils Kahuta and Murree (both in Paksitan) raiding State territory for loot, murder, and crossing Jhelum river in area Panjar and seven miles north and south of Owen Ferry. Please take immediate action to prevent and

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# ATTACK FROM TWO SIDES

recall". On the 12th of September, Major-General Scott reported that "quiet and confidence was being restored n Poonch Jagir". However, early in October activities by armed men in uniform in various districts of Poonch were again reported. On the 4th of October, raiders armed with Tommy guns were reported in the Chirala area and more raiders were seen passing to the Jhelum river. Fighting was also reported between the raiders and State forces from Bagh in the Rawalkot area.

Similar activity was observed in Mirpur. Fort Owen was besieged and was evacuated by State troops on the 15th of October. Four to five thousand raiders in green uniform were observed. On the 18th October, the Kotli-Poonch road was breached and heavy fighting took place. From Bhimbhar, large-scale offensive preparation across the border n Pakistan, including movement of lorries, was seen. On the 20th of October, the Wazir of Mirpur sent a message that armed men were gathering opposite Chechiam and Mangla. On the 22nd, he reported that raids on Owen were being methodically carried out. On the 23rd of October, heavy fighting was reported from Kotli which had by now, been completely cut off from Poonch by road blocks put up by the "raiders".

## Request for Military Aid

On the 24th of October, 1947, the Government of India received the first request for military aid from the Government of the Jammu and Kashmir State. At that time the Government of India had no agreement, military or political, with the State. A document signed by the British Chiefs of Staff of the Indian Armed Forces states that on the 24th of October information of the capture of Muzaffarabad was received by the Commander-in-Chief in India. No plans for sending troops to Kashmir had up to that time been considered by the Indian Army. On the 25th the Government of India directed the preparation of plans for sending troops to Kas mir by air and road. Inci n treeps were sent to Kashmir by air on the 27th, following the signing of the Instrument of Accession on the previous night.

The accession was legally made by the Maharaja of Kashmir, and this step was taken on the advice of Sheikh Abdullah, leader of the All-Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, the political party commanding the widest popular support in the State. Nevertheless, in accepting the accession, the Government of India made it clear that they would regard it as purely provisional until such time as the will of the people of the State could be ascertained.

## DOCUMENTS--Part I

(1)

Karachi, December 7th.—Major Khurshid An er the 42 year old Naib Salar-e-Aula, Musiin League National Guards, who led the Frontier tribesmen in the attack on Srinagar, in an exclusive interview to Dawn on Saturday gave a

graphic description of how the attack was conducted and the reasons for the withdrawal of the tribesmen from Srinagar.

Major Khurshid Anver was very bitter against the Pakistan Government for not having rendered any assistance to the tribesmen in their heroic bid to capture Srinagar

He was of the opinion that given the necessary arms and ammunition, the tribesmen would sweep the whole State within a few days.

Major Anver said he was organizing the tribesmen and that he hoped to have a standing army of 200.0 0 within a period of six months.

### Plan for Attack

Giving a resume of the Kashmir campaign, Major Anver said that the attack on Kashmir was originally planned from two sides—one from the regions adjoining Kashmir State in the tribal belt\* and the other from the Pakistan border, While the frontier tribesmen's attack materialized the other one did not, owing to various obstructions placed by the Pakistan Government in the way of of the attackers.

The "D" day was actually fixed for October 21st, but the attack could not be launched till the next day. The disposition of the 4,000 men at the disposal of Major Anver was arranged by him in the following manner:—

From Garhi Habibullah one detachment of 500 men and another of 450 men were moved in parallel columns towards Garhi, a place east of Domel and Bhatika respectively. The main column of 2,000 men moved with Major Anver on the road to Muzaffarabad. Three detachments of 200 men each were deputed to attack from the Western side, after crossing the river Jhelum on the northern side of the Kohala bridge. The remaining few hundreds were to cross the river on the southern side of the Kohala bridge and contact the three detachments attacking from the West. The main column met with slight opposition at Ramkot on the road to Muzaffarabad.

#### At Muzaffarabad

The first stiff opposition they met was at Muzaffarabad where there was a full batallion of Dogra troops stationed between Muzaffarabad and Domel. The bridge between Muzaffarabad and Domel was an important link, which if blown up would have been the end of the offensive. The tribesmen cleverly captured the bridge and then set up a picket on the Muzaffarabad side of the bridge from where they attacked the Domel garrison with gunfire.

After a daylong fight they captured Domel on the evening of October 23rd. Some of the Kashmir State troops escaped up the hills. The next two days witnessed the fall of Garhi, a place

\* (Also in Pakistan),

about 25 miles south-east of Domel, and Chinari another 25 miles down the road to Srinagar.

On November 26, the main column had moved up from Chinari towards Uri. It was at Uri that they encountered the first Sikh Regiment of Patiala State. The tribesmen routed these Sikh soldiers also, who on their retreat blew up the bridge controlling the roads to Poonch as well as Srinagar. The next two days were spent in diversion from the bridge towards Mahoors, where there was a big power house.

It was at Mahoora that the Daily Express correspondent, Sydny Smith, and another Englishman were captured by the tribesmen. Major Anver arranged for them a safe return to Abbottabad. Major Anver had been leaving behind some of his men at the various places to held the conquered positions.

The detachments which he had sent got stuck up near Garhi and could not contact the main column. The result was that the main column was being depleted everyday.

### Attack on Pattan

It was with a few hundred veterans that the attack on Pattan was made on October 31st. Here they encountered air bombing by Indian Union planes and machine-gunning by fighters. The tribesmen lost heavily in transport vehicles and ammunition. Pattan was, however, captured, but it was considered absolutely impossible to proceed on the straight road to Srinagar.

Leaving behind Major Aslam Pattan, Major Anver with a small force of 250 men took a circuitous route to Srinagar via Achhgam. He had to leave behind 230 men on the way and with only 20 men he reached Achhgam, a village about a mile from Srinager airfield and about six miles from the city. At Achhgam, there were three batt lions of the Kumaon Regiment and Major Anver and his men, acting on the principle "discretion is the better part of valour", hid themselves in the adjoining fields. The Indian Union troops had got scent of their presence and they arranged six pickets on the top of the hill overlooking Achhgam and Birgaum, another adjoining village. The valiant 20 managed to adjoining get into a double-storeyed house Birgaum. Six were deputed to shoot at those maning the machine-guns on the top of the hill, the moment any gunner showed up. A party of 11 men with Major Anver went up the hill during the dark hours of the night and threw hand-grenades on the pickets blowing up three of the pickets.

Flushed with this unexpected victory, the Major now thought of an immediate dash to the airfield. But his forces at Pattan having failed to come up, he thought it would be dangerous to stay long in Birgaum as the enemy could at any moment return with reinforcements from the airfield. So Major Anver returned to Pattan only to find that it was in the hands of the enemy and that his forces had withdrawn.

# ENEMY CUT OFF FROM URI

He went to Baramula, got reinforcements and re-attacked Pattan and recaptured it on November 5th. By this time he had about 2,000 men again under his command. On November 5th and 6th there were indecisive skirmishes on the outskirts of Srinagar. But, in the meantime armoured car units of the Indian Union had arrived and air offensive was launched in full strength. The tribes.nen suffered casualties and they could not even pick up their dead. The Mountain Battery of of the Indian Union had reached Srinagar and the tribesmen had to retreat. As the stretch of territory from Baramula to Pattan was open country, they withdrew to Uri destroying a bridge near Rampur, thus cutting off the enemy from Uri. Baramula was now the operational base of the State and Indian Union Forces.

It was on November 10th that Major Anver was hit in the calf by a splinter from a bomb dropped by the Indian bombers. While his driver was saved his orderly, who was also in the same vehicle, died. He was later removed to Abbottabad for an operation and Colonel Akbar took over the command.

Thereafter, the Major said with a heavy sigh, a new chapter started. All the tribesmen were withdrawn. Some tribesmen returned home while others were still engaged in fighting on the Poonch front.

## MAJOR GEN. SCOTT'S REPORT

Copy of a report submitted by the Chief of the Staff, Jammu and Kashmir State Forces, Major-General Scott, on 4th September 1947, to the Deputy Prime Minister of the State.

Reliable reports state that on the 2nd and 3rd September 1947 a band of up to 400 armed Sattis—Muslim residents mainly in Kahuta Tehsil of Rawa!pind. District—were infiltrating into the State over the river Jhelum from Pakistan in the area of Owen (map reference sheet 43/G/10-649508) eleven miles cust of Kahuta. Their purpose is looting and attacking minority communities in the State.

Could the Government of Paikstan be asked by urgent telegram to take action to force return of these raiders to the west bank Jhelum river and to prevent further incursions into the State from the Rawalpindi and Hazara Districts.

(3)

## SATTI'S INFILTRATION

Telegram, dated 4th Septs nber 1947, sent b the Prime Minister, Kashmir, to Prime Minister, West Punjab, Lahore.

Nearly 400 armed Sattis Muslim residents mainly of Kahuta Tehsil, Rawalpind: District, reliably reported infiltrat-

ing fully armed into the State over river Jhelum eleven miles east of Kahuta.

Ostentatiously their purpose is to loot and attack minority communities in the State. His Highness' Government consider this encroachment highly detrimental to maintenance of peaceful relations unless prompt action is taken to force these people back and to pevent fu ther encroachments of the nature. His Highness' Government think that these people are probably unaware of the equal treatment being accorded to all State subjects and of actual help, protection and guarantee of safe passage through the State being extended at the moment to countless Muslim refugees coming over from Shakargarh on their way to West Punjab. Grateful if the above is also brough home to the people of the tract to which intruders belong. Immediate action essential. Intimation of action taken may kindly be given.

A copy of the above telegram was also repeated to the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.

(4)

## DENIAL OF INFILTRATION

Telegram, da'ed 6th September 1947, from the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, to the Prime Minister, Srinagar.

Reference your telegram concerning infiltration of armed persons into your territory from Rawalpindi District. I have personally visited Kahuta and have made enquiries from officials of Gujarkhan Tehsil. Your information completely wrong. No infiltration has been seen by any of my officers or village officials anywhere at various points. I do not expect any trouble of any kind. I shall be glad to take action if you are able to furnish anything specific at any time.

(5)

## SECRET MOVEMENT

Telegram, dated 9th September 1947, from the Prime Minister, Kashmir to the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.

Your telegram of 6th Grateful for prompt reply and assurance given. Hope you would agree infiltration is effected more by secret movement the openly and people concerned could only be detected in the territory in which they have infiltrated for operation by officers specially deputed to find them out. Information given to you was based on the observation of responsible military officers.

(6)

## STANDSTILL AGREEMENTS

Jammu, September 23rd—The Government of Jammu and Kashmir in a communique says that the report published in a section of the Press that Kashmir State had decided to join the Indian Union is "unauthentic".

The communique adds: "The position conveyed in a Press Communique issued on August 12th that standstill agreements with both Dominion: will be entered into holds good.".—A. P. I.

(7)

## QUESTION OF SUPPLIES

Copy of a Telegram, dated 2nd October 1947, from Foreign Minister, Karachi, to the Prime Minister, Srinagar.

We are willing to do everything we can and are indeed taking steps to see that Kashmir is supplied with essential commodities of which it is in need. It must however be appreciated that certain difficulties stand in our way. Drivers of lorries are for instance, reluctant to carry supplies between Rawalpindi and Kohala and it is impossible for us to spare troops for this escort. The Government of Pakistan are seriously concerned about reports reaching them to the effect that armed Sikhs are infiltrating into Kashmir State. We would once again impress upon you the need for representatives of Governments of Pakistan and Kashmir to meet and consider the question of supplies, the infiltration of these armed Sikhs, and other outstanding questions, we leave it to you to suggest the venue of this meeting.

(8)

## NO SIKH INFILTRATION

Telegram, dated 3rd October 1947, from the Minister, External Affairs, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar. to Foreign Karachi.

Your telegram. Grateful for information supplied. Hope you would agree that guarantee to let commodities come in undisturbed will really mean nothing if not accompanied by measures to enable goods to get through. Visitors anxious to return to their homes in the plains suffering mostly for want of petrol. Military escort for taking European families now here could have escorted petrol supply if local authorities had so desired. Government emphatically contradicts news of Sikhs infiltering in Kashmir State. As already intimated armed people from Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Sialkot raiding State territory. Hundreds of armed people from Murree Hills are operating in Poonch. Government shall be grateful if this effectively put a stop to immediately. Government considers essential that its complaints be removed at once while being equally willing as Pakistan to settle outstanding problems at the earliest.

(9)

## DETAILS OF SUPPLIES WITH-HELD

- (1) Rice—April-May, July- August quota total price...Rs. 6,01,000. Only out of April quota 400 tons received. Rest withheld.
- (2) Supplies for Gram withheld as also 17,000 maunds wheat, two months' quota,

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# DISCONTINUANCE OF SUPPLIES BY PAKISTAN

- (3) Cloth -189 bales lying at Rawalpindi not allowed to be brought in.
- (4) Salt—ten wagons at Rawalpindi not allowed. Some of these goods were stopped at the Octroi Post.
- (5) Petrol one tanker returned from the Customs Post, Kohala. Almost entire quota of 384,100 gallons withheld.

(Facts supplied by Jammu and Kashmir State Government).

(10)

### MAJOR SHAH'S DEPUTATION

Copy of a Telegram, dated 6th October 1947, from Foreign, Karachi, to Prime Minister, S inagar.

Reference correspondence resting with your telegram No. 73/C.C. of 3rd October, we are sending Major Shah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Srinagar, immediately to discuss the whole question with a view to arriving at satisfactory solution. Major Shah leaving for Lahore by air on Wednesday.

(11)

Telegram 78/C.C., dated 8th October 1947, from the Prime Minister, Srinagar, to (1) Foreign, Pakistan, Camp Lahore, and (2) Major Shah, Under Secretary, Pakistan, Care Premier, Lahore.

Grateful for telegram, dated 6th October, intimating Major Shah's deputation. Kindly refer to the concluding portion of my telegram of 3rd to which yours is a reply. Government extremely busy in dealing with disturbances caused by armed people infiltering unchecked from Pakistan Dominion portion of Hazara and Murree into Poonch. Shall gladly discuss matters when this trouble is controlled. Your Government can keep your people in check if so desired. This Government will appreciate if this is done. Telegraphed to Foreign, Pakistan, Camp Lahore, and repeated to Major Shah, Under Secretary, Pakistan, Care Premier, Lahore.

(12)

# PREMIER

Cablegram, dated October, 1947, from the Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, to the Right Hon'ble The Prime Minister, United Kingdom, London (England).

His Highness' Government of Jammu and Kashmir (India) desires to bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government the attitude of the Pakistan Dominion. From the fifteenth August 1947 the Jammu and Kashmir Government intimated to the Pakistan Dominion that pending execution of formal Standstill Agreements the arrangements existing with the British Indian Government may continue. The Pakistan Dominion agreed to this. Under these arrangements amongst other things supplies of petrol, essential

articles of food and generally, commerce, trade and banking facilities were to continue unaltered. Immediately after this consent supplies began to decrease leading eventually to almost a discontinuance of the same. As the requirements decreased, the virulence of the Pakistan controlled press and radio increased, not only giving to the world false and malicious news but even allowing threats of invasion from its own people with a view to coerce the State to decide in favour of joining the Pakistan Dominion.

#### Pakistan's Connivance

To surpass all it is actually conniving at the influx of its armed people into Poonch Jagir area of the State. People all along the border from one end of the common boundary to the other have been licensed and armed with modern weapons under the pretext of general policy which does not appear to have been followed in the case of internal districts of West Punjab. There was still lesser reason for apprehending any danger from Kashmir as the policy of this Government has been to afford protection to the Muslim refugees about 100,000 of whom have been given safe conduct to their new abodes in Pakistan. On the other hand a party of over 200 State subjects sent from Rawalpindi at the request of the State has practically been wiped out and no non-Muslim from the State can pass through Pakistan. Railway service from Sialkot to Jammu has been stopped since August 15 without any reason as there has never been any impediment caused in its running by the people of the State. Whereas Military escorts are made available for several other purposes none is provided for safe transit of petr and other essentials of life. Protests merely elicit promises which are never implemented. As a result of obvious connivance of the Pakistan Government the whole of the border from Gurdaspur side up to Gilgit s threatened with invasion which has actually begun n Poonch. It is requested that the Dominion of Pakistan may be advised to deal fairly with Jammu and Kashmir State and adopt a course of conduct which may be consistent with the good name and prestige of the Commonwealth of which it claims to be a member. As message if sent from Srinagar not likely reach through Pakistan it is being cabled from Delhi.

(13)

### TELEGRAMS TO PAKISTAN

Telegram, dated 18th October, sent to (1) Primier, Pakistan Dominion, Karachi, and (2) His Excellency The Governor-General Pakistan, Karachi.

Ever since August 15 even inspite of agreement to observe Standstill Agreements on matters on which agreements existed on August 14th with British India increasing difficulties have been felt not only with regard to supplies from West Punjab of petrol, oils, food, salt, sugar and cloth. Working of postal system has been most detrimental to people as well as the administration. Saving Bank Accounts refused to be

operated. Postal Certificates not cashed. Cheques by Branches here of West Punjab Banks not honoured even Imperial Bank Branch put hard to meet obligations owing failure of remittances from Lahore currency office. Motor vehicles registered in the State have been held up at Rawalpindi. Railway traffic from Sialkot to Jammu has been discontinued.

### Safe Passage to Muslim Refugees

While the State has afforded safe passage to about one lakh Muslim refugees from Pathankot to Sialkot the Rawalpindi people have murdered and wounded in cold blood over 180 out of party of 220 Kashmiri nationals being conveyed to Kohala at State's request. People armed with modern long-range firearms have infliltered in thousands in Poonch and committed horror on non-Muslims murdering, maining looting them and burning their houses as well as kidnapping women. Instead co-opera-tion asked for through every possible local as well as Provincial authorities and Central authority paper premises made have not been actually followed by more rigorous action than before. Press and Radio of Pakistan appear actually to have been lincensed to pour volumes of fallacious, libellous and false propaganda. Smaller feudatory States have been prompted to threaten even armed interference into the State. Even private people in Pakistan are allowed to wire unbearable threats, without any check by the Pakistan Dominion Post Offices.

## **Unfriendly Acts**

To crown all, the State is being blamed for acts which actually are being com-mitted by Pakistan people. Villages are being raided from Sialkot end in addition to actual infiltration in Poonch. The Government cannot but conclude that all is being done with the knowledge and connivance of local authorities. The Government also trusts that it would be admitted that these acts are extremely unfriendly if not actually bordering on inimical. Finally, the Government wish to make it plain that it is not possible to tolerate this attitude longer without grave consequences to the life, property of the people which it is scarcely bound to defend at all costs. The Government even now hopes that you would personally look into the matter and put a stop to all the iniquities which are being perpetrated. If unfortunately this request is not heeded the Government fully hope that you would agree that it would be justified in asking for friendly assistance and oppose trespass on its funda-mental rights. Telegraphed to His Excellency the Governor-General, Pakistan, and repeated to Premier, Pakistan Dominion.

(14)

# PAKISTAN'S REPLY

Copy of a Telegram, dated 19th October 1947, from Foreign Minister, Karachi, to the Prime Minister, Kashmir and Jammu State, Srinagar.

We are surprised at the contents and tone of your telegram, dated 18th October 1947. Instead of taking immediate and

# PAKISTAN'S ALLEGATIONS

effective action in regard to specific complaints made by us in our telegrams, dated 12th October, you have put forward vague allegations of infiltrating by people of Pakistan into Kashmir and have accused the border people of manufacturing bad relations. We emphatically and categorically deny the allegations and accusations. People travel to and from between Kashmir and Pakistan in the normal course of business but the allegations regarding the free distribution of arms and ammunitions to Pakistan area adjoining the State borders and the territory are incorrect.

On the other hand there is mounting evidence of ruthless oppression of Muslims in Kashmir State and of raids into Pakistan territory by armed Dogra gangs and non-Muslim refugees from the Punjab. The most recent report is that of an attack on Chamna Khurd village by Dogra army personnel where they exchanged fire with the Police killing the Head Constable. Large numbers of armed Sikhs as well as Hindus belonging to the Rashtriya Sevak Sangh have gone to Kashmir with the object of repeating the tactics they followed in East Punjab to kill, terrorise and drive out Muslims. In fact exodus of Muslims from the State has already started. The Pakistan Government must take a most serious view of a state of affairs in which the Muslims in Kashmir are suppressed and forcibly driven out.

#### Intervention by Outside Power

We are astonished to hear your threat to ask for assistance, presumably meaning thereby assistance from an outside power. The only object of this intervention by an outside power secured by you would be to complete the process of suppressing the Muslims to enable you to join the Indian Dominion as coup d'etat against the declared and well-known will of the Mussalmans and others who form 85% of the population of your State. We must earnestly draw your attention to the fact that if this policy is not changed and the preparations and the measures that you are now taking in implementing this policy are not stopped the gravest consequences follow for which you alone will be held responsible.

As regards the alleged action of the West Punjab Government in blocking the passage of petrol. cloth and food and in stoppage of transport we have already informed you that the West Punjab Government have been asked to provide you with all reasonable assistance in these matters. It is entirely wrong to attribute difficulties in transport which have risen owing to circumstances beyond the control of the West Punjab Government to the unfriendly intentions of that Government or to regard it as an act of coercion on your Government in taking a decision about the accession of the State. We have already sent a Special Officer to discuss with you the problems arising in respect of these matters and to settle ways and means of adjusting the difficulties.

Having regard to gravity of the situation we have carefully considered your suggestion to have an impartial enquiry made into the whole affair. We appreciate the suggestion and ask you immediately to nominate your representative on this Enquiry Committee. On hearing from you we shall nominate our representative without delay so that the Committee can proceed at once with a thorough enquiry into the whole matter. In the meantime we hope that every effort will be made on both sides to restore cordial relations between us.

(15)

Telegram, dated 22nd October 1947, from the Minister, External Relations, Srinagar, to Foreign, Karachi.

Your telegram, Kashmir Prime Minister touring area concerned. Your telegram passed on to him for necessary action.

(16)

# QAID-I-AZAM'S TELEGRAM

Telegram, dated 20th October 1947, from Qaid i A-am, Governor-General of Pakistan, Karachi, to His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinayar.

I have received telegram of the 18th October, from your Prime Minister regarding the situation in Kashmir which I regret was released to the Press before it reached me and before I could deal with it.

My Government have already been in communication with your Government and I deplore that your Prime Minister should have resorted to the tone and language adopted in his telegram to me which embodies a threat to seek outside assistance and is almost in the manner of an ultimatum. This is hardly the way for any responsible and friendly Government to handle the situation that has arisen. On 15th October your Prime Minister sent a telegram to my Government making similar allegations in the same offensive manner as have been repeated in his telegram of the 18th October now addressed to me without waiting for the reply to his earlier telegram from my Government. My Government have already replied to that telegram on the 18th October and this reply shows clearly that your Government's wholly one-sided and exparts allegation cannot be supported. Since your Government have released to the Press the telegram addressed to me under reply my Government have no other course left open and have therefore decided to release to the Press their reply referred to above refuting your Government's allegations.

The allegations in the telegram under reply that the standstill agreement has not been observed is entirely wrong. The difficulties that have been felt by your administration have arisen as a result of the widespread disturbances in the East Punjab and the disruption of communications caused thereby particularly by the shortage of coal. These difficulties have been felt acutely by the

West Punjab Government themselves. The difficulties with regard to banking facilities were caused by lack of staff. Threat to enlist outside assistance shows clearly that the real aim of your Government's policy is to seek an opportunity to join the Indian Dominion as a coup de'etat by securing the intervention and assistance of that Dominion. This policy is naturally creating deep resentment and grave apprehension among your subjects 85% of whom are Muslims. The proposals made by my Government for a meeting with your accredited representative is now an urgent necessity. I would also repeat that I endorse the suggestion made in your Prime Minister's telegram of 15th October and accepted by my Government in their reply of 18th October to have an impartial enquiry made into the whole affair.

(17)

Telegram, dated 22nd October 1947, from the Minister, External Relations, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, to Governor-General, Pakistan, Karachi.

Your telegram of twentieth to His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur has been forwarded to him in Camp as he is on tour.

(18)

### SITUATION IN POONCH

Copy of a Telegram, dated 21st October 1947, from Foreign Minister, Pakistan, Karachi, to the Prime Minister, Kashmir and Jammu, Srinagar.

In our telegram, dated 12th October 1947, we drew your attention to the grave situation in Poonch. Reports since received indicate that a reign of terror has been let loose in Poonch and that terrible atrocities are being committed by Dogra troops operating in Poonch area. Large number of refugees are crossing from Kashmir territory into Pakistan and they relate stories of inhuman barbarity. Serious anxiety regarding safety of their families in Poonch area is being felt by Pakistan Military personnel whom it is exceedingly difficult to reassure in absence of any clear reports or assurances from you. Request immediate detailed report of conditions and assurances of security for Muslim life and property.

# ALLEGATIONS DENIED

Telegram, dated 22nd October 1947, from the Minister, External Relations, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, to Foreign, Karachi.

Your telegram regarding Poonch. Facts reverse of what alleged. People from across border Rawalpindi and Hazara District causing trouble which has been extended by them from this morning to Muzaffarabad district of Kashmir Province as well. Pakistan Government can put end to feelings of resentment of Pakistan Army people belonging to this State whose relations in consequence of disturbances created by Pakistan people are displaced and put to inconvenience. Allegations of reign of terror created by Dogras are not related to facts. On other hand

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1948

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# "KASHMIR MUST HOLD BEACONLIGHT"

copies of telegrams from minority communities suffering most at the hands of invaders are reproduced below for information.

Telegram public Poonch begins Hindus and Sikhs in danger of being completely wiped out rebels tifteen miles from city crisis increases every moment ends.

Telegram Hindus Sikhs Poonch begins situation extremely grave four Rajput families numbering thirty-six ruthlessly butchered at Baral near Palamdari fate of thousands of surrounding villages unknown thick clouds of smoke visible refugees in thousands pouring every day villages fifteen miles distant ablaze raiders at gates of city pray arrange immediate aerial survey and despatch sufficient reinforcement and save ends.

(20)

## INFILTRATION FROM HAZARA

Telegram, dated 22nd October 1947, from the Prime Minister, Srinagar, to (1) The Prime Minister, N. W. F. P., Peshawar, and (2) The Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.

People armed with modern weapons reported having intitrated from Hazara along with people from Rawalpindi District into tract between Kishenganga and Frontier Boundary within the State. They have started trouble shooting non-Muslims and burning their houses. They are reported to be still coming in motor vehicles. Shall be grateful if immediate steps taken to stop this infiltration and withdraw people who have already crossed over. Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, telegraphed accordingly.

(21)

# SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S STATE-MENTS

New Delhi, Tuesday.—Speaking at a reception today, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the Kashmir Nationalist Leader, pleaded for time to consider which Dominion the State should join.

"In the meantime", he said, "Our friends could help us to attain our freedom from autocracy".

The Kashmir leader stated that despite the opposition of the League to the popular demand for self-government implicit in the "Quit Kashmir" agitation, the attitude of his party would not be governed by passion. He believed in facing issues unsentimentally and unemotionally and weighing consequences before taking a decision. Only the good of the people of the State would count. He asserted that he would not brook dictation from Pakistan or coercion from India. Their first concern, he repeated, was attainment of self-government, so that the people armed with authority and respo decide for themselves responsibility, could where interests lay. (Statesman, dated 10th October 1947). their

(22)

New Delhi, October 27th." Kashmir is in dire peril, and the first duty of every Kashmiri is to defend his motherland against the intruder", declared Sheikh Abdullah the Kashmir leader, who left for Srinagar today, in a statement.

The "invasion" of Kashmir is meant to coerce and compel the people of Kashmir to act in a particular way, namely, to accede to Pakistan, Sheikh Abdullah says. "Every Kashmiri resents this compulsion on his will." (Times of India, dated 28th October 1947.)

(23)

These are the words of Sheikh Abdullah: "Kashmir to be joint Raj of all communities. Our first demand is complete transfer of power to the people in Kashmir. Representatives of the people in a democratic Kashmir will then decide whether the State should join India or Pakistan.

- "If the forty lakhs of people living in Jammu and Kashmir are bypassed and the State declares its accession to India or Pakistan, I shall raise the banner of revolt and we face a struggle.
- "Of course, we will naturally opt to go to that Dominion where our own demand for freedom receives recognition and support. We cannot desire to join those who say that the people must have no voice in the matter.
- "We shall be out to pieces before we allow alliance between this State and people of this type.
- "At least thirty lakhs of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir State are not going to sacrifice themselves for one Nawab of Bhopal or one Nizam of Hyderabad whose interests the Muslim League is trying to guard by the adoption of an anti-State's peoples policy.
- "I assure the Hindus and the Sikhs that their life and honour will be safe and fully protected so long as I live.
- "In this time of national crisis Kashmir must hold the beaconlight. All round us we see the tragedy of brother killing brother. At this time Kashmir must come forward and raise the banner of Hindu-Muslim unity.
- "In Kashmir we want a people's Government. We want a government which will give equal rights and equal opportunities to all men irrespective of caste and creed. The Kashmir Government will not be the Government of any one community. It will be a joint government of the Hindus, the Sikhs and the Muslims. That is what I am fighting for." (From the People's Age dated 26th October 1947.)

# SRINAGAR REMAINS CALM

London, November 7th—"In spite of the proximity of the raiders and com-

paratively heavy fighting 41 miles West of Srinagar, Srinagar remained calm and business continued as usual. The situation is quite unreal and can only be explained by the fact that the head of the administration, Sheikh Abudllah and his National Conference followers have contrived to instil confidence into the citizens."—"The Times".

(25)

#### **IMMEDIATE PROBLEM**

A statement by Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq, Acting Head of Administration of the Jammu and Kashmir State, in an interview, which appeared in the Press on 10th December 1947.

Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq said, "Before the invasion, the National Conference deputed me to approach the Pakistan Government at the highest level to recognise democratic rights of the Kashmir people for self-determi-nation and abide by the sovereign will of a free people on the question of free association with either of the Dominions. I met Pakistan's Prime Minister and other Ministers, but it was of no use. We see finally put into operation a programme of first enslaving and then securing 'yes' in their favour from an enslaved people." Asked what the immediate problems facing the Kashmir Administration were to-day, Mohammad Sadiq said: "Certainly not referendum but immediate relief to our people. In fact, we are carrying on with atomic speed the two-fold task of rehabilitation of unfortunate victims of Pakistan aggression and the procurement of food and cloth.

"Pakistan propagandists who pretend to show so much concern for their Muslim brethern in Kashmir against Dogra oppression have tried their best to starve them by blockade of all exports and imports for the past five months."

(26)

#### INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT

- 7. CONSEQUENCES OF THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW DOMINION.
  (1) As from the appointed day (August 15th, 1947.)
- (b) the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses, and with it, all treaties and agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and the Rulers of Indian States, all functions exercisable by His Majesty at that date with respect to Indian States, all obligations of His Majesty existing at that date towards Indian States or the rulers thereof, and all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty at that date in or in relation to Indian States by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise;

(c) \* \* \* \* \* \*

Provided that, notwithstanding anything in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this sub-section, effect shall, as nearly as may be, continue to be given to the provisions of any such agreement as is therein referred to which relate to customs, transit and communications, posts and telegraphs, or other like matters



# STATES' ASSURANCE OF CO-OPERATION

until the provisions in question are denounced by the Ruler of the Indian State or person having authority in the tribal areas on the one hand, or by the Dominion or Province or other part thereof concerned on the other hand, or are superseded by subsequent agreements.

(27)

Section 14: Before putting forward our recommendation we turn to deal with the relationship of the Indian States to British India. It is quite clear that with the attainment of independence by British India, whether inside or outside the British Commonwealth, the relationship which has hitherto existed between the Rulers of the States and the British Crown will no longer be possible. Paramountcy can neither be retained by the British Crown nor transferred to the new Government. This fact has been fully recognised by those whom we interviewed from the States. They have at the same time assured us that the States are ready and willing to co-operate in the new development of India. The precise form which their co-operation will take must be a matter for negotiation during the building up of the new constitutional structure, and it by no means follows that it will be identical for all the States. We have not therefore dealt with the States in the same detail as the Provinces of British India in the paragraphs which follow. (British Cabinet Mission Statement of May 16th, 1946.)

(28)

### **MEMORANDUM ON TREATIES**

Memorandum on States' Treaties and Paramountcy presented by Cabinet Delegation to His Highness the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes.

(This is in amplification of paragraph 14 of the Statement issued on May 16th by the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy.)

Prior to the recent statement of the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons an assurance was given to the Princes that there was no intention on the part of the Crown to initiate any change in their relationship with the Crown or the rights guaranteed by their treaties and engagements without their consent. It was at the same time stated that the Princes' consent to any changes which might emerge as a result of negotiations would not unreasonably be withheld. The Chamber of Princes has since confirmed that the Indian States fully share the general desire in the country for the immediate attainment by India of her full stature. His Majesty's Government have now declared that if the Succession Government or Governments in British India desire independence, no obstacle would be placed in their way. The effect of these announcements is that all those concerned with the future of India wish her to attain a position of independence within or without the British Common-wealth. The Delegation have come

here to assist in resolving the difficulties which stand in the way of India fulfilling this wish.

### No Transfer of Paramountcy

- 2. During the interim period, which must elapse before the coming into operation of a new Constitutional structure under which British India will be independent or fully self-governing. paramountcy will remain in operation. But the British Government could not and will not in any circumstances transfer paramountcy to an Indian Government.
- 3. In the meanwhile, the Indian States are in a position to play an important part in the formulation of the new Constitutional structure for India, and His Majesty's Government have been informed by the Indian States that they desire, in their own interests and in the interests of India as a whole, both to make their contribution to the framing of the structure, and to take their due place in it when it is completed. In order to facilitate this they will doubtless strengthen their position by doing everything possible to ensure that their administrations conform to the highest standard. Where adequate standards cannot be achieved within the series of the State they. the existing resources of the State they will no doubt arrange in suitable cases to form or join administrative units large enough to enable them to be fitted into the Constitutional structure. It position of will also strengthen the States during this formulative period if the various Governments which have not already done to take active steps to place themselves in close and constant touch with public opinion in their State by means of representative institutions.

## **During Interim Period**

- 4. During the Interim period it will be necessary for the States to conduct negotiations with British India in regard to the future regulation of matters of common concern, especially in the eco-nomic and financial field. Such negotiations, which will be necessary whether the States desire to participate in the new Indian Constitutional structure or not, will occupy a considerable period of time, and since some of these negotiations may well be incomplete when the new structure comes into being, it will, in order to avoid administrative difficulties, be necessary to arrive at an understanding between the States and those likely to control the Succession Government or Governments that for a period of time the then existing arrangements as to these matters of common concern should continue until the new agreements are completed. In this matter, the British Government and the Crown Representative will lend such assistance as they can, should it be so desired:
- 5. When a new fully self-governing or independent Government or Governments come into being in British India, His Majesty's Government's influence with these Governments will not be such as to enable them to carry out the

obligations of paramountcy. Moreover, they cannot contemplate that British troops would be retained in India for this purpose. Thus, as a logical sequence and in view of the desires expressed to them on behalf of the Indian States, His Majesty's Government will cease to exercise the powers of para-This means that the rights mountcy. of the States which flow from their relationship to the Crown will no longer exist and that all the rights surrendered by the States to the paramount power will r turn to the States. Political arrangements between the States on the one side and the British Crown and British India on the other will thus be brought to an end. The void will have to be filled either by the States entering into a federal relationship with the successor Government or Governments in British India, or failing this, entering into particular arrangements with it or them.

May 22nd, 1946.

(29)

### INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION OF

Whereas the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the fifteenth day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as INDIA, and that the Government of India Act 1935, shall, with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor-General may by order specify be applicable to the Dominion of India;

And whereas the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of India by an Instrument of Accession, executed by the Ruler thereof:

### NOW THEREFORE

- 1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of......hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act").
- 2. I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this State

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# CONTINUANCE OF SOVEREIGNTY

so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession.

- 3. I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.
- 4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the Ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be construed and have effect accordingly.
- 5. The terms of this my Instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by me by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.
- 6. Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorising the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purposes of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire any land, I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or, in default of agreement, determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.
- 7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of India under any such future constitution.
- 8. Nothing in this Instrument affects the continuance of my sover-eignty in and over this State. or, save as provided by or under this Instrument, the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State or the val dity of any law at present in force in this State.
- 9. I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this Instrument to me or to the Ruler of the State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.

I do hereby accept this Instrument of Accession.

Dated this......day of August Ninteen hundred and forty seven.

(Governor-General of India.)

#### **SCHEDULE**

The Matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State,

### A. Defence

- 1. The naval, military and air forces of the Dominion and any other armed force raised or maintained by the Dominion; any armed forces, including forces raised or maintained by an Acceding State, which are attached to, or operating with, any of the armed forces of the Dominion.
- 2. Naval, military and air force works, administration of cantonment areas.
  - 3. Arms, firearms: ammunition.
  - 4. Explosives.

#### B. External Affairs

- 1. External affairs, the implementing of treaties and agreements with other countries, extradition, including the surrender of criminals and accused persons to parts of His Mahesty's dominions outside India.
- 2. Admission into, and emigration and expulsion from India, including in relation thereto the regulation of the movements in India of persons who are not British subjects domiciled in India or subjects of any acceding State; pilgrimages to places beyond India.
  - 3. Naturalisation.

#### C. Communications

- 1. Posts and telegraphs, including telephones, wireless, broadcasting, and other like forms of communications.
- 2. Federal railways; the regulation of all railways other than minor railways in respect of safety, maximum and minimum rates and fares, station and service terminal charges, interchange of traffic and the responsibility of railway administrations as carriers of goods and passengers; the regulation of minor railways in respect of safety and the responsibility of the administrations of such railways as carriers of goods and passengers.
- 3. Maritime shipping and navigation, including shipping and navigation on tidal waters; Admiralty jurisdiction.
  - 4. Port quarantine.
- 5. Major ports, that is to say, the declaration and delimitation of such ports, and the constitution and powers of Port Authorities therein.

- 6. Aircraft and air navigation; the provision of aerodromes, regulation and organisation of air traffic and of aerodromes.
- 7. Lighthouses, including lightships, beacons and other provisions for the safety of shipping and aircraft.
- 8. Carriage of passengers and goods by sea or by air.
- 9. Extension of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the police force belonging to any unit to railway area outside that unit.

#### D. Ancillary

- 1. Elections to the Dominion Legislature, subject to the provisions of the Act and of any Order made thereunder.
- 2. Offences against laws with respect to any of the aforesaid matters.
- 3. Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the aforesaid matters.
- 4. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts with respect to any of the aforesaid matters but, except with the consent of the Ruler of the Acceding State, not so as to conf r any jurisdiction or powers upon any courts other than courts ordinarily exercising jurisdiction in or in relation to that State.

# STANDSTILL (30) AGREEMENT

Standstill Agreement between Dominion and States.

Agreement between the State of....
......And the Dominion of India.

Whereas it is to the benefit and advantage of the Dominion of India as well as of the Indian States that existing agreements and administrative arrangements in the matters of common concern, should continue for the time being, between the Dominion of India or any part thereof and the Indian States—

Now therefore it is agreed between the......State and the Dominion of India that:—

- 1. (1) Until new agreements in this behalf are made, all agreements and administrative arrangements as to matters of common concern new existing between the Crown and any Indian State shall, in so far as may be appropriate, continue as between the Dominion of Indis or, as the case may be, the part the of, and the State.
- (2) In particular, and without derogation from the generality of sub-clause (1) of this clause the matters referred to above shall include the matters specified in the Schedule to this Agreement.
- 2. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement, or out of the agreements or agreements hereby continued, shall, unless any provision is made therein for arbitration by an authority offer than the Governor General or Governor, be settled by arbitration according, as far



as may be, to the precedure of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1899.

3. Nothing in this Agreement includes the exercise of any paramountry functions.

.....State

Secretary to the Government of India.

### **SCHEDULE**

- 1. Air Communications.
- 2. Arms and equipment.
- 3. Control of commodities.
- 4. Currency and coinage.
- 5. Customs.
- 6. Indian States Forces.
- 7. External Affairs.
- 8. Extradition.
- 9. Import and Export Control.
- 10. Irrigation and Electric Power.
- 11. Motor vehicles.
- 12. National Highways.
- 13. Opium.
- 14. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones.
- 15. Railways (including police and other arrangements in Railway lands).
  - 16. Salt.
- 17. Central Excises, relief from double income-tax and other arrangements relating to taxation.
  - 18. Wireless.

# VILLAGES BURNT AND LOOTED

List of villages of Jammu and Kashmir State up to Manawar on border burnt and looted by raiders up to 24bth October 1947.

### Map Sheet 43/P/7. 43/L/15.

Chak Kahhan.
Kunda Chak.
Lacchanpura.
Mandala.
Nao Chak.
Rathua Thogli.
Manhiyari.
Kadyala.
Gujar Chak.
Debu Chak.
Tawabar Chak.
Desa Chak.
Changi.
Gaiyo Chak.
Chak Bhagwana.

Nanga. Chhaoni. Bammu Chak. Samdu Chak. Chak Jassa. Dohali. Kotha. Govind Garh. Ram Garh. Chak Nazir. Kotli Mulkhalian. Sajwan. Chak Dontal. Gudwal. Rari. Shamyadapur.

43/L/10

43/P/3.

Waddi Sei. Chakori. Ghareus. Punj Garrain. Bobiya. Sherpur.

# SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S

SHEIKH Mohammad Abdullah,
Prime Minister of Ksahmir. praised
the Royal Indian Air Force for
the notable part it played in saving
Kashmir, in its hour of grave danger.

Addressing officers and men of the R. L. A. F. in Delhi on March 6, he said that but for the R. I. A. F. the course of events in Kashmir would have been entirely different.

Tracing the history of the movement for responsible government in the state, he referred to the attempts repeatedly made in the past by the leaders of the Muslim League, to persuade the Kashmir National Conference to accept Mr. Jinnah's two-nation theory based on religion. The present clash in Kashmir was one of ideologies, those of Gandhiji and those of Mr. Jinnah. The people of Kashmir were solidly behind Gandhiji's ideologies. Religion was never a source of unity and the raiders now in Kashmir in their lust for their loot spared neither Hindu nor Sikh nor Muslim. Pakistan, he said, will eventually find that by encouraging the raiders, she had let loose a demon, which, would devour Pakistan itself.

## In Security Council

Speaking of the reference of the Kashmir issue to the Security Council, he was not surprised that India's case was not easily understood. This was the result of the propaganda carried on against India for over a century, that Hindus and Muslims could never live in peace and amity. He was therefore, not surprised at the development in the Security Council. He was, however, confident that the case of Kashmir which was now a part of India, would be appreciated by the United Nations.

Gulab Garh.
Phlora.
Satawali.
Bak rpur.
Badolian.
Kotli Qannogoyan.
Khat Marrjan.
Asu Chak.
Bhikharwan.

Chak Sada.
Muthai Jatiaru.
Mangu Chak.
Desah Chak.
Chhechwal.
Regal.
Mudwal.
Bholera.
Harkha.
Batar.
Bain Glar.

43/L/5.

43/L/10.

Manawar and surrounding villages (severe casulaties).

Sangilal.

Chanor (heavy casualties)
Trangot.
Gokhrial.
Golpatah.
Subagani.
Chakrali.
Thuli.
Mukwal.

43/L/9.

Nikowal. Jamana Bela.

# TRIBUTE TO RIAF



Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah

The ideology for which Gandhiji tood and gave up his life, namely, a secular democratic state was what the people of Kashmir were striving for and he appealed to the men of the armed forces and all men of India to help them in this great task.

Group Captain R. H. D. Singh, who presided, thanked the Prime Minister of Kashmir, and paid him high tribute for the great service he was rendering to the country by welding people of all communities together.

Dajwal. Chak Phagwari. Rajpura. Malpur. Tagawal.

43/L/14.

Khoja Chak. (2nd raid night 14/ Chak Grain. 15th October). K tli. Chhattaka Chak.

Ala (severe casualties). Kotha (severe casualties). Joian.

Kotla. K rial. Pindi. Panjgrain. B aspur Parla (severe casualties). Kalyana.

Kalyana. Pindi Charkan. Pindi Sarachan.

Tarapur.
Changia.
Chanana.
Tariva.
Molo Chak.
Wakopur.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1948

# THE INVASION: RADIERS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

# Wholesale Massacre, Arson And Loot

began in the third week of October. Major Khurshid Anver, who led the frontier tribesmen in the attack on Srnagar, describes the strategy of this attack. In an interview to the Dawn newspaper (Karachi) reported on December 7th, he said that the attack on Kashmir was originally planned from two sides, one from the regions adjoining Kashmir State and the tribal belt that is on the West, and the other from the border districts to the Southern Pakistan. 'D' day was actually fixed for October 21, but the attack could not be launched till the next day.

Maj. Anver then describes the progress towards Srinagar along the Kohala-Baramula road. The main column made considerable progress on the Kohala-Baramula road, fanning out and devastating the villages and towns on either side. Uri fell to the raiders, and on Oct. 27 or 28 they capatured Baranula, and indulged in an orgy of rape, arson and looting. Women were abducted, and a large number are held in a concentration camp at Alibeg in terrible conditions. Alibeg is in Kashmir State territory and is run by the 'Azad Kashmir Government'. Originally, it had over a thousand Kashmiri women of all religions. Of these only a couple of hundred have survived. The road to Srinagar now lay open before the

## Accession to India

Faced with this threat, the Maharaja of Kashmir approached the Government of India for assistance on the 24th of October. On Oct. 28, the State formally acceled to India. On October 27, the first contingent of Indian airborne troops landed in Srinagar in the morning. However, it is not until reinforcements had arrived that the Indian troops could attack the raiders who had advanced to Pattan, only 17 miles from Srinagar. On Nov. 8, assisted by armoured vehicles and planes of the Royal Indian Air Force, Indian troops recaptured Baramula. They found th town completely ruined. An account of the raiders' activities in Baramula will be found in the Documents appended

Continuing their advance along the difficult road from Baramula to Uri, Indian troops found the Mahoora Power House, which supplied the whole of the Srinagar valley with electricity, efficiently wrecked by the raiders. Indian troops captured Uri on Nov. 15 and removed any serious threat to Srinagar and the surrounding valley. This can be regarded as the end of the first stage of the Kashmir operations.

### Jhanger Stormed

The second task of Indian troops was to free large areas in Jammu Province which had been overrun by the tribesmen. The latter had surrounded the towns of Mirpur, Kotli, Poonch, Jhanger. Nowshehra and Bhimbar. Within the

towns small State garrison were holding out. Winter having set in, Indian troops could advance only slowly on the narrow, fair-weather reads connecting Jammu city with these areas. Nowshehra Jhanger and Kotli were relieved but the Mirpur garrison could not be helped, and finally part of the garrison managed to fight its way out with some of the ivilian refugees.

In the third week of December, over 5,000 raiders stormed Jhanger which was held by about 200 Indian troops. Encouraged by this local success, the raiders attacked Nowshehra in force, but were beaten back. Since then, Indian troops have been clearing the surrounding area of the raiders. They have succeeded in widening their perimeter of operations and are carrying out offensive patrols to clear the countryside of raiders and protect their own lines of communication. Recent operations around Nowshehra have shown that the composition of the attacking force is approximately as follows:—

70 per cent Pathans and Muslims from Dir and Swat States:

20 per cent. deserters from State Forces;

5 per cent. from Poonch and 5 per cent. Sundas.

These figures have been calculated from dead bodies counted by the Indian Army. At present some 86,000 to 88,000 Pathans are engaged in the "Jehad". Of these 73,000 to 75,000 are concentrated in various centres in Pakistan and approximately 13,000 are engaged in Kashmir.

Concentrations of Pathans in Pakistan are reliably understood to be as follows:—

Abbottabad		6,000-8,000
Kohat Pass		10,000
Rawalpındi		5,000
Sargodha		7,500
Gujarkhan	•••	4,000
Jhelum	• •	5,000
Gujerat	• •	10.000
Wazirabad	. •	8,000
Chak Avnru		2,200
Sialkot	• •	3,500
Nırala Head	• •	2,000
Shakergarh	•••	700
Chak Sukho	• •	200
Wagah		200
Lahore	••	3,000
Chak Pundara-	Sahoti	8,000

Approximate Total 73,000-75,000

Indian troops in Kashmir are not, as is believed in some quarters, composed only or mainly of Sikh troops. There are a certain number of them, as the Indian Army includes men from all religions and castes, including Muslims. Among the Indian troops operating in Kashmir are men drawn from the Mahratta, Madrasi, Kumaoni, Mahar, Rajput, Garhwali, Dogra, Jat, Ahir and other regiments. One of our most successful officers in the campaign has been a Muslim, Brig. Osman. Since Indian

troops arrived in Kashmir and Jammu, they have carried out their instructions of promoting and maintaining communal harmony. The Indian Air Force has played a notable part in reconnaissance the supply and transport and in offensive support of our troops.

As had been stated by the Prime Minister of India on numerous occasions, the task of Indian troops is to clear the reiders from, and restore peace to Kashmir, as this is necessary to the holding of a plebiscite or a referendum by the people of Kashmir to decide finally as to which dominion they will accede. Indian troops are continuing to fulfil this task.

# DOCUMENTS—PART II

(1)

"Baramula, India, 10th November. The city had been stripped of its wealth and young women before the tribesmen fled in terror, at midnight Friday, before the advanced Indian Army. Surviving residents estimate that 3,000 of their fellow townsmen, including four Europeans and a retired British Army Officer, known only as Col. Dykes and his pregnant wife were slain. When the raiders rushed into town on 26th October, witnesses said; "One party of Masud tribesmen in mediately scaled the walls of St. Joseph's Francescan Convent compounds, and stormed the Convent Hospital and the little church. Four nuns and Col. Dykes and his wife were shot immediately. The raider's greed triumphed over their blood lust'. A former town official said: 'The raiders forced 350 local Hindus into a house, with the intention of burning it down. The group of 100 raiders is said to be holding another five, as hostages, on a high mountain, barely visible from the town. Today, twenty-four hours after the Indian Army entered Baramula, only 1,000 Army entered Baramula, only 1,000 were left of a normal population of about 14,000 ".

(New York Times, Despatch by Robert Trumbull.)

(2)

# 20 VILLAGES IN FLAMES

"Max Despott, an Associated Press photographer, said today he saw more than twenty villages in flames while flying over a section of Kashmir Valley extending within twenty miles of the capital The villages, in an area of ten miles long and ten miles wide, apparently had been set fire to by the Muslim invaders who are scouring the valley and moving in the direction of Srinagar".

(Chicago Daily Tribune. Despacth of Nov. 3.)

# BARAMULA

Abbottabad, Sunday.—For ten days I have lived in a Baramula hospital ward, 50 feet by 20 with 77 refugees—23 of them children.

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Indian Union troops rush to forward areas immediately after landing at .. rinagar aeradrome

The hospital is attached to St. Joseph's Convent, where tribesmen killed four Europeans, including Col. Douglas Dykes and his wife.

There is a hero among the refugees — Father George Shanks, born in Newcaste on Tyne.

'saw him hiding Sikh and Hindu girls defying loot-mad Pathans to carry out their threats to take all women off to the Bazar.

He raged at tribal chiefs tor using the Convent grounds as headquarters. He rolled up his shirt sleeves and dug air raid shelters,

When the raiders came he stayed stone in a ward with bed-riden, 75-years-old Mrs. Winifred O'sullivan, protecting her with mattresses and joking her fears.

The faces of his nume—they represent seven European countries—never lost their smiles, or showed any trace of wearness as they tended the dying and the wounded, hysterical women, and frightened children.

That is the story Father Shanks would never tell. He describes the attack on the Convent without mentioning his own name. Like this:—

"The tribesmen—great, wild, black beasts they were—came shooting their way down from the hills on both sides of the town. They climbed over the hospital walls from all sides. The first group burst into a ward firing at the patients.

"A 20-years-old Indian nurse, Philomena, tried to protect a Moslem patient whose baby had just been born. She was shot dead first. The patient was next,

"Mother Superior Aldetrude rushed into the ward, knelt over Philomena and was at once attacked and robbed. The Assistant Mother, Teresalina, saw a tribesman point a rifle at Mother Aldetrude and jumped in front of her. A bullet went through Teresalina's heart.

"At that moment Col. Dykes, who had assured us we would not be attacked, raced from his room a tew yards along the terrace to get the Mother Superior out of danger, snouting at the tribesmen as he ran. But the Mother Superior fell shot, and Col. Dykes collapsed beside her, with a bullet in the stomach.

Mrs. Dykes ran from her husband's room to help him, she, too, was shot dead.

While this went on Mr. Gee Boretto, an Anglo-Indian, was killed in the garden before nine nums. Then the nums were lined up before a firing squao.

"As the tribesmen raised their rices a young Africa officer, who once studied in a Convent school at Peshawar, rushed in and stopped them. He had been told his men were raiding a Convent, and had run all the way from the town. That saved all our lives by a few seconds.

"We did not find Mrs. Dykes until the following day. She had been thrown down a well".

A Pakistan Army convoy was sent to rescue us. On the way from Baramula we stopped at the village of Boniyar to seek the staff of the worldwide Evangelistic Crusade Mission.

Pathans had brought in reports that the chief of the Mission, Maj. Ronald Davis, a Welshman, and one of his two English women assistants, had been shot dead. The other assistant was said to have been taken to the hills with seven orphan children

The assistants were 36-year-old Dorothy Brown, of Brighton, and Bessie Southhall, 38, from Lancashire.

Boniyar, which we reached after dark, gave no clue to these Britons. The mission house was abandoned and silent. (Daily Extress, London, Nov. 11, extracts from despatch by Sydney Smith.)

# ATROCITIES COMMITTED

Statement of Mr. Abdul Rahman of Baramula, Regarding the Atrocities that were committed on the Civilians there by the Raiders.)

The raiders with all their ferocity ooted the Hindus to begin with, burnt the houses of the Sikhs and also killed them. As a result of this arson and loot, the Sikhs and the Hindus fled from Baramula leaving their houses burning, and most of their women raped and kidnapped. The raiders did not touch the Muslims to begin with—perhaps they wanted to win their sympathy in this way and wanted to show them that they were their helpers.

After a few days when they found that they were about to be turned out of the Valley, they turned on everybody that came their way. They started wholesale loot arson and orgy. They burnt the property of the hindus, Sikhs and Musims without any discrimination They killed whoever came in their way. They killed children, old men and women and they committed rape on every young woman, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh alke.

The raiders also took all the valuable ornaments of silver and gold, shawls, etc., when they left our town

# MASS MASSACRE

(Statement of Ch. Fair Utlah, En-Wasir) Wazarat of Baramula, Dated 10th November 1947.)

The raiders entered Baramula on the night of 26th Oct. 1947, in groups of 30 to 40 bodies. It is estimated about 5,000 of them wore concentrated in Baramula at one time. They were mostly tribesmen with a few Punjab Muslims, all well-armed and led by Pirs, Pak Army and Frontier Constabulary Officers. They formed their Base H. Q. at Baramula and spread out on the valley in groups North-East and South-East towards Srinagr. The local Muslim Conference men joined with the raiders and acted as guides and helped them to collect rations. From the day the raiders entered Baramula they started killing non-Muslims and localing and burning houses of all local inhabitants, irrespective of religion and raping their women.

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(7)

search the house and carry away valuables, clothes and food. Two hundred and eighty lorries were used to carry away loot taken from Baramula towards Uri. Women were taken away and kept in Masjids, Gurdwaras and temples where they were raped by the raiders.

They got into the St. Joseph's Convent by climbing over the wall, shot the Mother Superior Major and Mrs. Dykes, ransacked that place and the hospital attached to it, and destroyed everything. I heard that the daughter of Begum Shah Nawaz came to Baramula to rescue the nuns. I also met News reporter Mr. Sydney Smith there, who stayed in Sardar Umrao Khan's (retired Police officer) house for 3 or 4 days. He also contacted Maj. Khurshid Anwar, who was head of the Azad Kashmir Government and was also conducting the operations. He left Baramula with Father Shanks, Principal, St. Joseph's College, probably on the 1st Nov. I came to know Sydney Smith through Father Shanks, whom I gave some blankets for the inmates of the Convent.

The raiders left Baramula on the night of 7th Nov. There was not a single house left that was not looted by the raiders. The inhabitants suffered terrible hardships in meeting the demands of the raiders. All Muslims had to to give an oath that they were not protecting non-Muslims or hiding their property. It was a great relief to the local inhabitants when the Indian Army recaptured Baramula.

(6)

### INDIAN TROOPS WELCOMED

London Nov. 1t.— "Indian Progress in Kashmir Baramula A Major Success", is the *Times* Headline of its correspondent's despatch from Srinagar.

All Baramula residents, he says, seem delighted to welcome the Indian troops. He also bears testimony to the fact, that the Convent and hospital were not shot up by the Indian aerial attacks alleged by Pakistan wireless statements.

(Times, London.)

# MOHD. AKRAM KHAN'S STATEMENT

Srinagar, Dec. 12.—"Mohammad Akram Khan Salar-i-Ala of the Muslim National Guards (of Poonch) has resigned from the Muslim National Guards ..... Disassociating himself from these organisations, he says in a statement, I had imagined that my leaders of the Muslim Conference were fighting against autocracy, against oppression of all sorts and for an Azad Kashmir based on Islamic conceptions of justice and equality. But these four months and a half have fully opened my eyes to the reality. Today I am ashamed to own my connections with these organisations. He adds, "I know these organisations and their patrons from Pakistan have brought misfortune to the peaceful freedom-loving people of my homeland. Having seen with my own eyes the devastation in Baramula, I know these traders in Islam are only petty thieves, cut-throats and ruffians

Concluding, he says, "We know the brave fight which our freedom-loving people are putting up under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Pandit Nehru. Their hands we shall strengthen, for thus alone can we get the free India of our dreams. Thus alone shall we build the new Kashmir of peace and plenty". (United Press of India)

# MIRPUR

Extracts from the Statement of Mr. Inder Singh Bali, son of Sardar Tehl Singh, State Jagirdar, and Chief of the Punjab, aged 24 Years; of Mirpur proper.

"On 25th Nov. 1947, our town (Mirpur) was bombarded and what looked like cannon and mortar fire was opened on the town resulting in the complete blowing up of the roofs of the houses and causing lots of casualties among the civilians. The State troops did not put tough fight and the raiders occupied the

town at 2 p.m. and set the entire town on fire. There were about 350 men of the State troops in the town itself and had placed pickets around the town and about 200 men were in the Cantonment. When the position became hopeless the troops in the town decided to surrender and run away and placed themselves in touch with the Officer Commanding in the Cantonment, and with the concerted action of troops both in the town and the Cantonment, the civilians from the town managed to reach the Cantonment".

"Out of our party about 300 girls were forcibly taken away and when we reached Thatala camp we heard from the Hindus that had already reached there that their 500 girls had also been taken away. At Thatala we found that not less than 2,000 Pathans, all with 303 rifles, were present".

"The concentration at Thatala swelled up to about 5,000. Here, again, the Pathans sorted out young girls and carried them away. Thatala is about 15 miles from Jhelum city. Here a number of officers of Pakistan army visited the camp. Among these officers there were one Lieutenant-col., one Captain and a few V. C. Os. and men, in all numbering 50. These officers and men were not wearing Regimental signs. All these officers and men were wearing black caps and from their uniform I could see that they belonged to the Punjab Regiment. We spent two nights at this Camp. Out of the raiders three men who belonged to my town and were very well-known to me took pity on me and managed to deliver me at Jhelum Camp (at the house of L. Avtar Narain) after they had relieved me of all my belongings. I am the only survivor from Mirpur".

U**R**(

Extracts from the translation of a Diary Captured at Uri by 181 BDE. and

Soldiers bring in their supplies and ammunition from the base headquarters





Troops load their kit in motor buses bound for forward are 15

forwarded by H. Q., Delhi, and Eastern Punjab Command Secretariat, February, 1948.

"My name is Aziz Lon Bacha, Lambardar.

1. On Monday the 8th Zul Haj 2004—time afternoon prayers. From the Punjab and from Waziristan military has arrived in Uri Bazar. They first put fire to Tehsil office and Bungalow and then broke the bazar with axes, etc. At least six thousand military men looted the bazar. On 8th Zul Haj no shopkeeper was present. On 7th Zul Haj all the shopkeepers, residents and labourers ran avay leaving all their belongings. The Military, six thousands strong, looted Uri and left not a single article. In the evening the public returned. The loss in Uri Bazar and village is estimated at six lace."

2. Uptil (afternoon) prayer time firing continued. From that day up to 14th Zul Haj nobody was seen in Uri bazar or village and most of the people left in aeroplanes. Only God and six thousand military remained in Uri.

3. In Uri Bazar the military cooked its meals up to 12. At bed time at 12 midnight, one military man set half the bazar on fire and it at once got ablaze and all turned to ashes. Up to 9th Zul Haj mid-day it went on burning. Military went into the neighbouring villages for refuge. People looted the bazar. The Mahraja's military, seeing its precarious position, took to their heels at midnight. On 8th Zul Haj in the evening the Pathans slaughtered cows. They first slaughtered cows, sheep and hens belonging to Hindus, cooked half of the meat and

threw the remaining on the road. On 9th Zul Huj in the morning they caught every cow, ox, goat, sheep and hen and slaughtered them. Cannot say whether they cooked it or not, and ate meat or bread. Believe that about 1,500 cows, etc., were slaughtered.

### Great Danger

On 9th Zul Haj the condition was very bad. Id was not celebrated with joy in Uri. No one was aware whether there was Id on that day or not. There was great danger. The Muslim women slipped away due to the danger. The military looted the houses of both Hindus and Muslims left the houses the public considered they were Hindus. Had they been Muslims why did they run away? All the Hindus ran away, one day before. On Id day 1,500 Hindus were captured and confined in the Uri school with slogan "Narai-Takbir". Beef was given to Sikhs and Hindus to eat. In one day beef was prepared and given to 1,500 Hindus to eat.

On Id-ul-Zuha day at 10 a.m. when the sacrification was being given we and other fellows took a little tea mixed with salt without milk. This was the Id celebrated in Uri. After an hour 10 or 15 military men used to come to the doors for looting, etc. They demanded each and everything, including loaves. We used to give them rosted loaves. If a Mohammadan brought insufficient flour we had to give him loaves. I have seen several stout men but there were none such in Kashmir. Besides, it was very difficult that those people did not listen to others, whether anyone was put to trouble. May God save us from such cruel men.

"A Pathan Military Captain came and stayed in the Dak Bungalow. On

the next day he announced that none should be sent to Punjab except children and old women and men. Only young ladies and boys may be kept and the remaining Sikhs be killed and so in one minute the Sikhs were killed.

#### Hindu Shot Dead

6. I did not see but heard that a Hindu or Sikh was put to death by 13 shots. Up to the last breathing he said "Hindustan" and not "Pakis-tan". The Sikh belonged to Salamabad in Tehsil Uri. Seven Sikhs and Hindus were shot dead. A man's head was wounded with a sword. The bleeding remained for several days. Their wives were captured. There were two young ladies who were married with 2 Pathans and the latter took them. On the 14th Zul Haj 1,000 Hindus were collected. The Sikhs were persuaded to say "Kalma". Their beards were shaved. They were pursuaded to take meals with Mohammadans and to say "Narai-Takbir". They were given beef. The ears of the women were cut off. The Muslim Captain ordered that they might be released now and when they do such evils we are alive! It was at their discretion to accept "Islam" or to remain as Hindus. We had to kill Sikhs first of all.

7. It was not known whether there was any Id or not. On the Kohala road up to Baramula and in the neighbourhood no one was aware of Id. On both sides of the road there were 500 villages. The inhabitants of these villages thought nothing about Id-ul-Zuha, sacrification preparing meals or meeting their relatives but spent the day weeping and crying. For nearly 5 days no one lit a fire in Uri. Some people were in their houses, others were all hidden in the forest, in the hills or in Nullahs.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1948

# PATHANS "SMASHED" IN GREAT NUMBER

If and when any Hindu came out from a Muslim house the Muslim's house was put to fire along with his family members.

"On the 11th Zul Haj the military went to the house of Raja of Nimbal. He gave them a feast. After the meal it came to notice there was a Hindu in the house, though he was not seen. They abused the Raja. Meanwhile the Raja ordered his servant to bring some money from the Treasury.

8. He gave them a gift. They handed over the money to the labourers and the military put the bungalow, etc., to fire and killed that Hindu and smashed the Raja. By this time all the inhabitants of the village were captured and brought to the Uri Bazar School. The military looted all the houses and when all the Hindus were brought out from the village the Muslims were ordered to loot their houses. On the third day when all the property was looted they were sent back to their houses. When they reached their houses they preferred death to life. Fathers were unaware of their children and mothers, of their daughters. Up to what extent should I write what I have seen. Death is better than such life.

On Id day 50 lorries reached Uri. Each forry contained 150 men and they were armed with 303 rifles spears, swords, axes and daggers, etc. By the 10th Zul Haj nearly 300 lorries reached Kashmir and Srinagar. It appeared that it was doom's day. May God save us! Death was better than living. On the 14th Zul Haj a Sikh told the Muslim Captain that he had accepted Islam and so after great conversation that Muslim captain ordered that all his relatives be put to end and that Sikh was saved. On the 10th Zul Haj two Sikhs appeared in front of the office of the Captain as being enmissries. A Pathan enquired from them if they were Hindus or Muslims and they replied "they were Muslims and they replied "travellers". That Pathan travellers". That Pathan became suspicious. He removed their pyjamas. They were found without circumcision. He fired at them. One Sikh was shot dead and the other made good his escape. He was pursued by 12 Pathans and was shot dead near the river

### Water for the Military

All commodities including drinking water were being brought in lorries for the military from Punjab. It was heard that from 10th Zul Haj to 14th Zul Haj several dozens of riflemen were killed by guns and were taken to Punjab in lorries the next day in the dark. From Kotli to Srinagar they succeeded in putting all the bungalows. houses and shops en route to fire.

Up to 15th Zul Haj about 26,000 Pathan military men reached Srinagar from Pakistan. Since 16 Zul Haj at least 30 lorries each transporting 150 military men and other war materials and equipment reached Srinagar. God save! Death is preferred to life!

From the 14th Zul Haj the people began to return to their houses. After a day they heard about fresh trouble and began to run away, leaving all the belongings earned by them during their life. When the Hindus saw Pathans they began to say "Kalma". A platoon of Pathans came first. They laid wire fence first of all and made other arrangements. On the last Friday the aeroplanes bombed the Pakistan lorries damaging two of them, killing 4 men and wounding 3. A lorry removed the 4 dead and the other went to Uri. The Indian aeroplanes carrying machineguns appeared 4 times. These gave too much trouble. The Pakistan Army brought several dozen machineguns and other guns and made picquets on certain places for attacks on the aeroplanes. The Pathans started war on such an inauspicious date that they had begun to retire.

Mohd. Abdullah Khan cheated the Pathan military. The military had been smashed by machine guns. All the trouble that the Pathan Military had confronted was due to evil deeds done by Mohd. Abdullah Khan. On Thursday, Maqbool Sherwani, a leader of Baramula, was killed.

Whenever any Pathan came he became cheat afterwards and went back to his home with booty on false pretenses. The Pathans had looted Kashmir and smashed it all round.

The Pakistan Government considered that if 2 fighter planes were supplied the Hindustan Government would supply 4 and so whole Kashmir would be one rule? The Pakistan military were smashed in Kashmir by the fighter planes. I saw nothing except this.

## War Equipment Left Behind

The Muslims cheated the Pathans in Chhata Bal, saying that they would make picquets against the Maharaja's Army, and the Pathans should go on the other road. Some guns were hidden under the ground and when the lorries of Pathans passed they were attacked as a result of which dozens of Pathans were smashed and hundreds of Pathans were killed in minutes. There was no clue left of the Pathans except dead bodies.

Those who remained alive were defeated and ran away leaving 100 lorries there which have been taken possession of by the Maharaja.

A great quantity of war equipment, rifles, machine-guns, Lewis guns, etc., and several others of which I did not know the nomenclature, were left behind. Food commodities, sufficient for 80,000 Pathans, Gur, flour, maida, oil, petrol, mobile oil, ghee, sugar, musical instruments, ambulances, stores, cooking utensils, barbers, doctors, Imam were left around Srinagar.

The Pathans were smashed in great number. Don't think all were Pathans. There were Punjabis and Hindustanis. At least they were 80,000 approximately. Of this number 10,000 came from Punjab.

They were true Muslims and came to sacrifice for religion. What to say, they were crying and weeping when they returned. They were tired off and had no practice of running on foot. If they used roads they were attacked by bombs. They used to ritire through forests, hills, and nullahs, etc., and hardly reached Kohala and Garhi Sultan on foot. Even after having been defeated they did not give up their actions. They took with them horses, looted property and abducted Hindu women.

## 22,000 Hindus and Sikhs Killed

It is a fact that nearly 22,000 Hindus and Sikhs were killed in villages en route from Kohala to Uri. I came to know that when Hindus were running, the Sub-Inspector, Uri, was killing them. When Pathans reached Kohala there was no Hindu there. When the Sub-Inspector in charge of Uri counted, there were 2,000 Hindus left in the village. The population of Hindus in that village was 24,000 and only 2,000 saved their lives and returned to their houses. Nothing can be sounted from Uri to Srinagar. to be explained—death is preferred to life. Alse! we people have been slaves to Maharaja for centuries. We are just made free from slavery. We do not know what is Pakistan and what is Hindustan. Communal tension has been created between Hindus and Muslims. The Maharaja committed no cruelty on us as was being done by the ruler in the

It is disgraceful. Our children were thrown in the river. The weak men gave their lives as their hearts failed them. Those who gave no ornaments or money were made targets of the rifles. On Kohala-Uri road 500 Muslims were killed with rifle shots. Sening such tragedy young children, old men and women tave their lives as a result of palpitation of hearts. A Pathan selected a Sikh lady and abducted her. When he reached the river bank he asked her to sit on the boat but the Sikh lady jumped into the river instead and gave her life. Thus the Pathan remained there rubbing his hands.

# PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERN

Telegram, dated 2nd December 1947 from Foreign, new Delhi, to PUNSG, Labore

For Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

I have received information that Mirpur town has been completely destroyed and out of 13,000 (half of 26,000) have reached within 15 miles of Jhelum. The fate of these refugees, as well as of about 3,000 (half of 6,000) from the rest of Mirpur area, is not known, but there are reports that large numbers of abducted Hindu women have been brought into Jhelum district by Pathans. The Pathans are causing panic among non-Muslim refugee pockets in that district, are firing indiscriminately and shot dead a Maharatta soldier the other day.

I am gravely concerned about the fate of the non-Muslim pockets in Jhelum district and of the Hindu refugees, in particular, the abducted women who

(Continued on page 392)

# PAKISTAN'S COMPLICITY IN THE INVASION

# Abundant Circumstantial Evidence

THERE is abundant circumstancial evidence to show that Pakistan has aided and abetted the "Tribal" invasion of Kashmir and Jammu. Both official and un-official organisations are implicated, though the Pakistan Government has officially disowned the invaders operating from bases in its territory. Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sir Mohd. Zaffrullah Khan, has expressed before the Security Council the inability of his Government to preven attacks on Kashmir and Jammu, legally part of the Indian Union.

- 2. This evidence of complicity is based on moral and material aid, on assistance both active and passive given to raiders, in Pakistan.
- 3. There are some 13,000 Pathans operating in Kashmir today, and they include Waziris, Mahsuds and Mohmands. In Pakistan there are approximately 75,000 tribesmen, concentrated in Punjab districts, many of them bordering on Kashmir or Jammu.
- 4. Many of the invading tribesmen were recruited by officials of the North-West Frontier Province Government and incited to "Jehad" by the Premier of the Proivnee, ably assisted by the Pirs of Manki Sharif and of Wana, and various Maliks. Tribesmen are collected and harangued with tales of Dogra atrocities on the Muslim inhabitants of Kashmir. The Pir of Wana, for example, one of the most successful recruiting agents, after addressing tribesmen feasts them, and then sends them to meet the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan. Having been addressed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dera Ismail Khan and pick up rifles and ammunition. Thus armed they return to the Pir who again speaks to them. Next day, incited to war and tempted by promises of loot in Kashmir, they leave in lorries for their bases.
- 5. In addition to these acts of official connivance, leaders of the Muslim League party openly canvass aid for the raiders. Meetings are held in the main towns, and addressed by the local leaders as well as members of the "Provisional Government" of Kashmir and Jammu. These facts are based on information gathered from independent news reports by British and American correspondents as well as from other reliable sources. Some of these press reports are appended to these papers.

## N.-W. F. P. Premier's Appeal

6. At a Press conference at Peshawar on the 1st of November, the Premier of the N. W. F. P., Khan, Abdul Qayum Khan, appealed to the Arab League to call a Pan-Islamic Conference to meet the common danger to Islam which had arisen with the Indian Dominion's invasion of Kushmir. He continued that Muslims did not recognise that there was any difference between the

Muslims of Pakistan and those of Afghan stan, Iran or any other Muslim country of the world. He added that the time had come when they should rise or fall together. Referring to Kashmir, he said that the Muslim nation had been outraged the action taken by the Maharaja of Kashmir in acceding to the Indian Dominion. He urged the Pakistan Government to recognise the Provisional Azad Government. In a press state-ment issued two days earlier, the Premier of the N.-W.F.P. had declared that the Pathans were determined to die to the last man for Kashmir, which was a Muslim majority State and "belonged to Pakistan as a matter of right." He appealed to every Muslim in Pakistan to get ready to face the situation". that the Pathans would ow that "invasion" of He said not allow that "invasion" of Kashmir by India. "I can give this assurance with confidence because I have got my hands on the pulse of the Pathans of the tribal areas and the N.W.F.P."

## Inflammatory Statements

- 7. Communiques of the "Provisional Kashmir Government" are broadcast by the Pakistan radio, which is a Government organisation, and inflammatory statements designed to assist the raiders are also used. The Pakistan Press publishes communiques of the Indian Government under the headline "Enemy Version".
- 8. A large proportion of the raiders comes from the Frontier Province and tribal areas. They do not come in driblets but travel hundreds of miles through Pakistan in large groups along the main roads, and over bridges guarded by Pakistan troops.
- 9. The daily attacks on Kashmir and Jammu are launched from bases which are without question in Pakistan. Rawalpindi is one of the main centres and the head of the Azad Provisional Government has offices there. Many of these raiders are concentrated in various towns in Pakistan: Sargodha with about 7,500, Abbottabad with 6,000 to 8,000, Wazirabad with 8,000 and Jhelum with 5,000. These serve as supply depote and training centres. Here the raiders rest and recuperate, replenish their supplies and sell women and other loot captured in the raids. Wounded raiders are also treated in hospitals and dispensaries in these towns. It is not without significance that some of these towns are important Cantonments of the Pakistan Army.
- 10. In transit through Pakistan the raiders are assisted with the supply of transport and petrol. Neitler the lorries nor the fuel could possibly be available to the tribesmen except through the knowledge and assistance of oficials of the Pakistan Government. Petrol is a rationed commodity, and has to be supplied against coupons issued by district

officials. While civilians in Pakistan find it difficult to obtain petrol, there is no difficulty so far as the tribesmen are concerned. In the N.-W.F.P., the export and movement of motor vehicles is regulated under Section 3 of the N.-W.F.P. Essential Articles Control (Temporary Powers) Act of 1947. Transportation of motor vehicles, other than those used by the Military, is not allowed except on permits issued by the Director of Civil Supplies. Vehicles belonging to the raiders have been found to have Pakistan number plates; those damaged in action have been observed under repair in workshops in Rawalpindi.

11. Much of the modern equipment used by the raiders cannot be of tribal manufacture and must come from Military stores of the Pakistan Government. The raiders' armoury includes light machine-guns, mortars, mines, signal equipment and wireless set with batteries. These have been used in quantities far exceeding those lost by the Indian and Kashmir State Forces. As the fighting in Kashmir has progressed, the number of raiders has increased and the quality of their equipment has improved. Radio messages from the raiders' advanced bases asking for supplies of food and ammunition have been intercepted. The codes employed in these messages are among those used by the Indian Army before partition.

These codes are in the possession of the Pakistan Army and were never published. Further more, tribesmen and peasants would not have the necessary technical skill to operate wireless transmitters.

12. From the tactics employed in the fighting it is evident that the raiders have received training in modern methods of warfare. Soldiers of the Indian Army have identified former comrades, now serving in the Pakistan Forces, among the raiders. It is known that Pakistan Army personnel, ostensibly on leave, are fighting with the raiders.

# DOCUMENTS—PART III

(1

Peshawar, September 16th.—The "Jamait-e-Aha of Mujadhidin" in a message to the Chief Minister, North-West Frontier Province, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, issued from their stronghold in the Hills of Buner, says: "The independent tribes warn the neighbouring State of Kashmir that if she decides to join the Indian Union even in the teeth of opposition of the 80 per cent. of its Muslim population, then such a step will be taken as a challenge and an invitation for a Jehad (holy war)."

The message reminds the Maharaja of Kashmir that he is the "nearest neighbour of the tribal territories". (Times of India, 17th September 1947).

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1948

# PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM

Lahore, 24th Provisional Go th October 1947.—The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, which was set up a few weeks ago, has made a claim that it has now established its rule over a major portion of the State territory. In a statement issued to the Press today, the Provisional Government adds that the Maharaja of Kashmir and his Prime Minister have fled from Kashmir proper and will soon perhaps flee from Jammu as well. In view of these changed circumstances, the statement says, the Provisional Government has been constituted with Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim of Poonch as its head. The headquarters of the government has been moved to Palandari in Poonch. (Pakistan Radio.)

# CHALLENGE TO PAKISTAN

Lahore, 29th October 1947.—Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, Premier of the North-West Frontier Province, has strongly condemned the decision taken by the Maharaja of Kashmir to acceding to the Indian Dominion. In a statement, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan has declared that the Pathans are determined to due to the last man rather than allow the invasion of Kashmir which is a Muslim majority state and belongs to Pakistan as a matter of right. He adds that the fact that Indian troops have sot foot on the Muslim Kashmir is not only a challenge to Pakistan but the entire Muslim world. He appeals to every Muslim in Pakistan to get ready to face the situation.

The Frontier Premier goes on to say that the present attempt is a med at encircling and strangulating Muslims. This attempt, he adds, will no doubt be resisted by Muslims of Kashmir at all costs. He also appeals to the

Government of Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and the Governments associated with the Arab League to get ready in order to face this new danger to the existence of Islam. In concl. sion, Khan Abdul Q. yyum Khan givos the assurance to the Muslims of Pakistan and Muslims all over the world that the Pathans will not allow the invasion of Kashmir. He adds: "I can give this assurance with confidence because I have got my hands on the pulse of the Pathans in the tribal areas and the North-West Frontier Province." (Pakistan Radio.)

# LIAQUAT ALI KHAN'S STATEMENT

Lahore, October 31st.—Mr Liaquat Ali Khan said: "The Government of Pakistan only with the greatest difficulty prevented a Pathan incursion into West Punjab to take revenge for what happened in East Punjab.

"The attack on Poonch and the massacres in Jammu further added to and inflam d all the more Pathan feeling, and made the raid on Kashmir intviable, unless the Government of Pakistan, by use of troops, were prepared to create a situation in the North-West Frontier Province which might have incalculable results on the peace of the border.

"The sending of Indian troops to Kashmir under cover of accession has further intensified and inflamed the feelings of the tribes.

"In those circumstances it is clear to the Government of Pakistan that the Pathan raid was provoked by the use of Kashmir troops to attack and kill Muslims in Kashmir and Jammu and for this the policy of the Kashmir Government was solely responsible. The Kashmir Government must have been fully awars of the inevitability of

the Pathan reaction. Their deliberate refusal to consider every suggestion of the Pakistan Government for a meeting of representatives of both to handle the situation jointly and in friendly cooperation and at the same time their conspiring with the India Government enabled them to use this raid as the excuse for the putting into effect of the pre-planned scheme for the accession of Kashmir as a coup d'etat and for the occupation of Kashmir by Indian troops with the object of holding down the people of Kashmir who have been driven to rebellion by the is well-calculated and carefully planned oppression. (Pakistan Government Press Communique.)

(5)

# SIND MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Karachi, November 1st.—Sind's Minister of Health, Pir Illahi Bux, said in a statement that—"It is not only the Pathans who have to carry on the struggle. It is becoming the concorn of all Muslims of Pakistan, nay of the whole world, to save the Muslims of Kashmir from destruction." He appealed "to all trained and demobilised soldiers to proceed as volunteers to the Kashmir front." (Times of India Special Correspondent.)

(6)

# MR. JINNAH'S PRIVATE SECRETARY INVOLVED

Srmagar, Novemner 2nd.—Mr. Jinnah's Private Secretary, Khurshid Ahmed, was arrested here this morning by the State Police. Maps and other documents were recovered from him.

Khurshid Ahmed who came to Kashmir some days ago had gone underground for organising agitation against the administration. He was arrested in Jama Masjid, centre of the

Indian "Jawans" have their breakfast in a forward area



# WHOLE BUSINESS WELL ORGANIZED

Muslim Conference. National Conference volunteers brought Khurshid out of the hide-out. (Hindustan Times.)

(7)

### LAHORE PRESS CONFERENCE

Lahore, November 5th, 1947.—In a Press Conference the Promier of North-West Frontier Province, Khan Abdul Quayyun Khan, said that Kashmir was a Maslim majority State and "by right belongs to Muslims. We are not elaiming an inch of soil which belongs to the Hindus. We only demand what is rightfully ours."

He went on to say that the largescale exchange of population had created a demand for more living space.

Continuing he said, "If the Indian Army makes headway in Kashmir we will be faced straightaway with the problem of accommodating three million more Muslims in Pakistan and there is no room for them".

Allo said that while they were making overy effort to prevent Pathans from crossing into Kashmir territory, this task was made difficult as the tribal bolt adjoined Kashmir State territory. (Associated Press of India.)

# GHAZANFAR ALI'S STATEMENT

Rawalpindi. November 10th.—Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan referred to the situation in Kashmir and said: "Today the loaders of the Indian Union and erstwinte staunch champions of human rights and freedom are employing every wanton method to crush the Muslims. While the Prime Minister, Mr. Laquat Ali Khan, was busy trying to clarify the Kashmir confusion, the Indian Union landed troops in the State before the official amouncement of the Satate's accession to the Indian Union." (Hindustan Times.)

(9)

## DOGRA RULE CONDEMNED

Poshawar, December 24th.—Resolutions condomning the partition of Paiostine and upholding the struggle of Azad Kashmir Government against the "Dogra's autoency" were passed at the mobing of the Working Committee of the North-West Frontier Province Jamiat-ul-Ulma-i-Islam, held yesterday under the presidentship of Maulana Shakirullah. The meeting also decided to convene a meeting of the All-Pakistan Jamiat-ul-Ulma-i-Islam in the near future. In all six resolutions were passed.

The second resolution strongly condomned "the Inhuman attocities perpetrated by the Dogra hordes and Indian troops on innocent men, we non and children in Kashmir and supported the Azad Kashmir Government in its struggle

against "strangulating Dogra rule". The resolution called upon all the ablebodied Muslims to join their brethern in Kashmir. (Pakistan Times, 25th December 1947).

(10)

# PAKISTAN'S COMPLICITY DENIED

Karachi. The Pakistan Government have issued a communique on reports about Pakistan soldiers taking part in Kashmir campaign.

The communique says: "The attention of the Army authorities has been drawn to a report published in certain Dolhi newspaper alleging that two battahens of Pakistan Army desorted and were fighting in Kashmir. This report is absolutely baseless and malicious. No units of the Pakistan have deserted.

"Numerous such reports hinting at the Pakistan's army's complicity in the Kashmir fighting have been appearing in the Indian Press for some time past despite categorical denials from Pakistan Army Headquarters.

"It is well known that thousands of soldiers were released from the Indian Army and large numbers of them belong to Jammu and Kashmir areas. These soldiers on release were provided with suits of Army uniform with regimental badges on them. If any such persons have been seen captured or killed they are not and cannot be called Pakistan soldiers.

"The only Pakistan Army soldiers permitted to go to Kashmir are serving soldiers on normal annual leave. Such soldiers are not permitted to carry their arms with them,"—A. P. 1. (Hindustan Times, 6th January 1948.)

(11)

## ZAFRULLAH KHAN'S ADMISSION

London. An indirect admission of Pakistan's complicity in the Kashmir invasion was made by Mr. Zafrullah Khan, leader of the Pakistan Delegation to the U.N. Security Council and Pakistan Foreign Minister. In an interview with Reuter in London on Sunday. Mr. Zafrullah Khan said that it would be uttorly impossible for Pakistan to guarantoe that no Pakistan nationals or others passing through Pakistan should be able to cross the border between Pakistan and Kashmir and participate in the struggle for freedom going on there unless Pakistan was prepared, as it were, to build a wall all along the frontier. (The Hindustan Times, 13th January 1948).

# INVADERS WELL-EQUIPPED

London, 27th October, 1947.—In a despatch from its Dolhi Correspondent, says that the tribesmen are accompanied

by men in civilian dress with obvious military training. The invading forces are well-equipped with rifles and montars and scores of army trucks and ample petrol supplies. "There is every ovidence that their expedition had strong support and is being conducted with tactical skill." (The News Chronicle London.)

(13)

## **EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM**

London, November 2nd.—"They look on this as a holy Muslim War. Some of them, I have seen, talk wildly of going to Delhi."

Moorehead motored to Peshawar and the Khylor Pass from where this crusade began. "Everywhere recruiting is going on and there is much excitement and inthusiasm at the steers of the Muslims. This is happening not only in the tribal territory where Pakistan has no control but inside Pakistan hiself." (The Observer, from its Correspondent in Pakistan, Alan Moorehe d.)

(14)

### WAR ON PAKISTAN'S SIDE

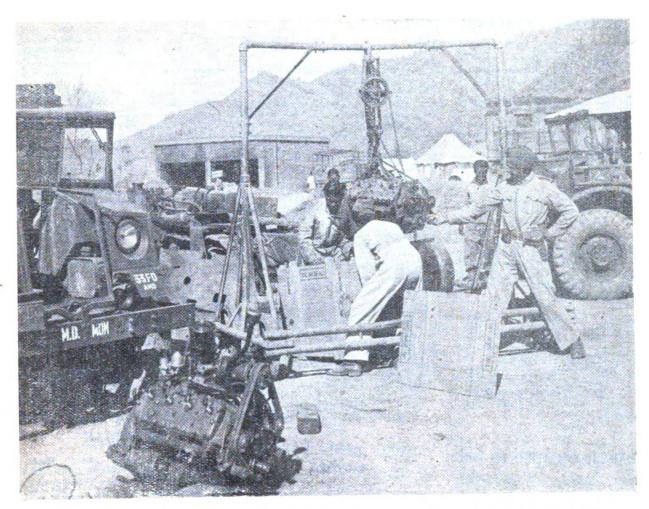
Extracts from a letter addressed to Captain H. Strincer, London, and Franked on the envelope by a Colonel whose Signature is Indecipherable, dated November 2nd, 1947. Pakistan.

"This Kashmir show was, I think unsafe, and in my opinion emounts to an unofficial war on Pakistan's sid. Of course the population are 90% Muslim, and the Hindu Ruler should not have been allowed to accode to India. These tribesmen from the Frontier who have pour d-up past here during the last fortnight, and are n-w fighting, killing, looting, and burning in Kashmir—some thousands of them—did not arrive by themselves though. Quite obviously the whole business was well organised by a central hand for supply, for transport (all M.T.) and for direction.

A very dangerous machine has, howover, been le. loose, one which I doubt Pakistan can control generally, and certainly cannot control locally. The wrotehed European residence of Kashmir, people on leave, Convents, etc., have not escaped the general fury which is going on a bare hundred railes from lette. And of course this road to Kashmir is not the only place, all along the border of and maide Kashmir, Poonch, and Jammu the same scenes are going on."

"I see also I have not explained how this tribal show in Kashmir is worked. Side by side with the civil administration of Pakistan you have the Muslim League organisation. This latter works much the same way as Hitler's Gestape, Brown Shirts, S.S. Men or whatever they went in for. J.mah is also head of the Muslim League, as well as head of the State. Some officials down the scale

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1 1948
Digitized by OOGIC



Fighting in Jammu Province: Men of an Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' workshop busy repairing vehicles in the Naushahra Area

are trusted members of the League, some are not so trusted members and some don't belong. Also of course a quite junior Government official may be quite high in the Muslim League Command.

This show is run by the Muslim League High Command, working through its trusted officers down the scale. A fair number of them must hold positions as Government officials. I say "must" Government officials. I say because obviously ordinary civil rations, petrol, etc., could only be diverted to the Tribal army by Government officials who control them. It is impossible, for instance, for the ordinary citizen of this district holding a ration card or petrol coupons to get any rations for his card or petrol for his coupons. he asks them he is told none is available. All the time, however, lorries loaded with bags of food from the local civil supply pass up the road to the tribal force, and anything up to 1,000 gallons of petrol daily passes from the retailers pumps in Abbottabad into their lorries.

"Just before the show started we got a new Deputy Commissioner in Abbotabad promoted from Assistant Commissioner elsewhere. Without this change the show would have slumped, as the old one was not a Muslim League member and Abbottabad is a most important base for the supply of the odd ten thousand tribesmen now operating beyond here.

Large numbers of these tribesmen have been transported from up to 300 miles away by M. T. crossing Indus Bridges strongly guarded by armed nolice; so you will realise that Muslim League organisation is good."

# TRIBESMEN'S WAR AIMS

London, November 10th 1947-"The first onrush of invaders has been checked but I have just watched bus-loads of howling Pathans and Afghans cross the Kashmir border at Domel to continue the first from the mountains. Smith counted 45 bus-loads of them, fifty to a bus, on their way to Kashmir. Revenge on Sikhs fires their zeal and every evening their loader, Colonel Shah Passand Khan, "hands raised, palm upwards, chants a prayer to Allah for blessings on their holy war for the extermination of Sikhs". Ffty thousands more tribal Pathans are ready to join the invaders. They are crossing into Kashmir by the Jhelum River Bridge at Domel-much bombed but still unhit by the Indian Air Force.

Their fighting leader is Major Khurshid Anwar, formerly of I. N. A., who has been leading his men for weeks in desperate night sorties against the Srinagar airfield. His second in command is Major Aslam Khan, whose accurate handling of captured mortars, according to Smith, broke the Sikhs' first stand at Baramula. Aslam Khan told Smith: "You can describe me as a deserter from Pakistan Army". One month before the Kashmir invasion, says Smith, 250 fifth columnists were sent to Srinagar for sabotage and ospionage. Anwar also brought in with invading forces a staff of R. A. F. radio operators with war experience and equipment. He confessed to Smith "The Srinagar airfield is our first objective. If only we had been able to prevent our men in Spinagar before the Tall." in Srinagar before the Indians, within 48 hours of crossing the border".

"Every tribal leader agrees on war aims. They are to wipe out Hari Singh's minority rule in Kashmir; to march on and externminate the chief Sikh State, Patiala, to capture Amritsar and try one day to reach N w Delhi", Smith concludes. (Extracts from a despatch by Sydney Smith in the Daily Extress, London, on November 10. This despatch is from Allottabad. Smith was a captive in Baran ule under the raiders).

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# HEADQUARTERS AT PALANDI

"Palandi, a primitive mountain town is today hoadquarters of an organised Muslim military and political rebellion aimed at driving Kashmir to Pakistan.

"Many here resent the Indian Government's action in sinding troops to support the Maharaja. A young captain said: "If we are left alone without any outside help on their side, we will finish the Magharaja within a few weeks. There is no alternative but to fight or die".

"I am an officer of the Pakistan Army but I know Pakistan cannot help and I won't roturn to the Army until my people are free.

"The rebels claim that they have in the field two complete brigades of about 3,000 men each, armed with local-made single shot rifles supplemented by captured bren guns and mortars.

"There is no shortage of trained officers. Besides retired King's Commissioned Officers, the rebels have several voung Muslim Officers who deserted the Maharaja's forces and a few Pakistan Army Officers who have taken leave to fight with their people". (Hindustan Times, 11th November 1947. By a correspondent of the United Press of America.)

(17)

## AFGHANS PERSUADED TO JOIN

Jammu, December 16th.—While King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan wanted his subjects to remain aloof and not to visit India this year as there was trouble Pakistan officials have tried hard to persuade Afghanistan to join the raiders invading Jammu and Kashmir.

This was revealed by Lal Mir, an Afghan from Ghazni, in a statement before Mr. G. C. Bali, of the Kashmir Government C. I. D. Lal Mir was among the party of raiders taken prisoners last week by Indian troops operating on the Pakistan-Jammu Border.

Lal Mir said that he left his home a month ago along with 1,000 Afghans for India via Khust. Before leaving, Chief Maliks were sent for by the King of Afghanistan to visit Kabul where a meeting was held. The King advised thom not to visit India this year as there was trouble and he wanted his subjects to remain aloof. The Maliks on return from Kabul conveyed the King's message, but because of snowfall and cold they decided to leave for India.

The Afghan said: "From Ghazni we marched in a caravan to Khust and theroafter reached Miran Shah, the headquarters of the Political Officer. North Waziristan. There the Political Officer called on us and made some purchases. He talked to the Maliks for a considerable time about happenings in India and informed us about the fight between Kafirs and Muslims and said that Muslim women were being molested and abdueted by the Hindus while men, young and old, were being killed.

"From Miran Shah, we proceeded to Drey Gunderi (a to vn on the border-line of the tribal territory). At the fort here, it was a common practice that whonever we used to come to India, we were disarmed and all arms used to be kept in the fort till our return. This year we were allowed to enter with arms".

Rocalling his party's first direct contact with the raiders' agents, Lal Mir sa'd: "Muslim League leaders and officials told us that atrocities were being committed on Muslims and we were taken to Khoshaha (West Punjab). Pir of Wana and others visited us and appealed in the name of Islam to fight the "Kafirs".

"We were brought to Wazirabad, Pakistan Army, police as well as Frontier Constabulary officials were present. Here arms and ammunition were issued to those who had none and good ones were given to those who had old rifles. There were different types of arms and we were asked to choose as we liked".

Stating that all able-bodied men who were selected from the party joined the raiders at the Jammu border. Lal Mir further disclosed that supply of arms, ammunition and food, and conveyance were arranged by Pakistan Government officials in camps at Wazirabad,—(United Press of India).

(18)

# ARMED BAND REACHES LAHORE

Lahore.—"For the first time since the tribes crupted into Kashmir and West Punjab, an armed band has reached Lahore, nearly 300 miles from the entrance to the Khyber Pass. It is quartered within 100 yards of the West Punjab Assembly, in an old hotel originally requisitioned by the Provincial Government for a refugees' relief headquarters".

\*The men, who are of the Suleman Khel and Shinwari tribes are behaving with their usual abandon and disregard for conventions. Tribal dances are now being held on the lawn of the hotel and drum-beats throb down the Mall. In spite of a recent local ordinance prohibiting the bearing of arms, every man is carrying a rife, the firing of which appears to express his appreciation of the dances. So far these "joy-shots" have not reminded the police of their duty.

"Later today many of them danced through the streets to bid farewell to some of their comrades who were leaving for Jammu. Before Queen Victoria's statute in Charing Cross they paused, still dancing. They appeared to be in happy mood, but as the procession proceeded down the Mall the tempo of the drum quickenel and a fusil ade of rifle shots stamped some horses and a small camel caravan. The Mullah who was leading the procession waved encoming traffic to a standstill and the tribesmen, wildly gesticulating with their rifles danced in ever-decreasing circles around the stationary vehicles.

"Later they turned off the Mall for an embussing point and passed by the office of the Inspector-General of Police. Policemen standing outside watched impassively. In fact, during the time your Correspondent accompanied them the only police action taken was by three constables on point duty who obligingly held up the traffic.

"The leaders of the men, some of whom were at Guirat at the time of the recent train massacre there, have expressed a desire to meet members of the United Nations Commission but their chief interests appear to be anti-communal". (London Times, dated 22nd January, 1948).

WOMEN SOLD LIKE CATTLE

Telegram dated 1st December 1947 from Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSC, Lahore.

For Prime Minister, Pakistan, from Prime Minister, India.

I have also been informed that 3,000 abducted Hindu Women have been brought to Gujrat from the Bhimbar area and they are being sold like cattle at Rs. 150 each. I am asking an officer on the staff of the Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore to go personally to make enquiries to Guirat district and I hope you will ask West Punjab Government to give him all facilities.

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# TRIBESMEN AIDED BY PAKISTAN

London, February 20th.—"There is no possible doubt that if India had not intervened last October, Srinagar and the lovely Valley of Kashmir would now be a dovastated and blackened ruin. Nor can there be any quistion that encouragement and aid have been given to the tribesmen in Pakistan", says Mr. Kingsley Wartin in a despatch from Jammu to the New Statesman and Nation.

"A short visit to Kashmir", he writes, "has given me the opportunity of judging India's case at first hand. The basic fact.....is that Britam defended the North-West Frontier of India, not only with several brigades of troops but more effectively by subsidy of several million pounds a year to the tribesmen.

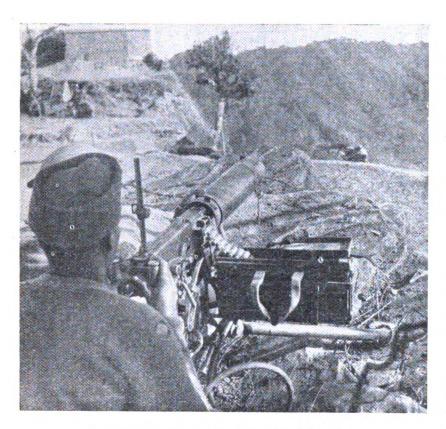
"Pakistan has not paid any subsidy and has endeavoured to kill two birds at one stroke by permitting the tribes to loot Kashmir".

## India's Case Side-tracked

Referring to the treatment of India's case at Lake Success, Mr. Martin remarks: "India deserved to have its appeal honestly considered and not side-tracked".... The Security Council's refusal to face the struight issue put to it has convinced almost every one in India that the case has not been considered on its morits but subordinated to uses of power politics. In particular, it is said that one of the underlying factors has been the Angle-American concern about bases in Pakistan.

"The result is a very rapid change in India's feeling towards  $\operatorname{Britain} \ldots A$ 

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A medium machine-gun in action in Naushahra Area

few weeks ago it was confidently expected that India would decide to remain part of the Commonwealth. This, I believe, is still undecided, but certainly no one should be surprised if India now prefers a completely separate status".

Explaining how he came to the conclusion that Pakistan was helping the raiders after questioning Pathan prisoners, seeing up-to-date weapons, uniforms and army pay books captured by the Indian Army, Mr. Martin says: "Evidence of this kind can be multiplied indefinitely; and having sat in the operation room of Jammu headquarters, I can also testify that the Indian Command takes the utmost care in using its aircraft against raiding parties until it is completely assured that they are hostile groups and well within the Kashmir frontier. The devastation caused by these raiders, can be seen any day as one proceeds by jeep on the rough and precarious road which is the only link between India and Kashmir.

"As long as Pakistan cares to allow these raids to proceed, they cannot be stopped, for nature never meant there to be a frontier between Jammu and the Punjab. You might as well talk of a frontier between Norfolk and Suffolk... According to the India view, which on this point seemed irrefutable, these raids constitute invasion of Indian territory. Legally, there is no doubt that the Maharaja of Kashmir after long hesitation and after vainly asking for Pakistan's protection against the tribesmen acceded to India and that the Indian troops did not enter Kashmir until he invited them".

"It is said that India acted illegally in the case of Junagadh. A decisive

reply is that in the case of Junagadh, Pakistan itself laid it down that the head of the State alone had a right to decide the question of accession. Moreover, India strengthened her case on both occasions by making accession provisional pending the results of plebiscite.

"In the case of Kashmir, India also insisted on the abolition of the Maharaja's oppressive regime and the recognition of Sheikh Abdullah as the popular Head of the Emergency Administration. Certainly one factor which has played an important part in the minds of the Indian leaders is that Sheikh Abdullah's Administration provides an outstanding proof that India is not Hindustan, that there are Muslims who have voluntarily chosen to come into an India which, as Pandit Nehru emphasized, should be a democracy in which minorities can live safely and freely.

### Anglo-Indian Relations

"In this short cable I am concerned only to summarize the legal and moral case as India sees it because I know that the failure by the British delegates at U. N. and by a large part of the British Press to appreciate it, is doing great damage to Anglo-Indian r. lations. I believe India might have been ready to make concessions on the question of substituting an outside force for the Indian Army in Jammu and the Valley of Kashmir of the honesty and strength of their case against Pakistan had been recognised at Lake Success.

"Responsible Indian leaders, who are now engaged in suppressing the more fanatical communal Hindu bodies, fully realise the utterly disastrous conseque of war between India and Pakistan. That would man victory in India of semi-fascist elements... It would mean the end of hopes of social change which have animated the progressive side of the Congress... It would probably involve international complications which would create in India and Pakistan conditions resembling those of the Spanish Civil War. In the Indian and Pakistan Armies the possibility of war is viewed with incredulous horror..... But the question remains of Pakistan's desire for peace and of how to rid Kashmir and India of tribal raids. This once more means joint defence and large subsidies".

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### **GUJRAT STATION INCIDENT**

Evidence of the character of the tribesmen who were allowed free transit through Pakistan to Kashmir, and of the failure of the Pakistan authorities to exercise any form of control over them, is provided by the tragic inc dent which occurred at the Gujrat railway station in West Punjab (Pakistan) on the night of the 11th January 1948.

A train carrying approximately 3,200 non-Muslim refugees from Bannu in the North-West Frontier Province, which was on its way to India, was diverted to Gujrat instead of taking the normal route via Lyallpur, after a conf rence between Pakistan police and railway officials at intermediate station. The train was not supposed to stop at Gujrat but was halted there at about midnight, ostensibly to have a tail-lamp attended to. The train was left on an unprotective siding and the engine was detached. There was on the train an Indian military escort numbering 60. In the small hours of the morning two members of the escort were deprived of their rifles in a scuffle with some persons, believed to be tribe men, who were making their way to the train. Several handred men. including both tribesmen and Muslim National Guards, are then reported to have attacked the train. Fighting continued until after day-break when the escort ran out of ammunition and was w ped out.

The attackers then entered the train, killing and seizing the passengers and robbing them of their belongings. The casualties were extremely heavy, about half the passengers being killed, abducted or missing. Of the survivors hundreds were wounded, many of them bearing evdience of extreme brutality.

2. Commenting on this incident the Pakistan Times, a newspaper published at Lahore, wrote:

It is difficult to believe that in the many hours that elapsed between the commencement of the trouble and its culmination nothing more could have been done to stop it than actually was done. Apart from the mad men who committed the crime, some official agency—we do not know who—must also share the blame for what has happened. There must have been either indifference or lethargy or a lurking unwillingness in some quarter that held back the hand of law from dealing out sterner measures before the foul deed was done".

# WILL OF THE PEOPLE MUST PREVAIL

# India's Objectives In Kashmır

- N Kashmir, as in other similar cases, the view of the Government of India has been that in the matter of disputed accession the will of the people must prevail. It was for this reason that they accepted only on a provisional basis the offer of the Ruler to accede to India, backed though it was by the most important political organization in the State.
- 2. The question of accession is to be decided finally in a free plebiscite; on this point there is no dispute. It is, however, impossible to hold a plebiscite so long as the State is infested by free-booters from outside. The only purpose for which Indian troops are operating in Kashmir is to ensure that the vote of the people will not be subject to coercion by tribesmen and others from across the border who have no right to be in Kashmir. Since the State is now part of India, these troops have a legal and a moral obligation to defend it. Nevertheless they will be progressively reduced after the raiders have left State territory, normal conditions have been restored and the risk of recurrence of aggression from outside has ceased. As the Government of India have repeatedly made clear, there is to be no victimization of any native of the State, whatever his political views or affiliations may be, and no Kashmiri will be deprived of the right to vote.
- 3. From the first, the Government of India have been concerned to emphasize these objectives, and it was to this end that they repeatedly invited representatives of Pakistan to discuss the matter with them. When efforts to secure a satisfactory settlement by direct negotiation with Pakistan had failed and the activities of large numbers of tribesmen in Pakistan, aided and abetted by Pakistan, intensified the military pressure on Jammu and Kashmir State and became a threat to India itself, the Government of India, as a last resort, appealed to the Security Council of the United Nations to call upon Pakistan to cease its unneutral action in the interests of peace between the two countries.

## DOCUMENTS—PART IV

(1)

Telegram, dated 25th October 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Prime Minister, U. K., London. Repeated to Prime Minister, Pakistan, on 26th October.

From Prime Minister, India.

1. A grave situation has developed in the State of Kashmir. Large numbers of Afridis and other tribesmen from the Frontier have invaded State territory, occupied several towns and massacred large numbers of non-Muslims. According to our information, tribesmen have been equipped with motor transport and also with automatic weapons and have passed through Pakistan territory. Latest news is that the invaders are pro-

ceeding up the Jhelum valley road towards the valley of Kashmir.

- 2. We have received urgent appeal for assistance from the Kashmir Government. We would be disposed to give favourable consideration to such request from any friendly State. Kashmir's northern frontiers, as you are aware, run in common with those of three countries, Afghanistan, the U. S. S. R. and China. Security of Kashmir, which must depend upon its internal tranquillity and existence of stable Government is vital to security of India, especially since part of southern boundary of Kashmir, and India are common. Helping Kashmir, therefore, is an obligation of national interest to India. We are giving urgent consideration to the question as to what assistance we can give to the State to defend itself.
- 3. I should like to make it clear that question of aiding Kashmir in this energency is not designed in any way to influence the State to accede to India. Our view which we have repeatedly made public is that the question of accession in any disputed territory or State must be decided in accordance with wishes of the people and we adhere to this view. It is quite clear, however, that no free expression of the will of the people of Kashmir is possible if external aggression succeeds in imperilling the integrity of its territory.
- 4. I have thought it desirable to inform you of the situation because of its threat of international complications.

# MAHARAJA ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE

Following is text of letters that were exchanged between His Excellency the Governor-General and His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

26th October 1947.

Begins:

# MY DEAR LORD MOUNTBATTEN,

- I have to inform Your Excellency that a grave emergency has arisen in my State and request immediate assistance of your Government.
- As Your Excellency is aware the State of Jammu and Kashmir has not acceded to either the Dominion of India or to Pakistan. Geographically my State is contiguous to both the Dominions. It has vital economical and cultural links with both of them. Besides my State has a common boundary with the Soviet Republic and China. In their external relations the Dominion of India and Pakistan cannot ignore this fact.
- I wanted to take time to decide to which Dominion I should accede, whether it is no iin the best interests of both the Dominions and my State to stand independent, of course with friendly and cordial relations with both.

I accordingly approached the Dominions of India and Pakistan to enter into a standstill agreement with my State. The Pakistan Government accepted this arrangement. The Dominion of India desired further discussion with representives of my Government. I could not arrange this in view of the developments indicated below. In fact the Pakistan Government under the standstill agreement are operating Post and Telegraph system inside the State.

Though we have got a standstill agreement with the Pakistan Government, that Government permitted steady and increasing strangulation of supplies like food, salt and petrol to my State.

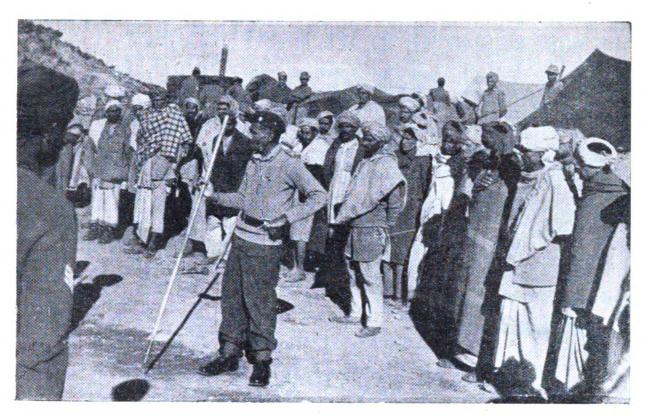
## Wild Forces Let Loose

Afridis, soldiers in plain clothes, and desperadoes, with modern weapons, have been allowed to infilter into the State at first in Poonch area, then in Sialkot and finally in mass in the area adjoining Hazara district on the Ramkote side. The result has been that the limited number of troops at the disposal of the State had to be dispersed and thus had to face the enemy at several points simultaneously that it has become difficult to stop the wanton destruction of life and property and looting. The Mahoora Power House which supplies the electric current to the whole of Srinagar has been burnt. The number of women who have been kidnapped and raped makes my heart bleed. The wild forces thus let loose on the State are marching on with the aim of capturing Srinagar, the Summer Capital of my Government, as a first step to overrunning the whole State.

The mass infiltration of tribesmen drawn from the distant areas of the N. W. F. Province coming regularly in Motor Trucks using Mansehra-Muzaffarabad road and fully armed with up-todate weapons cannot possibly be done without the knowledge of the Provincial Government of the N.W.F. Province and the Government of Pakistan. In spite of repeated appeals made by my Govern. ment no attempt has been made to check these raiders or stop them from coming to my State. In fact both the Pakistan Radio and Press have reported these occurrences. The Pakistan Radio even put out a story that a Provisional Government has been set up in Kashmir. The people of my State, both the Muslims and non-Muslims generally have taken no part at all.

# Interim Government

With the conditions obtaining at present in my State and the great emergency of the situation as it exists I have no option but to ask for help from the Indian Dominion. Naturally they cannot send the help asked for by me without my State acceding to the Dominion of India. I have accordingly decided to do so and I attach the Instrument of Accession for acceptance by your Government. The other alternative is to leave my State and my people to freehooters. On this basis no civilised Government can exist or be maintained. This alternative I will never allow to



To fight the raiders in Kashmir the Officer Commanding Indian Troops in Naushahra, Brig. Mohamed Usman is organising Home Guards from amongst the local population. Brig. Usman is seen at Beri Pattan with a large number of volunteers for the newly-formed Home Guards

happen so long as I am the Ruler of the State and I have life to defend my country.

I may also inform Your Excellency's Government that it is my intention at once to set up an Interim Government and ask Sheikh Abdull th to carry the responsibilities in this emergency with my Prime Minister.

If my State has to be saved immediate assistance must be available at Srinagar. Mr. Menon is fully aware of the situation and he will explain to you if further explanation is needed.

In haste and with kindest regards.

(Sd.) HARI SINGH. Ends.

(3)

## ACCEPTANCE OF ACCESSION

Reply from Governor-General, India, New Delhi, Dated the 27th October 1947.

Begins:

#### MY DEAR MAHARAJA SAHIB,

Your Highness's letter, dated the 26th October has been delivered to me by Mr. V. P. Menon. In the special circumstances mentioned by Your Highness, my Government have decided to accept the accession of Kashmir State to the Dominion of India. Consistently with their policy that, in the case of any State where the issue of accession has been the subject of dispute, the question of accession should be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people of the State

it is my Government's wish that, as soon as law and order have been restored in Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invader, the question of the State's accession should be settled by a reference to the people. Meanwhile in response to Your Highness's appeal for military aid, action has been taken today to send troops of the Indian Army to Kashmir to help your own forces to defend your territory and to protect the lives, property and honour of your people.

My Government and I note with satisfaction that Your Highness has decided to invite Sheikh Abdullah to form an Interim Government to work with your Prime Minister.

MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA. Ends.

(4)

# PAKISTAN'S CO-OPERATION INVITED

Telegram, dated 28th October 1947. from Foreign, New Delki, to Prime Minister Pakistan, Lahore, (Foreign Karachi).

For Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

I have communicated to you text of telegram I sent to Prime Minister, United Kingdom, regarding Kashmir situation. I have also sent you text of correspondence between Governor General, India, and Maharaja Kashmir, regarding accession of Kashmir State to Indian Union. I have sent a

further message to Prime Minister. U. K., informing him of imminent peril of Srinagar and Kashmir from raiders and of action we have taken to give protection to people there.

I want to invite your Government's co-operation in stopping these raiders entering Kashmir territory from Pakistan. These raids have already resulted in large-scale death and destruction and if they are not stopped immediately will lead to ruin of Kashmir. The consequence of success of such irresponsible raiders anywhere will be far-reaching all over India. Therefore in interest of both Pakistan and India such raids must be stopped. As raiders come scross Pakistan territory it should be possible to stop them there.

I wish to assure you that action Government of India has taken has been forced upon them by circumstances and imminent and grave danger to Srinagar. They have no desire to intervene in affairs of Kashmir State after raiders have been driven away and law and order established.

In regard to accession also it has been made clear that this is subject to reference to people of State and their decision. Government of India have no desire to impose any decision and will abide by people's wishes. But these cannot be ascertained till peace and law and order prevail. Protection of Kashmir from armed raids thus becomes first objective and in this we trust we shall have your co-operation.

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# RAIDS MUST BE STOPPED BY ALL MEANS

(5)

Extract From Telegram, dated 28th October 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, To Prime Minister, Pakistan, Lahore.

I would welcome an early opportunity of meeting you and discussing various problems that have arisen, more specially developments in Kashmir about which I have informed you. I earnestly hope that there will be co-operation between Pakistan and India in stopping raids and putting down disorder and then leaving choice about future to people of Kashmir. I am glad to learn that you are likely to visit Delhi for Joint Defence Council meeting soon.

# FRONTIER "STIRRING"

Telegram, dated 30th October 1947, from PUNSG, Lahore, to Foreign, New Delhi.

For Pandit Nehru from Liaquat Ali Khan. I have received your telegrams including that of 28th October to which I reply. The position is that Sikh attacks on Muslims in East Punjab in August greatly inflamed feeling throughout Pakistan and it was only with greatest difficulty that Pathan tribes were prevented from entering West Punjab to take rev nge on Hindus and Sikhs. Muslims in Poonch were attacked and those in Jammu massacred by mobs led by Kashmir State Forces and when It was evident that there was to be a repetition in Kashmir of that in East Punjab it became impossible wholly to prevent tribes from entering that State without using troops which would have created a situation on frontier that might well have got out of control.

Your recent action of sending troops to Kashmir on pretext of accession has made things infinitely worse. The whole of the frontier is stirring and feeling of resentment among tribes is intense. The responsibility for what is happening is entirely yours. There was no trouble in Poonch or Jammu till State troops started killing Muslims. All along Kashmir Government has been in close touch with you. At the same time they ignored or refused our offers of friendly discussion. On 2nd October I suggested that both Pakistan and Kashmir should appoint representatives to discuss supplies to Kashmir and mutual allegations of border raids. The Prime Minister, Kashmir, replied that he was too busy. When in spite of this we sent Shah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and States to Kashmir the Prime Minister refused to discuss with him. On 15th October Prime Minister, Kashmir, threatened that unless we agreed to an impartial enquiry into what was happening he would ask for assistance to withstand aggression on his borders. We immediately agreed to an impartial enquiry since when no more has been heard from Kashmir of this proposal.

## Pathan Raid

The Pathan raid on Kashmir did not start till 22nJ October. It is quite clear

therefore that Kashmir's plan of asking for Indian troops—and it could hardly have been unilateral—was formed quite independently of this raid and all evidence and action taken shows it was pre-arranged. It would seem rather to have been made after failure of their troops to suppress people of Poonch and in anticipation of reaction which they expected to their massacre of Moslems in Jammu.

I in my turn appeal to you to stop the Jammu killings which still continue. Yesterday West Punjab was again invaded by a well armed mob who after a fight with villagers retreated leaving two Gurkha soldiers in uniform dead behind them. As long as this sort of thing continues passions are bound to become further inflamed.

(7)

## CYCLE OF RETALIATION

Telegram, dated 31st October 1947, From Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSG Lahore, Foreign Karachi

From Jawaharlal Nehru for Mr Liaquat Ali Khan. Your Telegram dated 30th October I have repeatedly expressed to you my sentiments regarding the cycle of retaliation which has plunged West and East Punjab in tragedy. Both in public and private I have condemned atrocities irrespective of community of the perpetrators Sikh, Hindu or Muslim. If Hindus and Sikhs have killed or driven out Muslims in any part of Kashmir I condemn their action without reserve. I find it impossible, however, to accept either your version of the causes and course of attack Kashmir or the baseless suggestion that we have sent troops to Kashmir on pretext of "accession". We are perfectly willing to have all events investigated during last 15 months to find out what have been basic causes and on whom blame rests. What has happened in Kashmir stands apart and must be judged as such, more specially in view of imminent danger of widespread disaster which Kashmir valley has had to face, which would have the most far-reaching consequences in regard to relations between India and Pakistan.

2. The Covernment of India entirely agree that no raids from one territory to another should take place and they must be stopped by all means at our disposal. It is patent that they have had nothing to do even remotely with occurrences in or near Kashmir State till they sent their troops to Srinagar 27th October. Before accession Kashmir was not our responsibility even though we were greatly interested in its future. We were not consulted by the Kashmir Government about any steps they may have taken or any correspondence with you. Our knowledge of what occurred then was derived largely from statements appearing in the Press. From these state-ments it appears that the Kashmir Government's account is materially different from what you have given and according to them many raids have

taken place from West Punjab into Jammu Province. As a matter of fact today a considerable part of Jammu Province has been occupied by raiders from West Punjab. These raiders are provided, according to reports, with the most modern weapons including flamethrowers. In these circumstances it is curious to state that aggression was from Kashmir State.

## Well-Organised Operations

3. No impartial person could regard the military operations which for some weeks have been in progress against Kashmir as other than well-organised, well-planned and the result of most careful preparation. These operations certainly did not start on 22nd October. What started on the 22nd October was raid from North-West Frontier Province. Its timing, mobility and speed are more suggestive of a concerted link between this operation and the operation which has been in progress on Kashmir's western borders than of a sudden tribal eruption inspired by communal happenings in the Punjab. In addition to this we have reliable information that regular Pakistan troops in large numbers were concentrated near the Kashmir border at Kohala as well as on the Jammu border and that they were prepared to enter Kashmir in the wake of the raiders.

4. You say that all along the Kashmir Government has been in close touch with us. You also say that Kashmir's plan of asking for Indian troops was formed quite independently of the recent raids. Indeed, you even suggest that the request for Indian troops was inspired by us. I repudiate both the statements of alleged fact and the insinuation. Until the Pathan raid started we had no request from Kashmir State for military aid and the question was never considered by us. Some weeks ago we were told by the Kashmir Government that essential supplies had been stopped by the Pakistan Government and we were requested to send some of these essential supplies. A request was also made for arms which was referred, in common requests from other States, to our States and Defence Ministries. This was sanctioned but as a matter of fact no arms were sent to them at all as this matter was not considered very urgent. It was at 11 p.m. on the 24th October that an urgent and specific request was made to us for the first time for troops to be sent. We considered this on the 25th in our Defence Committee and again on the 26th morning. In view of the imminent peril to the valley and the possibility of large-scale massacres, a decision was arrived as regarding accession and to send airborne troops the next day, the 27th October. You will appreciate that it would have been easy for us to send these troops earlier if we had intended doing so and thus stop the raiders at an early stage of their career along the Jhelum Valley road. Both military and other competent opinion has critieised us for being dilatory. At no time did we consider the question of sending troops for Kashmir previous to the 25th October. The earlier visits of the Kashmir officials were concerned with supplies and no question of giving military help arose.



# FRAUD AND VIOLENCE IN KASHMIR

5. Kashmir's accession to India was accepted by us at the request of the Maharaja's Government and the most numerous representative popular organisation in the State which is predominantly Muslim. Even then it was accepted on the condition that as soon as the invader has been driven from Kashmir soil, and law and order restored, the people of Kashmir would decide the question of accession. It is open to them to accede to either Dominion then. Had we desired a pretext either for Kashmir's accession or for sending our troops there we should not have waited to accomplish our purpose until half of the valley of Kashmir and parts of Jammu Province had been given to fire and sword and Srinagar itself was in peril of capture by the raiders with all its horrors.

### Raiders Not Prevented

6. I have no doubt that you realise that the raiders from the Frontier Province or along the Murree road come from Pakistan territory and it is the easiest thing in the world to stop them at the two bridges which connect Pakistan territory to Kashmir. They were not so prevented and their equipment and arms including artillery and automatic weapons bear witness to every help being given to them. We are credibly informed that regular officers of the Pakistan Army are advising the raiders. Even now it should be easy for your Government to stop the passage of these raiders or their supplies to Kashmir territory completely.

7. Our assurance that we withdraw our troops from Kashmir as soon as peace and order are restored and leave the decision about the future of the State to the people of the State is not merely a pledge to your Government but also to the people of Kashmir and to the world. You lay on us the responsibility for what is happening. should have thought that this could more appropriately and fairly be placed on those who have been attacking and invading Kashmir. To accuse us of provocation and aggression when all that we have done is to go to the rescue of a people threatened with loss of life, property and honour, is a singular perversion of truth and reason. It gives me no pleasure to write to you in this strain. I am convinced that if Pakistan and India are to live in peace, leaders on both sides must have trust in one another and act with understanding and restraint. Mutual distrust and recrimination can only lead to consequences which would be to the advantage of neither India nor Pakistan. I have done everything possible to think and act in this spirit. It was not possible for us to refuse the request of the Kashmir Government to help them prevent raiding bands from committing massacre, arson and loot and ruining Kashmir. I should have thought that it was equally to your advantage to prevent this und hence my appeal to you to stop these raiders at the source.

8. I have no knowledge of the raid you refer to in Jammu in your last

paragraph. I am inquiring about it. We shall certainly do our utmost to stop all raids and I appeal to you to do the same. I understand, however, that there is concentration of Pakistan troops on the Jammu border.

(8)

### PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Prime Minister, in a broadcast from New Delhi on November 2nd said:

I want to speak to you tonight about Kashmir, not about the beauty of that famous valley, but about the horror which it has had to face recently. We have passed through very critical days and the burden of taking vital and farreaching decisions has fallen upon us. We have taken these decisions and I want to tell you about them.

The neighbouring Government, using language which is not the language of Governments or even of responsible people, has accused the Government of India of fraud in regard to the accession of Kashmir to the Indian Union. I cannot emulate that language nor have I any desire to do so, for, I speak for a responsible Government and a responsible people. I agree that there has been fraud and violence in Kashmir but the question is: "Who is responsible for it?" Already considerable parts of the Jammu and Kashmir State have been overrun by raiders from outside, well-armed and well-equipped and they have sacked and looted the towns and villages and put many of the inhabitants to the sword. Frightfulness suddenly descended upon this lovely and peaceful country and the beautiful city of Srinagar was on the verge of destruction.

I want to say at once that every step that we have taken in regard to Kashmir has been taken after the fullest thought and consideration of the consequences and I am convinced that what we have done was the right thing. Not to have taken those steps would have been a betrayal of a trust and cowardly submission to the law of the sword with its accompaniment of arson, raping and slaughter.

#### No Interference

For some weeks past we had received reports of infiltration of raiding bands into the State territory of Jammu Province. Also of a concentration of armed men near the border of Kashmir with the North-West Frontier Province. We were naturally concerned about this not only because of our close ties with Kashmir and her people but also because Kashmir is a frontier territory adjoining great nations and therefore we were bound to take interest in the developments there. But we were anxious not to interfere and we took no step whatever to intervene even though a part of Jammu Province was overrun by these raiders.

It has been stated that there were raids from the Jammu side across the Pakistan border and that there was communal trouble in Jammu and Muslims were killed and driven away. In the past we have not hesitated to condemn evil, whoever, might have committed it, whether Hindu or Sikh or Muslim, and so if Hindus or Sikhs or any functionaries of the State misbehaved in Jammu Province, certainly we condemn them and regret their deeds.

But I have before me a detailed list of 95 villages in the Jammu Province which have been destroyed by the raiders from Pakistan. Bhimbar, a considerable town, had also been sacked and destroyed. Other towns are besieged and a considerable part of Poonch and Mirpur areas is in possession of the raiders. Does this indicate that aggression took place from the Kashmir side on to West Punjab or does it not show that there has been continuous organised aggression from West Punjab into Kashmir State? These raiders possess the latest type of modern arms. It is reported that they have used framethrowers and a disabled tank has been discovered with them.

About this time we were asked by the Kashmir State to provide them with arms. We took no urgent steps about it, and although sanction was given by our States and Defence Ministries, actually no arms were sent.

### On 24th October

On the night of the 24th October I learnt of another raid, this time from the Abbottabad-Mansara Road which enters Kashmir near Muzaffaral ad. We were told that armed and well-equipped persons in over 100 lorries had broken in, had sacked Muzaffaral ad and killed many persons there, including the District Magistrate, and were proceeding along the Jhelum Valley road towards Srinagar. The State forces were spread out in small numbers all over the State and they could not stop this armed and well-organised raid. The civil population, Hindu and Muslim, fled before the raiders.

It was on the 24th night that for the first time a request was made to us on behalf of the Kashmir State for accession and military help. On the 25th morning we considered this in the Defence Committee but no decision was taken about sending troops in view of the obvious difficulties of the undertaking. On the 26th morning we again considered this matter. The situation was even more critical then. The raiders had sacked several towns and had destroyed the great Power House at Mahoora which supplies electricity to the whole of Kashmir. They were on the point of entering the valley. The fate of Srinagar and the whole of Kashmir hung in the balance.

We received urgent messages for aid not only from the Maharaja's Government but from representatives of the people, notably that great leader of Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the President of the National Conference. Both the Kashmir Government and the National Conference presed us to accept the accession of Kashmir to the Indian

# Referendum Under International Auspices

Union. We decided to accept this and to send troops by air, but we made a condition that the accession would have to be considered by the people of Kashmir later when peace and order were established. We were anxious not to finalise anything in a moment of crisis, and without the fullest opportunity to the people of Kashmir to have their say. It was for them ultimately to decide.

# Our Policy

And here let me make clear that it has been our policy all along that where there is a dispute about the accession of a State to either Dominion, the decision must be made by the people of that State. It was in accordance with this policy that we added a provise to the Instrument of Accession of Kashmir.

We decided to send troops on the afternoon of 26th October. Srinagar was in peril and the situation was urgent and critical. Our staff worked hard that day and night, and at day-break on the 27th our troops went by air. They were small in numbers to begin with, but immediately on arrival they rushed into action to stop the invader. Their gallant Commander, a brave officer of Army, was killed the next day.

Since then, troops and equipment have been flown over daily, and I should like to express my high appreciation and the appreciation of my Government for the fine work which our staff have done, as well as the pilots and the air crews who have thrown themselves into this adventure with heart and soul. The air lines have co-operated with us fully and to them also I am grateful. Our youngmen have shown how they can rise to the occasion in a moment of crisis to serve their country.

#### Srinagar

Srinagar was in peril and the invader was almost on its door step. There was no administration left there, no troops, no police. Light and power had failed and there were a vast number of refugees there, and yet Srinagar functioned without obvious panic and the shops were opened and people went about the streets. To what was this miracle due? Sheikh Abdullah and his colleagues of the National Conference and their unarmed volunteers, Muslim and Hindu and Sikh, took charge of the situation, kept order and prevented panic. It was wonderful piece of work that they did at a moment when the nerves of most people might have failed them. They did so because of the strength of their organisation, but even more so because they were determined to protect their country from the ruthless invader who was destroying their country and trying to compel them by terrorism to join Pakistan. Whatever the future may hold, the people of the Valley of Kashmir have exhibited during these past few days remarkable courage, capacity for organisation and unity.

It would be well if this lesson was understood by the whole of India which has been poisoned by communal strife. Under the inspiration of a great leader, Sheikh Abdullah, the people of the Valley, Muslim and Hindu and Sikh, were together for the defence of their common country against the invader. Our troops could have done little without this popular support and co-operation.

The Maharaja of Kashmir deserves to be congratulated on his decision to make Sheikh Abdullah, the head of the administration at this critical juncture. That was a wise step which other rulers might well follow, making their people trustees and defenders of freedom.

## People's Struggle

It must be remembered, therefore, that the struggle in Kashmir is a struggle of the people of Kashmir under popular leadership against the invader. Our troops are there to help in this struggle, and as soon as Kashmir is free from the invader, our troops will have no further necessity to remain there and the fate of Kashmir will be left in the hands of the people of Kashmir.

We have passed through days of peril not only for Kashmir but for the whole of India. That peril is less now, but it is by no means over and many dangers confront us. We have to be very vigilant and well prepared for whatever may happen. The first step in this preparation is to put an end completely to every manner of communal strife in India, and to stand up as a united nation to face every danger which might threaten our freedom. External danger can only be faced effectively when there is internal peace and order, and an organised nation.

We talk about the invaders and raiders in Kashmir, and yet these men are fully armed and well trained and have competent leadership. All of these have come across and from Pakistan territory. We have a right to ask the Pakistan Government how and why these people could come across the Frontier Province of West Punjab, and how they have been armed so effectively. Is this not a violation of International Law and an unfriendly act towards a neighbour country? Is the Pakistan Government too weak to prevent armies marching across its territory to invade another country, or is it willing that this should happen? There is no third alternative.

We have asked the Pakistan Government repeatedly to stop these raiders from coming, and to withdraw those who have come. It should be easy for them to stop them for the roads into Kashmir are very few and have to pass over bridges. We on our part have no intention of using our troops in Kashmir when danger of invasion is passed.

We have declared that the fate of Kashmir is ultimately to be decided by the people. That pledge we have given, and the Maharaja has supported it, not only to the people of Kashmir but to the world. We will not, and

cannot back out of it. We are prepared when peace and law and order have been established to have a referendum held under international auspices like the United Nations. We want it to be a fair and just reference to the people, and we shall accept their verdict. I can imagine no fairer and juster offer.

Meanwhile we have given our word to the people of Kashmir to protect them against the invader and we shall keep our pledge.

## NO RAID FROM KASHMIR SIDE

Telegram, dated 3rd November 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSG. Lahore.

Following for Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

I have received no reply yet from you to my telegram, dated 31st October, regarding Kashmir.

Reference to last paragraph of your telegram, dated 30th October, I have enquired from Prime Minister, Kashmir, about alleged raid. His reply sent after investigation is that there was no raid from Kashmir side to West Punjab but there was a raid from West Punjab side into Jammu Province. This was resisted by villagers and State troops and two Gurkha soldiers were killed in Kashmir territory. Apparently their bodies were dragged away by the invaders into West Punjab.

I am informed that in Jammu Province situation is well in hand except in areas under the occupation of raiders who are continuing their depredations. Kashmir Government is protecting Muslims in Jammu and the border would be quite safe but for raids from West Punjab.

I have repeatedly requested you to stop raiders from entering Kashmir territory from Pakistan both in Jammu Province and along the Jhelum valley road. Our information is that these raiders are being helped by high Pakistan officials. Indeed Prime Minister of North-West Frontier Province has openly declared that these raiders should be helped. We have definite information of senior officials of the Frontier Province giving every assistance to these raiders. We put it to you that this is not only against your own declaration but also is a breach of International Law. We trust that you will take immediate steps not only to stop further raiders from coming into Kashmir State territory but order withdrawal of all those who are already in Kashmir State.

We are anxious to restore peaceful conditions in Kashmir and we invite your co-operation again to this end. This can only be done after the withdrawal of the raiders who have inflicted tremendous damage in the State territory. As soon as raiders are withdrawn there would be no necessity for our keeping our troops there.

I wish to draw your attention to the broadcast on Kashmir which I made last evening. I have stated our Governmnt's policy and made it clear that we have no desire to impose our will on Kashmir

# RAIDS FROM PAKISTAN SIDE

but to leave final decision to the people of Kashmir. I further stated that we have agreed to an impartial international agency like the United Nations supervising any referendum. This principle we are prepared to apply to any State where there is a dispute about accession. If these principles are accepted by your Government there should be no difficulty in giving effect to them.

Telegram, dated the 4th November 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSG,

from Prime Minister, India.

Governor-Gneral, India, has told me of his conversation with you in Lahore and I am happy that you will be fit enough to come to Delhi for the Joint Defence Council meeting on Saturday. That will give us an opportunity of personal discussion which is desirable. I hope you will be quite well soon.

(11)

### RAIDS CONTINUING

Telegram, dated the 4th November 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Prime Minister, Pakistan, Lahore.

For Prime Minister, Pakistan from Prime Minister, India.

Kashmir. Continuation my telegram, dated 3rd November. Further reports state that raids continue to be made from the Pakistan side into Jammu Province. On first November following villages within five miles of the border wre sacked and burnt: Chak Palango, Shibo, Chak Bahadurpur, Swankha, Abtal, Raika, and Majua. It is stated that armoured cars and three inch mortars were used by the raiders. On second November there was raid on Hiranagar across the border from West Punjab. I have already informed you of the sack and burning of Bhimbar town. Further particulars of this have reached us. Raiders came in military formation and were well-equipped with automatic weapons and mortars. They had also armoured cars. After the destruction of the town there was largescale mass acre of men, women and children. According to report a thousand persons were killed and over hundred women were kidnapped. The town was looted and many lorry loads of loot were taken away to West Punjab.

(12)

Telegram from PUNSG, Lahore to Foreign, New Delhi, dated the 5th and received 6th November 1947.

Following for Pandit Nehru from Liaquat Ali Khan:—

Your telegram, November 5th.

When Governor-General, India, me on November 5th I informed him that I would attend meeting of Joint Defence Council on November 8th if I I am fit enough to do so by then. Unfortunately I am still running a temperature and am in the same condition as when Lord Mountbatten saw me. If I am fit to travel I shall attend Joint Defence Council meeting on November 8th and also have a personal discussion with you.

(13)

# PAKISTAN PREMIER'S BROAD-CAST

Personal for Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan The following is the text of Mr. Liaquat on Prime Minister, India. from Lahore:-

> "I am speaking to you tonight from my sick-bed. I wish to talk to you about Kashmir, because the affairs of Kashmir have reached a critical phase and have now assumed international importance, and because I know that Kashmir is uppermost in your mind as it is in mine.

> "In the exhilaration of self-styled gallantry and valour, some erstwhile sympathisers of the oppressed people of Kashmir seem to have forgotten the history of this beautiful land. Let us, therefore, briefly recall it for their benefit.

## Amritsar Treaty

"This piece of God's earth along with the human beings inhabiting its hills and valleys was, under the infamous Amritsar Treaty, sold by the British to a Dogra chieftain for the paltry sum of Rs. 75 lakhs.

"The present Maharaja inherits the people of Kashmir from his forefathers as though they were so many cattle. It is this immoral and illegal ownership that the gallantry and valour of Indian troops is defending today by spilling the blood of the suppressed slaves who had been bartered away by the

"During the past 100 years of Dograrule, this highly gifted and most attractive race of Kashmiris has been dragged down to the lowest depths of misery. In recent years they have made many attempts to fight for their freedom. Time and again they had been thwarted but time and again they have risen to defy tyranny.

"The fight is not yet at an end. But I would like my listeners to know that today people of Kashmir are fighting not only for their freedom, but also for their very existence. For their misfortunes have, in recent months, taken on a darker side. They have been caught in the meshes of a widespread plan for the extermination of Muslims. This plan has succeeded in Alwar, in Bharat-pur, in Patiala, in Faridkot, and in Kapurthala. And all these you will note are States that have acceeded to the Indian Union.

"Only yesterday Muslims formed the majority of the population in Kapurthala. There are hardly any left there now. When we asked the Indian Government to protect the Muslims in these States, we were told that these events were the State's internal aflairs and the India Government could not interfere. After the massacre of Muslims in East Punjab and the East Punjab States, the forces of annihilation turned to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Towards the end of September, the I. N. A. and the Rashrtiya Sewak Sangh shifted their headquarters from Amritsar to Jammu, and thousands of Sikh refugees, so called, began to infiltrate into Kashmir. These so-called Sikh refugees came from East and not West Punjab. They came armed with modern weapons and were provided with more weapons by the State authorities. They set about their foul business in Jammu and Poonch repeating the horrible drama that they had enacted in East Punjab and with the same type of characters playing the leading roles.

#### In October

"In the beginning of October, news of the bestial deeds perpetrated on the innocent people of Kashmir began to trickle through. In a short time the trickle became a torrent. Burning villages could be seen from the Muree Hills. Thousands of terror-stricken refugees poured into Pakistan.

"It was at this stage that the people of Kashmir, in sheer desperation, turned on their oppressors. Kashmiris, and specially the inhabitants of Poonch, have many relatives in Hazara and in West Punjab. Consequently feelings in certain parts of Pakistan rose very high and some people from the North-West Frontier Province and the tribal area, stirred by the atrocities in Kashmir, rushed to the aid of their brethren. It is the oppressed, enslaved and entrapped people of Kashmir struggling for their freedom and now for their lives and their sympathisers, whom the Indian Government is helping to wipe out. The dec-clared object of the India Government is to strengthen the Maharaja's hands. How bloodstained these hands are is quite well-known to the leaders of India, even though they may choose to forget this fact now.

"The stress has deliberately been shifted to the so-called raiders, as if the people of Kashmir themselves suddenly slipped off their minds the memory of the century-old oppression, and had over-night become enamoured of their tyrannical oppressors. To prevent the rebellion of an enslaved people to the world as an invasion from outside simply because some outsidess have shown active sympathy with it, is a dishonest rewriting of history.

#### Use of Modern Arms

"Much has been made of modern arms that are alleged to have been used against the Army and a tall structure of insinuation and innuendo has been built on this detail. It is, however, forgotten that many of those who are fighting the inveding troops of India

come from the 60,000 ex-Army men of Poonch who are not incapable of capturing the arms of their enemy.

"Let us, therefore, not be misled by the laboured picture, so laborately drawn, of the "gallant" Indian army saving the beautiful land of Kashmir and its people from invading hordes. It is not invading hordes but the patriots of Kashmir that the Indian Army is shooting and bombing. It is not ikashmir but a tottering despot that the Indian Government and their campfollowers are trying to save.

"In his broadcast, the Prime Minister of India has been tilting at windmills. The armies of r'akistan have not marched into Kashmir as the armies of India, in one guise or another, marched into Junagadh and Manavadar when these States acceded to Pakistan. The India Government regarded the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan as a threat to their security.

The accession of Kashmir to India is a much greater threat to the security of Pakistan. We do not recognise this accession. The accession of Kashmir to India is a fraud, perpetrated on the people of Kashmir by its cowardly Ruler with the aggressive help of the India Government.

"The release of Sheikh Abdulah who had been convicted of treason, and the continued imprisonment of Muslim Conference leaders who had been convicted of mere technical offences, is only a part of the conspiracy. When the history of this tragic episode comes to be written, it will reveal the treachery of many self-styled patriots and lovers of justice. But the patriots of Kashmir will sooner or later prick this bubble, no matter how strong the forces arrayed against them. Our hearts go out to them-our brethren in this mortal struggle, for the choice before them now is freedom or death. If the plans of their enemies succeed, they will be exterminated as Muslims in various other parts of India have been exterminated. It is presumably after such extermination that the India Government propose that referendum should he held. What use is a referendum after the voters have been driven away from their homes, silenced in death.

### Proposal for Impartial Enquiry

"The world knows how we have consistently and repeatedly tried to reach a better understanding with the Kashmir Government. The Kashmir Government have ignored or rejected all these approaches. On October 2nd I suggested to the Prime Minister of Kashmir that all questions outstanding between the two States, including that of supplies under the standstill agreement and mutual accusations of border raids, should be discussed by representatives of the two Governments. The Prime Minister of Kashmir replied that at the moment he was too busy to discuss these matters. Nevertheless we sent a remember of the supplies with the State. The Prime Minister, however, refused to hold discussions with him and he had to return.

"On October 14th the Prime Minister of Kashmir in a telegram to me threatened that unless Pakistan agreed to an impartial inquiry he would be compelled to ask for outside assistance to withstand the unfriendly acts of Pakistan people on his border. I at once accepted the proposal for an impartial inquiry, and asked the Prime Minister of Kashmir to nominante a representative for this purpose.

The Government of Kashmir have since made no f rther reterence to this matter. On October 20th Mr. Jinnah in reply to a telegram from the Kashmir Government called attention to the repeated attempts of Pakistan to improve its relations with Kashmir and asked the Prime Minister of Kashmir to come to Karachi and talk over. No reply was sent to this request.

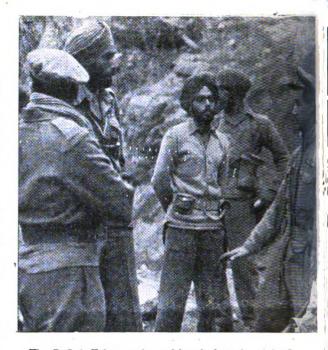
"Mr. Jinnah also pointed out that the threat to call in outside help amounted almost to an ultimatum, and showed that the real aim of the Kashmir Government's policy was to seek an opportunity to join the Indian Union by means of a coup d, etate.

"The refusal of the Kashmir Government to send a representative to discuss things and to nominate a representative for an impartial inquiry and their failure to reply to Mr. Jinnah's invitation to the Prime Minister to come to Karachi, their deliberate causing of disturbances in their State by employing their troops to attack Muslims, the fact that by 9 a.m. on the morning of the day on which Kashmir's accession was accepted Indian airborned troops had landed in Srinagar clearly show the existence of a plan for accession against the will of the poople, possible only by occupation of the country by Indian troops.

"Fven though all sorts of accusations were made against Pakistan by the Kashmir Government (an it was to redress these alleged wrongs that the India Government claims to have sent military aid to the Kashmir Government) yet at no stage did the Indian Dominion ask the Pakistan Government about these accusations and allegations or try to find a solution of this problem by joint consultation. It was only after India had accepted Kashmir's accession and sent forces and a Kashmir's accession and sent forces and a Kashmir that the Pakistan Government was informed of the action.

# Mr. Jinnah's Proposal

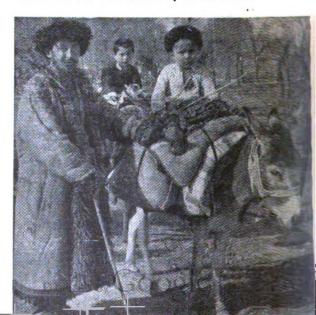
"After the unwarranted occupation of Kashmir by the India Government, Mr. Jinnah proposed that an immediate conference should be held in Lahore. It was to be attended by the Governnors-General and the Prime Ministers of the two Dominions and the Maharaja and his Prime Minister. This invitation was accepted and the conference was to be held on October 29th. At the last minute the conference was postponed as Pandit Nehru fell ill. It was arranged the, that the conference should be held on November 1st and attended by the Governors-General and the two Prime Ministers.- This conference also did not take place because on the morning of November 1st again at the last minute we were informed that Pandit Nehru was not well enough to come to Lahore.



The R. I. A. F. has performed heroic feats in giving? close support to Indian troops. The pilot and crew of an R. I. A. F. aircraft which after dropping supplies at Mirpur, was hit by anti-craft fire and made a forced landing in Poonch. Here, the crew ar describing their adventures to a senior Indian army officer



A village near Uri set ableze by the raiders (Below) Refugees arriving in Srinagar from Giggit, which had also been invaded by armed raiders





Baramula as Indian troops found it after driving out the invaders. Once a flourishing town 22 miles west of Srinagar, it was completely destroyed by the raiders, who killed hundreds of inhabitants and kidnapped many women

"In this way the idea of the conference receded into the background, so far as the Indian Dominion is concerned. If the India Government really wanted to discuss this most vital and urgent matter, surely the Deputy Prime Minister could have come in place of Pandit Nehru.

"On November 1st, Lord Mountbatten came to Lahore alone to attend the meeting of the Joint Defence Council and took the opportunity to see Mr. Jinnah. At this meeting certain suggestions were made to Lord Mountbatten but no further communication has been received by me or Mr. Jinnah from the India Government. Instead, Pandit Nehru has chosen to hurl across the world reckless accusations against the Pakistan Government, regardless of true facts. His broadcast was arranged after Lord Mountbatten's return to Delhi, and what the validity of his accusations is I have already told you. That is where the matter stands today. The issues are for you and the world to judge.

(14)

#### **PAKISTAN'S SUGGESTIONS**

Telegram, dated the 6th (received 7th) November 1947, from PUNSG, Lahore, to Foreign, New Delhi.

Following for Pandit Nehru from Liaquat Ali Khan:—

Your telegrams, dated October 31st, and November 4th, regarding Kashmir.

In broadcast I made on evening of November 4th I gave a review of Kashmir situation and of events leading up to it. It is hardly necessary for me to go over the whole ground again or reply to your allegations in detail. But I must say that you are singularly misinformed about position in Jammu and Kashmir. In particular, your account of border incidents in Jammu and of conditions in Jammu is so contrary to facts that I can only conclude that Jammu and Kashmir Government are sedulously keeping truth away from you. Let me repeat that it is the Muslims in Jammu

who are being massacred by the thousand every day with active assistance of State Police and military, who are also organising raids into West Punjab. When Kashmir Government made an offer of an impartial enquiry into these border incidents we accepted it at once. The Kashmir Government never broached the subject again. Your other allegations and insinuations are equally devoid of foundation and I emphatically repudiate them.

A day before your broadcast indicating policy of your Government a long discussion took place between Lord Mountbatten and the Qaid-e-Azam as a result of which the following proposals were put before Lord Mountbatten for communication to you and your Government—

- 1. To put an immediate stop to fighting; the two Governors-General should be authorised and vested with full powers by both the Dominion Governments to issue a proclamation forthwith giving 48 hours notice to two opposing forces to cease fire. We have no control over forces of Provisional Government of Kashmir or tribeamen engaged in fighting but we will warn them in clearest terms that if they do not obey order to cease fire immediately the forces of both Dominions will make war on them.
- 2. Both the forces of Indian Dominion and tribesmen to withdraw simultaneously and with utmost expedition from Jammu and Kashmir State territory.
- 3. With sanction of two Dominion Governments the two Governors-General to be given full power to restore peace, undertake administration of Jammu and Kashmir State and arrange for plebiscite, without delay, under their joint control and supervision.

Lord Mountbatten promised to let me know your Government's reply to these proposals but we have heard no more about them. Your Government's policy is vague. I still ask your Government to let me have your reply to our definite proposals.

## NO DESIRE FOR SETTLEMENT

Telegram, dated the 8th November 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Prime Minister Pakistan, Lahore.

For Prime Minister, Pakistan, from Prime Minister, India.

Your telegram, dated 6th November, about Kashmir was received today.

- 2. I regret that I have to disagree completely with your account of what has happened or is happening in Jammu and Kashmir State. We have received and are receiving full information from our own representatives in both Jammu and Srinagar, and this convinces us that your information is wholly wrong.
- 3. I regret also the tone and content of your broadcast of 4th November regarding Kashmir which indicated no desire to find method of settlement. It was merely an indicatement which has no relation to fact.
- 4. In the last paragraph of your telegram you say that Lord Mountbatten promised to let you know the views of the Indian Government to the proposals discussed between the two Governors-General but that you have heard no more about them. On this point there seems to have been a misunderstanding.
- 5. Lord Mountbatten on his return from Lahore gave me a full account of his talk with Mr. Jinnsh and in particular of two important suggestions which had been discussed namely, (one) the withdrawal of Indian Dominion troops and tribesmen from Kashmir, and (two), the holding of a plebiscite at the earliest possible date.

## Lord Mountbatten's Replies

- 6. As regards the first proposal Lord Mountbatten told me that Mr. Jinnah desired that the withdrawal of the Indian Dominion troops and tribesmen should be simultaneous but that he, (Lord Mountbatten), had pointed out that it was clearly impossible for the Indian troops to withdraw from Kashmir Valley until the raiders had left Kashmir soil and law and order had been restored in Kashmir. Lord Mountbatten had also made it quite clear to Mr. Jinnah that the Government of India had no desire to retain troops in Kashmir for a moment longer than was necessary.
- 7. As regards the second point Lord Mountbatten reported that Mr. Jinnah had expressed the view that there was no hope of a fair plebiscite under the present Kashmir authorities. To meet this point Lord Mountbatten had suggested that it should be conducted under the auspices of U. N. (). Mr. Jinnah had put forward the counter-proposal that the two Governors-General should be given plenary powers to settle the matter. Lord Mountbatten had pointed out that it would be constitutionally improper for him to undertake this duty.
- 8. On the very day that I had this talk with Lord Mountbatten I made a broadcast in which the views of the Government of India on both these proposals were

## India Made Definite Proposals

stated plainly and sincerely and I followed it up with a telegram to you indicating that they might form the basis of discussion at our next talk.

- 9. It is thus clear beyond any shadow of doubt that we did in fact put forward definite proposals as a basis for discussion between us, as soon as possible after Lord Mountbatten's return from Lahore.
- 10. I would have been glad to explain to you personally, at the meeting that had been arranged for tomorrow, the proposals we had put forward and the reasons for our inability to accept the proposals made to Lord Mountbatten by Mr. Jinnah. But since ufortunately, you are unable to come, I must let you have my views upon them. They are as follows.
- 11. As regards your proposals one and two.—a number of well-armed raiders have entered Kashmir to the accompaniment of massacre, arson and loot. Our troops have been sent there to drive out these raiders and protect Kashmir. So long as these raiders remain there, and law and order have not been established, our troops must discharge their duty. Afterwards they will be withdrawn, as I have already undertaken.
- 12. The raiders are either under your control, or they are not. If they are under your control you should withdraw them and, in any event, stop them coming through Pakistan territory into Kashmir. If they are not under your control and you can do nothing to stop them, then surely we are entitled to deal with them as we think best.
- 13. As regards proposal number three in your telegram of 6th October, we entirely endorse Lord Mountbatten's view (vide paragraph seven above).

#### India's Proposals

- 14. It will thus be seen that our proposals which we have repeatedly stated are.—(1) that the Government of Pakistan should publicly undertake to do their utmost to compel the raiders to withdraw from Kashmir, (2) that the Government of India should repeat their declaration that they will withdraw their troops from Kashmir soil as soon as the raiders have withdrawn and law and order are restored, (3) that the Governments of India and Pakistan should make a joint request to U. N. O. to undertake a plebiscite in Kashmir at the earliest possible date.
- 15. The above conclusions relate only to Kashmir, but it is essential, in order to restore good relations between the two Dominions that there should be acceptance of the principle that, where the ruler of a State does not belong to the community to which the majority of his subjects belong, and where the State has not acceded to that Dominion whose majority community is the same as the State's, the question whether the State should finally accede to one or the other of the Dominions should be ascertained by reference to the will of the people.

16. The Major-General commanding our forces in Jammu and Kashmir has been given the most explicit orders to do everything in his power to ensure that no victimisation of any community is permitted.

(16)

## PAKISTAN PREMIER'S STATEMENT

- Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 16th, issued the following Statement:—
- "I have seen the press report of speech made by the Deputy Prime Minister of India at a public meeting at Rajkot on November 12th and his subsequent speech at Junagadh, in the course of which he made various unfounded allegations against Pakistan, tried to justify the acts of aggression committed by the Indian Government in Manavader, Junagadh and Kashmir, and threatened Hyderabad with similar aggression.
- "I do not propose to emulate Mr. Patel by indulging in vituperative invectives or boastful threats. My firm and undeviating objective, as also the objective of the Pakistan Government, is to eliminate by peaceful and honourable means all existing causes of friction between the two Dominions and to establish conditions which would enable ourselves and our Indian neighbours to live in friendliness and amity.
- "I believe that a true understanding between the two countries can be based only on a clear and dispassionate appreciation of the fact of the present situation. It is with a view to promoting such an understanding that I propose to restate the position of the Pakistan Government in respect of the States over which the present disputes nave arisen.

#### Junagadh

- "Hundreds of States, including States such as Kapurthala, had a Muslim m jority in the population, acceded to the Indian Union, but in no case did the Pakistan Government interfere in any way. Junagadh was the first State to accede to Pakistan and at once the India Government started on a campaign of vilification, threats and economic blockade. When these weapons did not succeed in intimidating the Junagadh State, a 'Provisional Government' for Junagadh was set up on Indian soil and its first act was to occupy the Junagadh State property in Rajkot, which is the seat of the India Government's Regional Commissioner.
- "By infiltration tactics and other aggressive means, the 'Provisional Government' proceeded to violate the territory of Junagadh with the help of troops, many of whom were drawn from the Indian Army. Conditions were created in which it became impossible for the Junagadh Administration to function. Finally, on the alleged request of the Dewan, the administration was taken over and Junagadh was occupied by the armed forces of India.

- "The indisputable legal position is that, in view of the State's accession to Pakistan, the Dewan had no right to proffer and the India Government had no right to accept the so-called invitation to the India Government to take over the administration of the State.
- "In spite of the gravest provocation, we have refrained from any action which should result in armed conflict. We could with full justification and legal right, have sent our forces to Junagadh, but at no time since the accession of the State was a single soldier sent by us to Junagadh and our advice throughout to the State authorities was to exercise the greatest restraint.
- "Manavadar, another State which had acceded to Pakistan, and Mangrol and Babariawad, have also been occupied by Indian troops.

#### Settlement by Negotiation

- "In the Kashmir dispute, too, we have repeatedly urged a peaceful settlement by negotiation. The Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered grievoulsy under the Maharaja's Government. Thousands have been killed, Muslim women have been abducted in large numbers and over 100,000 Muslims have been driven out of their homes into Pakistan in a cruel and inhuman manner.
- "This destruction of Muslim life, honour and property, is still continuing by armed mobs with the help of the State and Indian Union forces, with the set purpose of eliminating the Muslim population from the State, and thousands of refugees are pouring into Pakistan. Dogra troops and gangsters from the State have made numerous incursions into our territory in West Punjab.
- "We made repeated attempts to persuade the Kashmir Government to discuss these questions with us, but they were determined to join the Union of India against the will of the people of Kashmir by a coup d'etat.
- "The India Government, in direct and clear repudiation of the principles on which they had questioned the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan, and without any reference to, or consultation with the Pakistan Dominion, whose security is vitally affected by events in Kashmir, occupied Kashmir by military force and have, since the very first day of their entry into Kashmir, been endeavouring in putting down the Muslims there by force.
- "Pakistan territory steelf has been twice violated by the Indian forces, bombs have been dropped in our territory in the vicinity of the Kohala bridge and our police post at Ghari-Habibullah, in the Hazara district, has been machinegunned by the Indian Air Force.
- "Immediately after the unwarranted occupation of Kashmir by the India Government, a conference between the two Governors-General and the Prime Ministers of the two Dominions and the Maharaja and his Prime Minister was arranged at the instance of the Qaid-e-Aram on October 29th. At the last minute this conference was postponed

## INDIAN TROOPS PROTECTED MUSLIMS

as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru fell ill. Another conference was then arranged for November 1st, but this also did not take place because Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru could not attend it.

"On November 1st the Qaid-e-Azam met Lord Mountbatten and put fo ward the following proposals for the consideration of the Government of India:

"First, to put an immediate stop to fighting, the two respective Governments to issue a proclamation forthwith, giving 48 hours' notice to the opposing forces to cease fire.

"We made it clear that we had no control over the forces of the 'Provisional Government of Kashmir' or the tribesmen engaged in fighting, but we were prepared to warn them in the clearest terms that if they did not obey the order to cease fire immediately, the forces of both Dominions would make war on them.

"Secondly, both the forces of the Indian Dominion and the tribesmen should withdraw simultaneously and with the utmost expedition from the State territory.

"Thirdly, the two Governors-General should be vested with full powers by the two Dominion Governments to restore peace, undertake the administration of Jammu and Kashmir State and arrange for a plebiscite without delay, under their joint control and supervision.

"These were eminently reasonable proposals. We made them at the risk of incurring the hostility of the Frontier tribes, whose feelings had been intensely aroused over the atrocities committed on their brethern in Kashmir.

#### Plebiscite

"The day after these proposals reached India Government the Prime Minister of India, instead of sending a reply officially, gave a vague and evasive idea of his solution of the Kashmir question in a broadcast, merely harping on the slogan of plebiscite but disregarding everything else.

"After waiting for some days, I sent a reminder. The India Government's official reply showed that they were not prepared to accept any of our suggestions. On the contrary, it was categorically stated that they would first drive out all the so-called raiders by force of arms, and as a recent telegram shows, they are not even prepared to have a discussion until this has been done.

"We have made repeated efforts to have a conference with the India Dominion to bring about a peaceful settlement, but, on one pretext or another, the India Government, with the might of military power behind them, have flouted the idea. The attitude of the

India Government indicates that they are determined to force a military decision on Kashmir and to reduce the plebiscite to a farce by eliminating the Muslim population by the cruel methods which are now in operation.

"Indeed, it now seems extremely doubtful if there will be any attempt at all to ascertain the wishes of the people of Kashmir. Speaking to pressmen at Srinagar on November 10th, during Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to that place, Sheikh Abudllah was reported to have observed that there m y not be a referendum at all.

#### Sheikh Abdullah's Statement

"While this Quisling, who has been an agent of the Congress for many years, struts about the stage bartering away the life, honour and freedom of his people for the sake of personal profit and power, the true leaders of the Muslims of Kashmir are rotting in jail. His statement reveals an uneasy realisation that, despite all the repression, the verdict of the people of Kashmir will go in favour of accession to Pakistan.

"There is not the slightest doubt that the whole plot of the accession of Kashmir to India was preplanned. It cannot be justified on any constitutional or moral grounds. It is quite clear now that what the India Government are after is permanent occupation of Kashmir. They can maintain this unjust occupation only by liquidation of the Muslim population of Jammu and Kashmir, who are now suffering military repression in its worst form and who are struggling for their freedom and indeed, for their very existence against heavy odds.

"The India Government's whole conduct is based on 'might is right' and on the belief that Pakistan is unable to fight them. If the India Government are allowed to follow their imperialist land-grabbing policy, this will have repercussions not only in Asia, but throughout the world.

"The fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations is to prevent might prevailing over right. The whole dispute should, therefore, be brought before the bar of international opinion.

"We are ready to request U.N.O. immediately to appoint its representatives in Jammu and Kashmir State in order to put a stop to fighting and to the repression of Muslims in the State; to arrange the programme of withdrawal of outside forces, to set up an impartial administration of the State till a plebiscite is held and to undertake the plebiscite under its direction and control for the purpose of ascertaining the free and unfettered will of the people of the State on the question of accession.

"We are prepared to accept a similar solution of the dispute regarding Manavadar and Junadadh."

#### JAMMU SITUATION

Telegram, dated 21st November 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSG, Lahore.

From Prime Minister, India, for Prime Minister, Pakistan.

Your telegram, dated 19th November. I have nothing to add to what I have already said regarding the so-called agreement in my telegram, dated 13th November. I have been assured by parties concerned that this was no agreement at all but points noted down for discussion.

2. Immediately after the ccession of Kashmir State to India we were entirely occupied, militarily and otherwise, in the Kashmir Valley and we were not in touch with the Jammu situation. We came to learn later that two convoys of Muslims had been brutally attacked in Jammu. We took immediate steps to prevent evacuation of Muslims from Jammu and to protect them there. Another convoy had started already but this was guarded by our troops and when this was attacked our troops inflicted very heavy casualties on the attackers, killing 150 of them, wounding nearly a hundred and capturing 500 of them. Since then there has been no evacuation, no convoys and no attacks. We have issued strictest possible instructions to Commander of our forces that they should do everything possible to protect Muslims in Jammu and these orders have been carried out with success during the last fortnight. We deeply regret the attacks on Muslim convoys early in November and heavy casual-ties suffered by them. We should like to point out, however, that no troops of the Indian Union have been guilty of offences that you attribute to them. They have effectively protected Muslims. It appears that attacks on Muslim convoys were made chiefly by non-Muslim refugees.

3. Sheikh Abdullah has visited Jammu recently and has taken effective steps there to afford safety and security to the residents.

#### Poonch Area

4. The Poonch area, according to the information available to us, has been overrun by raiders, and garrigons of State troops are mostly isloated and besieged. It is difficult to understand, therefore, how local Muslim population in this area could be victimized by non-Muslims.

5. We are quite sure that soldiers of Indian Union forces in Kashmir have afforded protection to Muslims according to strict directions, or have been engaged in fighting raiders.

6. As regards troops of States hat have acceded to the Indian Union, some of these were sent to Kashmir State but they arrived after the attacks on Muslim convoys referred to above. There has been no allegation to our knowledge that they have participated in attacks on Muslims and indeed they

## Pakistan's Refusal To Send Supplies

have not been physically in a position to do so.

- 7. I should like to draw your attention to certain resolutions passed recently by All India Congress Committee in Delhi defining the policy to be pursued in regard to migration of population, refugees, etc. These resolutions represent generally the policy of our Government.
- 8. Your statement that we are not prepared to have discussion until raiders have been driven out of Kashmir must be based on some misunderstanding. We are ready for a discussion at any time. All that I have said, and would repeat, is that a settlement of the Kashmir issue cannot take place unless the raiders are made to leave Kashmir State territory.

#### Sheikh Abdullah

- 9. I must express my great regret at the remarks you have made in your press statement about Sheikh Abdullah. I regard him as a man of high integrity and patriotism. You know well his great influence in Kashmir. All communities look up to him but more specially and naturally the Muslims of Kashmir. He has faced a very difficult situation with remarkable courage and ability. He is now head of the Kashmir A liministration and undoubtedly represents in a very large measure the popular will of Kashmir. It would be improper in every way for us not to consult him in any matter relating to Kashmir State.
- 10. The specific suggestions regarding reference to the United Nations in your press statement are:
- (i) "That U. N. O. should immediately appoint representatives in Jammu and Kashmir in order to put a stop to fighting, and to repression of Muslims in the State." Since United Nations have no (repeat no) forces at their disposal, we do not see how they can put a stop to the fighting or to the alleged repression of Muslims. This can only be done by an organised military force, and is being done by our troops. The fighting would also stop as soon as the raiders were made to withdraw and I have repeatedly asked your co-operation in stopping transit and supplies to raiders through Pakistan territory.
- (ii) "To set up an impartial administration of the State." It is not clear to me what U.N.O. can do in the present circumstances in Kashmir till peace and order have been established. We are convinced that Sheikh Abdullah's administration is based on the will of the people and is impartial. Anyone who goes to Kashmir and sees things for himself can appreciate this. Moreover, we have pledged that, so long as our forces are in Kashmir, protection of all sections of the community will be their first and sacred duty. This duty will be discharged without fear or favour.

(iii) "To undertake the plebiscite under its direction and control for the purpose of ascertaining the free and unfettered will of the people of the State on the question of accession." and accession." I have repeatedly stated that as soon as the raiders have been driven out of Kashmir or have withdrawn and peace and order have been established, the people of Kashmir should decide question of accession by plebiscite or referendum under international auspices such as those of the United Nations. It is clear that no such reference to the people can be made when large bodies of raiders are despoiling the country and military operations against them are being carried on. By this declaration I stand.

#### Pledge to Kashmir

- 11. I have said enough to reassure you regarding our resolve to protect the Muslim population of Kashmir and of our desire to have the people of Kashmir themselves decide their own future under fair and equitable conditions. I would repeat that we are ready for a discussion at any time. But if a discussion is to lead to a settlement the raiders must be out of Kashmir State. We cannot leave the people of Kashmir unguarded and in danger of attack. We have pledged our word to protect them.
- 12. In your press statement you have said that you have no control of the tribesmen engaged in fighting in Kashmir. Even so it should be possible for you to deny them access to Kashmir through your territory, and also to stop supplies of commodities like petrol which, prima facie, they could not obtain from any source outside Pakistan. If you have no control over the raiders and we do not stop and drive them out, then indeed we are reduced to a state of affairs when all governments cease to function and the raider, and looter and the killer become masters of the situation. That surely cannot be tolerated by our government or yours.
- 13. I did not suggest that the Pakistan Army was participating officially in the raid. We possess, however, incontrovertible evidence that members of the Pakistan Army, whether on leave or deserters, have joined the raiders, and that the military equipment which can only have come from the Pakistan Army has been in possession of the raiders.

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#### LIAQUAT ALI KHAN'S REPLY

Telegram, dated (and received) the 25th November 1947, from PUNSG, Lahore, to Foreign, New Delhi.

From Foreign, Camp, Lahore.

Following for Prime Minister, India, from Prime Minister, Pakistan.

Your telegram, dated November 21st I regret to say that your telegram is

full of evasion and contradictions and it is difficult to get a concrete plan of action out of it. I am extremely sorry that you still support Sheikh Abdullah who you know is a Quisling and a paid agent to disrupt the Muslmans of Kashmir.

(19)

#### PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Pandit Nehru's statement on Kashmir in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 25th November, 1947.

I am glad to have this opportunity of explaining to the House the course of events that have led to our intervention in Kashmir with the aid of armed forces, and the attitude of the Government of India to the grave problems that have arisen in that State.

The House is aware that on the lapse of Crown Paramountcy on the 15th August, this year, Kashmir did not accede to either Dominion. We were of course vitally interested in the decision that the State would take.

Kashmir, because of her geographical position with her frontiers marching with three countries, namely, the Soviet Union, China and Afghanistan, is intimately connected with the security and international contacts of India. Economically also Kashmir is intimately ralated to India-The caravan trade routes from Central Asia to India pass through Kashmir State.

Nevertheless, we did not put the slightest pressure on the State to accede to the Indian Dominion because we realised that Kashmir was in a very difficult position. We did not want a mere accession from the top but an association in accordance with the will of her people. Indeed we did not encourage any rapid decision. Even in regard to a standstill agreement no speedy steps were taken by us although the matter was under consideration, even though Kashmir had entered into a standstill agreement with Pakistan soon after the 15th August.

We learnt later that serious external pressure was being applied on Kashmir by the Pakistan authorities refusing to send to Kashmir supplies vital to the needs of the people, such as foodgrains, salt, sugar and petrol. Thus an attempt was being made to strangle Kashmir economically and thus force her to accede to Pakistan. This pressure was serious because it was not easy for Kashmir to obtain these essential supplies from India on account of the difficulty of communications.

In September news reached us that tribesmen of the North-West Frontier Province were being collected and sent to the Kashmir border. In the beginning of October events took a grave turn. Armed bands moved into Jammu Province from the neighbouring districts of West Punjab, committed serious acts of depredation on the local inhabitants, burnt villages and towns and put a large number of people to death. Refugees from these areas poured into Jammu.

## India's Action StraightAnd Above Board

On the Jammu side of the border the local inhabitants, who are chiefly Hindu and Rajput in that area, took retaliatory measures and drove out the Muslims living in those border villages. In these border conflicts a very large number of villages were destroyed or burnt by both parties on either side of the frontier

The raiders from West Punjab into Jammu Province were increased in numbers and spread out over that province. The Kashmir State Army which had to meet these raids at numerous points soon found itself broken into small fragments and gradually ceased to be a fighting force. The raiders were highly organised, had competent officers and modern arms. They succeeded in occupying a considerable part of Jammu Province, more especially in the Poonch Area. Poonch Town, Mirpur, Kotli and some other places held out.

About this time the State authorities asked us to supply them with arms and ammunition. We agreed to do so in the normal course. But in fact no supply was made till events took a more serious turn. Even at this stage no mention was made of accession to India.

The leader of the popular organisation in Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, President of the Kashmir National Conference, was released from prison during this period and we discussed the situation in Kashmir with him as well as with representatives of the Maharaja of Kashmir. We made it clear to both of them that while we would welcome the accession of Kashmir we did not want any hurried or forced accession and we would rather wait for the people to decide. Sheikh Abdullah was himself of this opinion.

#### March to Srinagar

On the 24th October we heard that large armed bands consisting both of tribesmen from the Frontier and ex-servicemen had broken through Muzzaffarabad and were marching to through Srinagar. These raiders had crossed Pakistan territory and  $\mathbf{they}$ with Bren Guns, Machine Guns, mortars and flame-throwers, and had at their disposal a large nmuber of transport vehicles. They moved rapidly down the Valley, sacking and burning and looting all along the way. We gave earnest consideration to this situation in our Defence Committee on the 25th and 26th October. The position on the 26th morning was that the raiders were marching towards Srinagar and there was no military detachment capable of stopping them. They had been stopped for two days near Uri by the State forces under a gallant commander who resisted this advance to the point of death. These two days thus gained were very valuable.

We were asked at this stage, both on behalf of the Maharaja and Sheikh Abdullah, to accept the accession of the State to the Indian Union and to intervene with the armed forces of the Union.

An immediate decision was necessary, and in fact it is now clear that if we had delayed the decision even by 24 hours Srinagar would have fallen and would have suffered the tragic fate that befell Muzaffarabad, Paramula and other places. It was clear to us that we could not possibly accept under any circumstances this ruin of Kashmir by brutal and irresponsible raiders. This would have been a surrender to frightfulness and fanaticism of the worst type and it would have had the most serious consequences all over India. To intervene at that stage was no easy matte and was full of risks and danger. Yet we decided to face this risk and intervene because any other course would have meant ruin to Kashmir and danger to India

. In accepting the accession, however, we made it perfectly clear to the Maharaja that his Government must be carried on in f ture according to the popular will and that Sheikh Abdullah should be charged with the formation of an interim government on the new model adopted in Mysore. Sheikh Abdullah, in our opinion, had undoubtedly the support of the large majority of the people of Kashmir, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Further, we made it clear that as soon as law and order had been restored in Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invaders, the question of the State's accession should be settled by reference to the people.

I shall not detain the House by dealing with the course of the military campaign that followed. The facts are well-known and redound to the credit of our military organisation, our troops and our airmen. It must be remembered also that our operations have been very largely based on air transport in difficult circumstances. Our civil air-lines and their air-crews functioned with remarkable success.

#### Morale of the People

Or ' fact, however, which contributed to our success at least as much as the military operations was the maintenance, under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah, of the civil administration and the morale of the civil population. population, completely unarmed, with the enemy within a few miles of the city, behaved in a manner which showed extraordinary courage and coolness. did so because they had a great leader and because Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs all joined together under him to throw back the enemy and to save Kashmir, their common heritage. This fact is one of the most remarkable events of recent times in India and one from which the rest of the country may take a profitable lesson. It was certainly a factor of the most vital importance in the eaving of Srinagar.

The present position is that our troops have relieved Poonch and are within 8 miles of Kotli. The terrain in which they are functioning is difficult and mountainous and the roads and approaches have been destroyed by the raiders. Progress is therefore, slow. In this Poonch area

occupied by the raiders, several massacres of the non-Muslim inhabitants have taken place involving large number of persons.

I should like to say here that certain events happened near Jammu early in November which I regret very deeply. The Muslim convoys of evacuees were being taken away from Jammu when they were attacked by non-Muslim refugees and others and a large number of casualties were inflicted. The troops escorting them did not pay a creditable role. I might add that none of our troops were present or had anything to do with this. We have issued the most stringent orders to our troops to protect the people, to function with impartiality and indeed to make friends with the local population. I am glad to say that they have carried out these instructions.

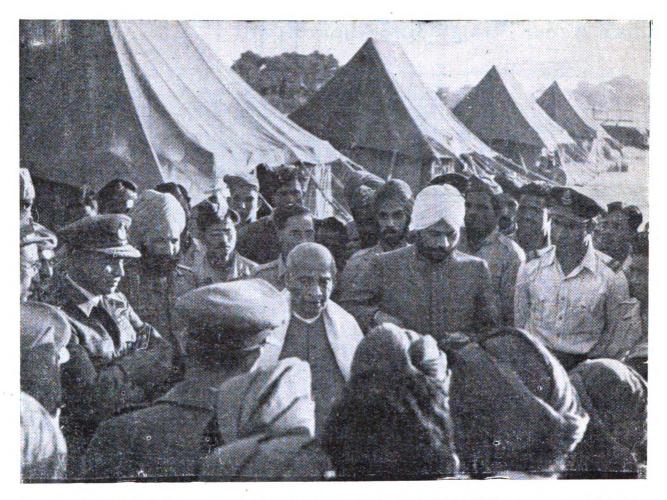
#### Straight Action

The House is aware that the Pakistan Government has protested emphatically against our action in Kashmir. In doing so they have used language which is not becoming in any government and have alleged fraud and conspiracy on our part. I need only say that I am completely convinced that every action that the Government of India have taken in regard to Kashmir has been straight and above board and I can defend it at any time before the world. We have indeed been over-scrupulous in this matter so that nothing may be done in the passion of the moment which might be wrong. The behaviour of our army has all along been good and worthy of our traditions.

I cannot say this of the Pakistan Government. Their case is that the genesis of the trouble was extensive killing of Muslims in Eastern Punjab and Kashmir and that the raid on Kashmir was a spontaneous reaction to this on the part of the tribesmen. I think this is completely untrue. I regret deeply that in parts of Jammu province Muslims were killed and driven out. This of course has had nothing to do with our government or our forces. But this mutual killing has been a very tragic feature during these past months in the Punjab, and Jammu was powerfully affected by this.

We have sufficient evidence in our possession to demonstrate that the whole business of the Kashmir raids both in Jammu province and in Kashmir proper was deliberately organised by high officials of the Pakistan Government. They helped the tribesmen and ex-servicemen to collect, they supplied them with implements of war, with lorries, with petrol and with officers. They are continuing to do so. Indeed their high officials openly declare so.

It is obvious that no large body of men could cross Pakistan territory in armed groups without the goodwill, connivance and active help of the authorities there. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the raids on Kashmir were carefully planned and well-organised by the Pakistan authorities with the deliberate object of scizing the State by force and then declaring accession to Pakistan. This was an act of hostility not only to Kashmir but



Sardar Vellabhbha Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, and Sardar Baldev Singh Defence Minister, talking to R. I. A. F. Officers and men during a visit to Jammu

to the Indian Union. It is only necessary to see the semi-official organs of the Muslim League and the Pakistan Government to find out the attitude of that government. If we had allowed this scheme to succeed, we would have been guilty of betrayal of the people of Kashmir and a grave dereliction of duty to India. The results of these on the communal and political situation all over India would have been disastrous.

The Pakistan Government have proposed a simultaneous withdrawal of our forces and the raiders from Kashmir. This was a strange proposal and could only mean that the raiders were there at the instance of the Pakistan Government. We cannot treat with free-booters who have murdered large numbers of people and tried to ruin Kashmir. They are not a State, although a state may be behind them. We have gone to Kashmir to protect the people and as soon as this duty is discharged our forces need not remain there and we shall withdraw our forces. We cannot desert the people of Kashmir till danger is passed.

If the Pakistan Government is sincere they can stop the entry of these raiders and thus accelerate the return of peace and order. After that let the people of Kashmir decide and we shall accept their decision. But if this armed conflict continues no opportunity is given

for the people to decide by peaceful means and the decision gradually takes shape by the sacrifice and power of the people in this conflict.

#### **Impartial Tribunal**

In order to establish our bona fides we have suggested that when the people are given the chance to decide their future this should be done under the supervision of an impartial tribunal such as the United Nations Organisation.

The issue in Kashmir is whether violence and naked force should decide the future or the will of the people. The raiders, encouraged by Pakistan, have sought to enforce by the sword accession to Pakistan against the envious wishes of large numbers of the people in Kashmir. We cannot permit a success of this method to achieve political ends. It is a tragedy that Pakistan should ally itself to such methods instead of devoting herself to the urgent tasks of economic and social reconstruction.

Kashmir has gone through fire and I am sure that the House would like me to communicate their sympathy to the people of Kashmir for the tribulations they have been going through in recent weeks. This fair land which nature has made so lovely has been descrated by people who have indulged in murder,

arson, loot and foul attacks on women and children. The people have suffered greatly from shortage of the most vital necessities of life and yet, under the inspiring lead of Sheikh Abdullah, they have stood together in the hour of calamity and showed to the rest of India an example of what communal unity can achieve. Whatever the future may hold, this chapter in the history of Kashmir will be worth reading and we shall never regret that in their hour of distress we have been able to be of assistance to this gallant people.

Kashmir and India have been bound together in many ways from ages past. These last few weeks have forged a new link which none can sunder.

### WOMEN SOLD LIKE CATTLE

Telegram, dated the 2nd December 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to PUNSG, Lahore.

For Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

Please see my immediately preceding telegram. I have received information that there are in Gujrat District some 2,000 Hindu women abducted from Bhimber area and that they are being sold like cattle at Rs. 150 each. This

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 1, 1948

## Obligation To People Of Kashmir

traffic is, I am sure, as revolting to you as it is to me and I would earnestly ask you to take all possible steps to see that these unfortunate women are rescued and evacuated to India. I understand that our Deputy High Commissioner in Lahore is contacting the Inspector-General of Police, West Punjab, in the matter.

(21)

#### INTOLERABLE SITUATION

Telegram, dated the 3rd December 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Prime Minister, Pakistan, Lahore.

For Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

I have been drawing your attention to large concentrations of tribesmen and others in West Puniab near the border of Kashmir State and to the abduction of large numbers of women from Kashmir who are being offered for sale in West Punjab. During the last few days while we were supposed to be discussing possible terms for a settlement, these concentrations have been encouraged and additional raiders have been sent into Kashmir who have ma sacred thousands of persons there. We have reliable evidence about the part that officials of the Pakistan Government are taking in organising this invasion of Kashmir territory. I feel I must inform you that this is creating a very grave situation in regard to India-Pakistan relations. The Government of India cannot tolerate the continuance of the use of Pakistan territory for organising murderous raids into a part of Indian Dominion territory and must consider it as an act of hostility. This you will appreciate might involve far-reaching consequences. It is hardly possible to conduct any negotiations while this state of affairs lasts. In spite of repeated requests from us 10 you there has been no attempt on the part of the Pakistan Government to withdraw raiders or to express its disapproval of their action.

(22)

# NON-MUSLIMS ASSURED PROTECTION

Telegram, dated the 4th (Received 5th) December 1947, from PUNSG, Lahore, to Foreign, New Delhi.

From Foreign Camp, Lahore. Addressed Foreign, New Delhi.

For Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from Liaquat Ali Khan.

I have received your telegram, dated December 2nd, on return from Rawalpindi today. I am greatly distressed to read their contents and am taking immediate steps to have an investigation into matter. I have issued orders that any non-Muslims moving from Jammu, Kashmir State into Pakistan territory should be collected

in camps and given adequate protection until they are evacuated. I am a one with you in my abhorrence of all crimes against women.

(2) When I was in Sialkot on November 30th and December 1st and in Rawalpindi on 3rd and 4th December I was told most harrowing stories about Muslims in Jammu Kashmir State. According to all reports I received Muslim population of large number of towns and villages in Jammu has been massacred and total of killed runs into six figures. The abduction of Muslim women has taken place on a very large-scale and women from respectable families have been specially attacked but apart from abduction there are other aspects of treatment of Muslim women which are too shameful to put in writing. Until I had visited Sialkot and Rawalpindi and received first hand evidence I had not realised full gravity of situation. The two Governments must, as a matter of highest urgency, concert measures to put a stop to this state of affairs.

(23)

#### KASHMIR THE MAJOR ISSUE

Telegram, dated the 12th December 1917, From Foreign, New Delhi, to Foreign, Karachi,

From Prime Minister, India, for Prime Minister, Pakistan.

Ever since my return from Lahore I have given the most earnest thought to the settlemnt of all outstanding matters in dispute between India and Pakistan. My colleagues share my desire for such a settlement which is essential for the well-being of both India and Pakistan. It is our good fortune that agreements have already been arrived at in regard for many matters in controversy. But you will appreciate that it is difficult to make any progress if conflict and suspicion continue between the two countries. Such conflict is likely to affect all our other relations and may lead to a deterioration of the situation.

- 2. The major cause of this conflict at present is Kashmir. We have discussed this matter with you at great length without resolving our differences or finding a way out of the impasse. I need not reiterate the arguments which have been repeatedly advanced in support of our position. You are fully seized of them.
- 3. We have given further thought, in the light of our discussion in Lahore, to the question of inviting the United Nations to advise us in this matter. While we are prepared to invit. U.N.O. observers to come here and advise us as to the proposed plebiscite, it is not clear in what other capacity the United Nations' help can be sought. According to your own declaration to us you are not parties to the present struggle in Kashmir. We cannot treat with irregular invaders as a State. No Government can deal with such raids which have brought death and destruction

Kashmir, except through military means. We owe an obligation to the people of Kashmir to restore peaceful and nermal conditions and we have pledged ourselves to this end. We would gladly co-operate in an attempt to restore peace by settlement.

- 4. I trust that you will appreciate the logic and reasonableness of our position and our earnest desire to find a solution which is honourable to all concerned. I hope to meet you when you visit Delhi on the 22nd December to attend the next meeting of the Joint Defence Council and to discuss this matter further with you. I confess, however, that I find myself unable to suggest anything beyond what I have offered already, namely, to ask the U. N. O. to send impartial observers to advise us regarding the plebiscite.
- I hope that your health continues to improve.

(24)

#### KASHMIR'S VITAL POSITION

Telegram, dated the 16th and received 17th December 1947, Foreign, Karachi, to Foreign, New Delhi.

For Prime Minister, India, from Prime Minister, Pakistan.

Your telegram, dated December 1st.

As you know I am most desirous for a settlement of all matters in dispute between India and Pakistan. So are my colleagues. And I agree with you that major issue outstanding between the two Dominions is Kashmir and as I pointed out before also Junagadh. During our discussions in Delhi and Lahore I explained to you how vital a place Kashmir occupies in relation to Pakistan. The security of Pakistan is bound up with that of Kashmir, and ties of religion, cultural affinity and economic inter-dependence bind the two together still closer. The security and well-being of people of Kashmir is of highest importance to people of Pakistan. We are, therefore, vitally interested in peaceful and honourable conditions for people of Kashmir so that freed from all pressure, external or internal. they might of their own free-will decide to which Dominion they wish to accede.

The test of any course of action would, therefore, be whether it leads to creation of conditions in which a really free plebiscite can be held. To my mind, the problem can only be solved by an act of statsmanship in the light of basic realities of situation and not by legal disputations as to how Pakistan is party to dispute or how U. N. O. can be brought in. I hope when we meet on December 22nd we shall be able to discuss matter in this spirit.

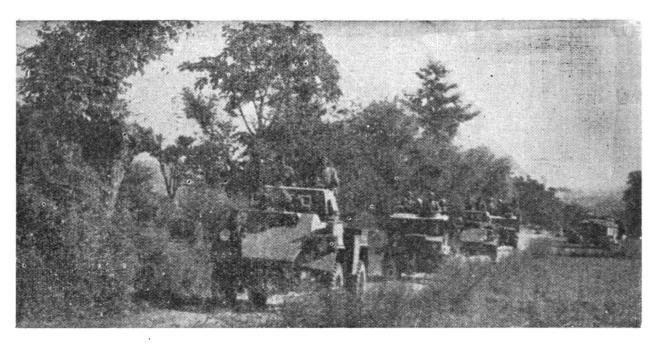
Many thanks for your enquiry about my health. I am feeling better now.

## INDIA'S DEMANDS

The Prime Minister of India personally handed over to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the following letter in New Delhi, on December 22nd, 1947.

Dear Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan,

1. On various occasions, I have drawn your attention to the aid which the raiders



Indian armed forces have been operating in Jamma Province against armed bands of men who raided the province looting, burning and killing. Picture shows an Indian Army convoy on the move in Jamma

into Kashmir State are deriving from Pakistan. They have free transit through Pakistan territory. They are operating against Kashmir from bases in Pakistan. Tasir modern military equipment could only have been obtained from Pakistan sparces; mortars, artillery and Mark V-mines are not normally the kind of armament which tribesmen possess. Motor transport, which the raiders have been using, and the petrol required for it, could also be obtained in Pakistan only. Fool and other supplies are also secured fron Pakistan; indeed, we have reliable reports that the raiders get their rations from military masses in Pakistan. According to our information, large numbers of these raiders are receiving military training in Pakistan, which could only be under officers of the Pakistan Army.

2. The forms of aid, enumerated in the preceding paragraph, which these raiders are receiving, constitute an act of aggression against India because they are being used against a State which has acceded to the Indian Dominion. The Government of India, while protesting against the action of the Pakistan Government in furnishing or allowing such assistance to be furnished, and urging that the Pakistan Government should stop such help and at least urge the raiders to withdraw, has so far taken no action itself which might involve entry by Indian forces into Pakistan territory. They have been hoping, all these weeks, though with diminishing hope, that the Pakistan Government themselves would put a stop to aid to the raiders which is of the nature of help to India's enemies.

Since protests have failed to bear fruit, the Government of India now formally ask the Government of Pakistan to deny to the raiders:—

- (1) all access to and use of Pakistan territory for operations against Kashmir;
  - (2) all military and other supplies;

(3) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.

3. The Government of India have always desired and still earnestly desire to live on terms of friendship with Pakistan. They sincerely hope that the request which they have now formally made will be acceded to promptly and without reserve. Failing such response, they will be compelled to take such action, consistently with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, as they may consider necessary to protect their interests, and discharge their obligations to Government and people of Kashmir.

Yours sincerely, Jawahariai Nehru.

(26)

Extract from Telegram, dated 26th December. 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Foreign, Karachi.

For Prime Minister, Pakistan, from Prime Minister, India.

I would draw your attention to the letter I gave to you personally on Monday, the 22nd evening and would request a very early reply to it.

. (27)

Telegram, dated the 31st December 1947, from Prime Minister, New Delhi, to Prime Minister, Pakistan, Karachi.

You will remember that, on 22nd December, I handed personally to you a letter regarding Kashmir. In my telegram to you (dated 26th December), I reminded you of the letter and repeated request for an early reply.

I regret to say that I have heard nothing from you so far, and, as we cannot afford to wait any longer, we are making

a reference to the Security Council in terms of my immediately following telegram.

COMPLAINT FILED WITH U. N. O.

Telegram, dated the 31st December 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Indembassy, Washington.

Please convey following message to the Chairman, Security Council of the United Nations, Lake Success, New York, immediately:—

Begins. 1. Under Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, any member may bring any situation, whose continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, to the attention of the Security Council. Such a situation now exists between India and Pakistan owing to the aid which invaders, consisting of nationals of Pakistan and of tribesmen from the territory immediately adjoining Pakistan on the North-West, are drawing from .Pakistan for operations against Jammu and Kashmir, a State which has acceded to the Dominion of India and is part of India.

The circumstances of the accession, the activities of the invaders which led the Government of India to take military action against them, and the assistance which the attackers have received and are still receiving from Pakistan are explained later in this memorandum.

The Government of India request the Security Council, to call upon Pakistan to put an end immediately to the giving of such assistance which is an act of aggression against India. If Pakistan does not do so, the Government of India may be compelled, in self-defence, to enter Pakistan territory, in order to take military action against the invaders. The matter is, therefore, one of extreme



Armoured cars of Indian Cavalry regiment on patrol duty in Jammu

urgency and calls for immediate action by the Security Council for avoiding a breach of international peace.

#### Infiltration of Raiders

2. From the middle of September, 1947, the Government of India had received reports of infiltration of armed raiders into the western parts of the Jammu Province of the Jammu and Kashmir State; Jammu adjoins West Punjab which is a part of the Dominion of Pakistan. These raiders had done a great deal of damage in that ares and taken possession of part of the territory of the State. On the 24th of October the Government of India heard of a major raid from the Frontier Province of the Dominion of Pakistan into the Valley of Kashmir. Some 2,000 or more fullyarmed and equipped men came in motor transport, crossed over to the territory of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, sacked the town of Muzaffarabad, killing many people, and proceeded along the Jhelum Valley Road towards Srinagar, the summer capital of the Jammu and Kashmir State. Intermediate towns and villages were sacked and burnt, and many people killed.

These raiders were stopped by Kashmir State troops near Uri, a town some 50 miles from Srinagar, for some time, but the invaders got round them and burnt the power house at Mahoora, which supplies electricity to the whole of Kashmir.

3. The position on the morning of the 26th of October was that these raiders had been held by Kashmir State troops and part of the civil populations who had been armed, at a town called Baramulla. Beyond Baramulla there was no major obstruction up to Srinagar. There was immediate danger of these raiders reaching Srinagar, destroying and sacking the capital and massacring large numbers of people, both Hindus and Muslims. The State troops were spread out all over the State and most of them were deployed along the western border of Jammu Province. They had been split up into small isolated groups and were incapable of offering effective resistance raiders. Most of the State resistance to the officials

had left the threatened area and civil administration had ceased to function.

All that stood between Srinagar and the fate which had overtaken places on the route followed by the raiders, was the determination of the inhabitants of Srinagar, of all communities, practically without arms, to defend themselves. At this time, Srinagar had also a large population of Hindu and Sikh refugees who had fled there from West Punjab owing to communal disturbances in that area. There was little doubt that the refugees would be massacred if the raiders reached Srinagar.

4. Immediately after the raids into Jammu and Kashmir State commenced, approaches were informally made to the Government of India for the acceptance of the accession of the State to the Indian Dominion. (It might be explained in parenthesis, that Jammu and Kashmir form a State whose Ruler, prior to the transfer of power by Britain to the Dominion of India and Pakistan, had been in Treaty relations with the British Crown which controlled its foreign relations and was responsible for its defence. The Treaty relations ceased with the transfer of power on August 15th last, and Jammu and Kashmir like other States. acquired the right to accede to either Dominion).

#### Accession to India

5. Events moved with great rapidity and the threat to the Valley of Kashmii became grave. On the 26th of October, the Ruler of the State, His Highness Maharaja Sir Hari Singh, appealed urgently to the Government of India for military help. He also requested that the Jammu and Kashmir State should be allowed to accede to the Indian Dominion. An appeal for help was also simultaneously received by the Government of India from the largest popular organisation in Kashmir, the National Conference, headed by Sheikh Abdullah. The Conference further strongly supported the request for the State's accession to the Indian Dominion. The Government of India thus, were approached not only officially by the State authorities, but also on behalf of the people of

Kashmir, both for military aid and for the accession of the State to India.

- 6. The grave threat to the life and property of innocent people in the Kashmir Valley and the security of the State of Jammu and Kashmir that had developed as a result of the invasion of the Valley demanded immediate decisions by the Government of India on both requests. It was imperative, on account of the emergency that the responsibility for the defence of the Jammu and Kashmir State should be taken over by a Government capable of discharging it. But, in order to avoid any possible suggestion that India had taken advantage of the State's immediate peril for her own political advantage the Dominion Government made it clear that, once the soil of the State had been cleared of the invader and normal conditions restored, its people would be free to decide their future by the recognised democratic method of a plebiscite or referendum, which, in order to ensure complete impartiality, might be held under international auspices.
- 7. The Government of India felt it their duty to respond to the appeal for armed resistance because:—
- (1) they could not allow a neighbouring and friendly State to be compelled by force to determine either its internal affairs or its external relations.
- (2) the accession of Jammu and Kashmir State to the Dominion of India made India legally responsible for the defence of the State.

#### Srinagar Saved

8. The intervention of the Government of India resulted in saving Srinagar. The raiders were driven back from Baramula to Uri and are held there by Indian troops. Nearly 19,000 raiders face the Dominion Forces in this area. Since the operations in the Valley of Kashmir started, pressure by the raiders against the western and south-western border of the Jammu and Kashmir State has been intensified. Exact figures are not available. It is understood however, that nearly 15,000 raiders are operating against this part of the State. State troops are besieged in certain areas. Incursions by the raiders into the State territory involving murder, arson, loot and abduction of women continue. The booty is collected and carried over to the tribal areas to serve as an inducement to the further recruitment of tribesmen t the ranks of the raiders. In addition to those actively participating in the raids, a large number of tribesmen and others estimated at 100,000 have been collected in different places in the districts of West Punjab bordering the Jammu and Kashmir State and many of them are receiving military training under Pakistan nationals, including officers of the Pakistan Army. They are looked after in Pakistan territory, fed, clothed, armed and otherwise equipped, and transported to the territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State with the help, direct and indirect, of Pakistan officials both military and civil.

#### From Tribal Areas

9. As already stated, raiders, who entered the Kashmir Valley in October



came mainly from the Tribal Areas to the North-West of Pakistan and, in order to reach Kashmir, passed through Pakistan territory. The raids along the south-west border of the State, which had preceded the invasion of the Valley proper, had actually been conducted from Pakistan territory and Pakistan nationals had taken part in them. This process of transit across Pakistan territory and the utilisation of that territory as base of operation against the Jammu and Kashmir State continues.

Recently, Military operations against the western and south-western border of the State have been intensified and the attackers consist of nationals of Pakistan as well as tribesmen. Theso invaders are armed with modern weapons, including mortars and medium machineguns, wear the battle-dress of regular soldiers and, in recent engagements, have fought in regular battle-formation and are using the tactics of modern warfare. Manpack wireless sets are in regular use and even Mark V mines have been employed. For their transport, the invaders have all along used motor vehicles. They are undoubtedly being trained and, to some extent, led by regular officers of the Pakistan Army. Their rations and other supplies are obtained from Pakistan territory.

- 10. These facts point indisputably to the conclusions:—
- (a) that the invaders are allowed transit across Pakistan territory;
- (b) that they are allowed to use Pakistan territory as a base of operations;
  - (c) that they include Pakistan nationals;
- (d) that they draw much of their military equipment, transport and supplies (including petrol) from Pakistan; and
- (e) that Pakistan officers are training, guiding and otherwise actively helping them.

#### Act of Aggression

There is no source other than Pakistan from which they could obtain such quantities of modern military equipment, training or guidance. More than once. the Government of India had asked the Pakistan Government to deny to the invaders facilities which constitute act of aggression and hostility against India, but without any response. last occasion on which this request was made was on the 22nd December, when the Prime Minister of India handed over personally to the Prime Minister of Pakistan a letter in which the various forms of aid given by Pakistan to the invaders were briefly recounted and the Government of Pakistan were asked to put an end to such aid promptly and without reserve. No reply to this letter has yet been received in spite of a telegraphic reminder sent on the 26th.

11. It should be clear from the foregoing recital that the Government of Pakistan are unwilling to stop the assistance in material and men which the invaders are receiving from their territory and from their nationals including

Pakistan Government personnel, both military and civil. This attitude is not only unneutral, but constitutes active aggression against India, of which the State of Januari and Eashmir forms a part.

#### Pakistan's Unchanged Attitude

The Government of India have exerted both persuasion and exercised patience to bring about a change in the attitude of Pakistan. But they have failed, and are, in consequence, con-fronted with a situation in which their defence of the Jammu and Kashmir State is hampered and their measures to drive the invaders from the territory of the State are gravely impeded by the support which the raiders derive from Pakistan. The invaders are still on the soil of Jammu and Kashmir, and the inhabitants of the State are exposed to all the atrocities of which a barbarous foe is capable. The presence in large numbers, of the invaders in these portions of Pakistan territory which adjoin parts of India territory other than the Jammu and Kashmir State, is a manace to the rest of India.

The Government of India have no option, therefore, but to take more effective military action in order to rid Jammu and Kashmir State of the invader. Indefinite continuance of the present operations prolongs the agony of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, is a drain on India's resources and a constant threat to the maintenance of peace between India and Pakistan.

13. In order that the objective of expelling the invader from Indian territory and preventing him from launching fresh attacks should be quickly achieved, Indian troops would have to enter Pakistan territory; only thus could the invaders be denied the use of bases and cut off from their sources of supplies, and reinforcements, in Pakis-

tan. Since the aid which the invaders are receiving from Pakistan is an act of aggression against India, the Covernment of India are entitled, in international law, to send their armed forces across Pakistan territory for dealing effectively with the invaders. However, as such action might involve armed conflict with Pakistan, the Government of India, ever anxious to proceed according to the United spirit of the Charter of the Nations, desire to report the situation to the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 35 of the They feel justified in reques-Charter. They feel justified in reques-ting the Council to ask the Government of Pakistan :--

- (1) to prevent Pakistan Government personnel, military and civil, participating in or assisting the invasion of Jammu and Kushmir State:
- (2) to call upon other Pakistan nationals to desist from taking any part in the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir State:
  - (3) to deny to the invaders:
- (a) access to and use of its territory for operations against Kashmir;
  - (b) military and other supplies:
- (c) all other kinds of aid that might tend to prolong the present struggle.
- 14. The Government of India would stress the special urgency of the Security Council taking immediate action on their request. They desire to add that the military oporations in the invaded area have, in the past few days, been developing so rapidly that they must, in self-defence reserve to themselves the freedem to take, at any time when it may become necessary, such military action as, they may consider, the situation requires.



Fighting the invaders in Kashmir: Sepoys are seen moving with their kits through difficult and rocky country with the friendly assistance of the local people

## PAKISTAN PREMIER'S REPLY

15. The Government of India deeply regret that a serious crisis should have been reached in their relations with Pakistan. Not only is Pakistan a neighbour but, in spite of the recent seperation, India and Pakistan have many co.nmon ties and many common interests. India desires nothing more earnestly than to live with her neighbour State on terms of close and lasting friendship. Peace is to the interest of both States; indeed to the interests of the world. The Government of India's approach to the Security Council is inspired by the sincere hope that, through the prompt action of the Council, peace may be preserved.

16. The text of this reference to the Council is being telegraphed to the Government of Pakistan.

Jawaharial Nehru, Member for External Affairs, Government of India. Ends.

(29)

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

Letter from Prime Minister, Pakistan to Prime Minister, India, dated 30th December 1947.

DEAR PANDIT NEHRU,

Please refer to your demi-official letter, dated the 22nd December, in which you have brought formal charges against the Pakistan Government for aiding and abetting the so-called 'invaders' of Kashmir in their fight against the forces of the Maharaja and of the Indian Dominion.

- 2. Despite the ominous hint contained in paragraph three I trust I am right in assuming that your letter is not an "Ultimatum" but a fore-runler of a formal reference of the mainer to the U.N.O. If so, nothing could be more welcome, for, you will recollect, this is exactly what the Pakistan Government has been suggesting throughout as the most effective method of ironing out our mutual differences. I am therefore sincerely glad to find that you propose at last to adopt this particular line of approach to our problems.
- 3. I must, however, confess my disappointment that your proposal apparently restricts the reference to the single issue of Kashmir. The episode of Kashmir considered by itself would look like a sentence torn out of its context. It is but an act in the unparralleled tragedy which is being enacted before our eyes ever since the announcement of the scheme of partition. A reference to the U.N.O. therefore in my opinion must cover much larger ground and embrace all the fundamentals of the differences between the two Dominions. As I see it, it is neither Kashmir alone nor Junagadh and Manavadar, nor even the terrible tragedy of wholesale massacres of Muslim men, women and children in extensive areas of the Indian Dominion, but a totality of these horrors and iniquities, indicating but one consis-

tent, sinister pattern which should rightly form the subject matter of international investigation. If the root causes of the evil which is vitiating our relations are not determined and removed it is much to be feared that fresh incidents will continue to threaten the peace not only between the two Dominions, but in a much wider field.

4. The case of Kashmir is simple and our attitude has been explained frankly and repeatedly both in our communications to you and our official statements to the press. The Pakistan Government has not accepted and cannot accept the so-called 'accession' of the Jammu and Kashmir State to India. We have said it before and repeat that the 'accession' was fraudulent inasmuch as it was achieved by deliberately creating certain conditions, with the object of finding an excuse to state the 'accession'. It was based on violence because it furthered the plan of the Kashmir Government to liquidate the Muslim population of the State. The accession was against the well-known will of an overwhelming majority of the population and could not be justified on any grounds whether moral or constitutional, geographical or economic, cultural or religious.

#### Responsibility for Disturbances

5. The sole responsibility for the disturbances which occurred in the State must squarely lie on the Maharaja and his Government who, despite the advice tendered by the Pakistan Government, persisted in their policy of repression of Muslims. Repression was followed by resistance, particularly in the area of Poonch which is inhabited by a large number of ex-soldiers. The resistance in its turn was met with more repression till the Dogra savagery supported by the brutality of Sikh and Rashtriya Sewak Sangh bands created a reign of terror in the State. This state of affairs naturally aroused strong feelings of sympathy throughout Pakistan, particularly among the Muslims living in the contiguous areas who had numerous ties of relationship with the persecuted people of the State. Some of these people went across to assist their kinsmen in their struggle for freedom and indeed for existence itself. The stage was thus set for the pre-planned intervention by the forces of the Indian Dominion to quell this spontaneous popular rising against the culmination of the age-long tyranny of the Dogra rule. The repeated warning of the Pakistan Government went unheeded. This hasty and ill-advised action completely changed the picture and the Frontier tribesmen, a ferociously freedom-loving people, naturally took up the challenge in support of their Kashmiri co-religionists fighting for their survival and liberation. If the Government of India had extended to the Pakistan Government the courtesy of consulting it before embarking on its enterprise and suddenly landing troops in Kashmir, or even notifying Pakistan of its proposed action, thus providing an opportunity for discussion and consultation, it might have been possible

to avert the tragedy of Kashmir. The action of the Government of India served to swell the torrent of popular resentment until it became impossible for the Pakistan Government to stem it without embarking on large scale military operations.

#### International Brigade

6. As regards the charges of aid and assistance to the 'invaders' by the Pakistan Government we emphatically repudiate them. On the contrary, and solely with the object of maintaining friendly relations between the two Dominions, the Pakistan Government have continued to do all in their power to discourage the tribal movements by all means short of war. This has caused bitter resentment throughout the country, but despite a very serious risk of large-scale internal disturbances the Pakistan Government has not deviated from the policy.

In view of this background it would not be surprising if some nationals of Pakistan were taking part in the struggle for the liberation of Kashmir along with the forces of the Azad Kashmir Government. You must have already heard of an International Brigade composed of representatives of many nations in the world who are likewise fighting on the side of the Azad Kashmir Government. In regard to the modern military equipment that you allege to be in the possession of the Azad Kashmir forces, our information is that these forces are poorly equipped and such few modern weapons as they might possess have either been captured from the Dogra and Indian troops or have been in the possession of the ex-soldiers of Poonch since the days of the British. As you know there are large numbers of Poonchis in the Paki tan Army and if some of them while on leave in their homes rendered assistance to their kith and kin in defence of their hearths and homes, it is scarcely to be wondered at.

7. On the contrary, it is the Indian Government which must answer the charge of conspiracy with the Maharaja of Kashmir in repudiation of the very principles on which it had only one month before opposed Junagadh's accession to Pakistan. The plea that the accession is only temporary pending restoration of peaceful conditions is too flimsy to stand examination, particularly in the light of recent negotiations in the course of which a perfectly fair and workable plan of withdrawal of opposing forces followed by a referendum under impartial aegis, suggested by us, was turned down by your Government. But all this, fits in with the general 'pattern' of the India Government's political attitude towards Pakistan ever since it became evident that partition was the only possible solution of our constitutional problems.

#### Inevitability of Partition

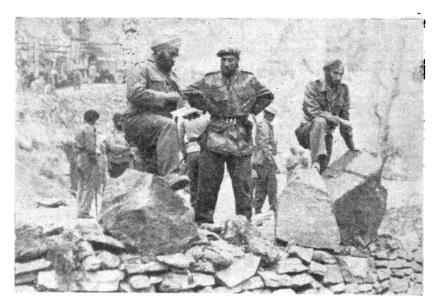
8. The story begins as early as the middle of 1946 following the demonstration of Muslim solidarity throughout the country after the last Provincial elections. It became clear that Pakistan was the unalterable goal of the Muslims. The inevitability of the

partition of the country which now became evident to all gave rise to a wave of deep resentment among the Hindu and Sikh population of the subcontinent. As a direct result of this severe communal rioting occurred in several towns and Provinces of India such as Calcutta, Noakhali, Bihar, Bombay, Garhmukteshwar, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Amritsar. Such communal strife had not been unknown previously, but what was astonishing was the unpre-cedented scale of killings that took place in Bihar and Garhmukteshwar, proving beyond doubt the existence of a well-settled plan of extermination of the Muslims. It was during these disturbances that the Rashtryia Sewak Sangh came to be known as the author of some of the most brutal massacres. The orzy of blood, however, died down in due course, but, as later events proved, only temporarily.

9. The political activity which took place in the early part of 1947 produced a lull, but soon after the partition plan was announced on the 3rd June 1947, clear indications began to be received that the country was going to be plunged into a blood-bath by the fanatical Sikhs and the militant Hindu groups headed by the Rashtriya Sewak Sangh who had made no secret of their opposition to the partition scheme, in spite of its being accepted by the representatives of all the three major communities.

io. The process of partition itself was marked by all manner of obstructions aimed at depriving Pakistan of its rightful share of financial and other assets. Even in cases in which agreement was reached the implementation was delayed or sabotaged.

11. At this stage the man chain of events which eventually brought untold suffering to millions of people of East Punjab, Rajputana and the United Provinces was set in motion with a carefully prepared attack on a Special Train carrying Pakisten Government employees and their families from Delhi to Karachi on the 9th August 1947. As the plan unfolded itself it became clear that the Sikhs encouraged and actively assisted by the Hindus had determined to liquidate by violent and bloody means the entire Muslim population of East Punjab. The object of the plan was to kill or drive out Mussalmans in order to settle the Sikh population which was being pulled out of West Punjab under a planned scheme. The modus operandi was to disarm the Muslim population and then to leave it at the mercy of armed bands who were actively assisted by the army and the police. There is abundant evidence that this plan had the full support and active assistance not only of the officers of the Provincial Government but also of the Sikh States such as Patiala, Kapurthala, and Faridkot. Alwar and Bharatpur had alrady set the example in eliminating their entire Muslim popula ion, but they were soon outdone. Kapurthala which like Kashmir was a Muslim majority State has today not a single Muslim left. Similarly large tracts of Muslim majority areas which under the Boundary Award had been most unjustly included in East Punjab were depopulated. The whole country



Maj-Gen. Kulwant Singh G. O. C., Jammu and Kashmir Division with Brig. Sen at a diversion where raiders have destroyed the bridge

was ravaged by fire and sword, vast numbers were butchered and countless women were abducted. Indeed decency forbids mention of some crimes committed against women. Millions were forcibly and ruthlessly driven out of their homes. The process went on sector by sector and culminated in the tragedy that was enacted in Delhi, the capital of India. According to the Government of India itself there was a complete breakdown of administration for a number of days. The destruction and desecration of mosques, tombs and holy places and forcible conversions on a mass scale were special features of these happenings.

#### Muslims in India

12. This plan of liquidation of the Muslim population is still proceeding despite the pious professions of the Government of India. The latest example of this is provided by the happenings in the holy city of Ajmer. The Government of Pakistan find it difficult to believe that under the circumstance the Covernment of India. cumstances the Government of India are innocent of all complicity in this vast scheme of "genocide" started by the Sikhs and Hindus and encouraged and supported by persons in authority as a means of destroying the newly created State of Pakistan. The Mussalmans of India are being subject d to calculated insults and humiliations. All sorts of tests of loyalty are being demanded from them. The one on which particular emphasis is laid is that they should deneunce Pakistan and try to undo the partition and express their readiness to fight Pakistan on the side of India in the event of war between the two Dominions. It is a matter for deep regret that even today responsible members of the Government of India, including yourself, openly declare their intention or hope of bringing Pakistan back into the Indian Union, well knowing that this can be done only through conquest by arms. Such an attitude can only mean that the Hindu and Sikh leaders while giving their agreement to the partition plan

did so without any intention of permitting its implementation and, further, that India is determined to undo the settlement by all means available at its disposal. In other words Pakistan's very existence is the chief 'casus belli' so far as India is concerned. It is this impossible position which manifests itself time and again in all of India's dealings with Pakistan, whether political, economic or financial and unless an effective remedy is found it is difficult to see how a direct clash can be avoided with the best will in the world.

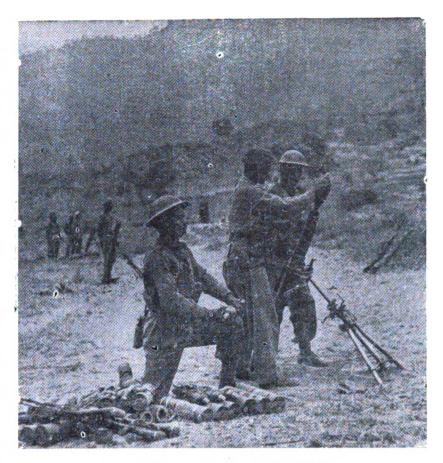
13. The events which took place following the announcement of the accession of Junagadh and Manavadar States to Pakistan lend further support to the contention of the Pakistan Government that the Government of India intend by all possible means at their disposal to destroy Pakistan.

In accordance which the agreed scheme of partition and the Indian Independence Act, 1947, Indian States were under no compulsion to join either of the two Dominions. Notwithstanding this clear provision the Government of India by a combination of threats and cajolery forced a number of States into acceding to the Indian Union. The Rulers of Junagadh and Manavadar were similarly threatened with dire consequences but they stood firm and exercised their right of joining Pakistan in preference to India. This was the signal for India to launch with full force her attack, using every possible weapon in order to force the States against their will. to change their affiliation. Protests were made to the Pakistan Government, pointing out that a State which had a Hindu majority population could not accede to Pakistan, as the country had been divided on a communal basis. Another reason given was that Junagadh was not physically contiguous to Pakistan and that its accession to Pakistan was calcula ed to cause disruption in the integrity of India. Simultaneously with these protests, the Government of India put large bodies of

Indian troops on the borders of Junagadh and encouraged the neighbouring Hindu States, which had acceded to India, to do likewise. In clear violation of the standstill agreement the Junagadh was subjected to an economic blockade involving stoppage of all vital supplies, including food, cloth and coal into the State territory. Lines of communication, including railway and telegraph, were operated in such a manner that it became impossible for the State or the Muslim population of Junagadh to communicate with the outside world. A strong press campaign calculated to destroy the morale of the State administration and to create panic among the population was launched both inside and outside the State.

Another line of attack was adopted by setting up the so-called 'Provisional Government' with headquarters first at Bombay and later at Rajkot, which claimed the right to liberate the non-Muslim population of the Junagadh State. The so-called 'Azad Fauj' of State. The so-Government ' created and armed by the officers of the Indian Dominion. The Provisional Government' not only proceeded to seize by force State property in Rajkot, but by methods of sheer 'gangsterism' created conditions in which it became impossible for the State Administration to function. At this point the Government of Iudia sent its troops and occupied the State under the plea of an alleged invitation' by the Dewan. Since then an orgy of murder, arson, rape and loot has been let loose in Kathiawar by the Military Forces of India in exactly the same manner as in Northern India and hundreds of thousands of Muslims have had to flee from the State. According to newspaper reports Mr. Samaldas Gandhi, the head of the so-called provisional government, has openly thanked a member of your government for all the assistance received. All this was done in sheer disregard of the international code of conduct and ordinary neighbourly decency: In the interest of peace between the two Dominions Pakistan refrained from sending a single soldier to Junagadh. Occupation by force of Junagadh which is Pakistan territory is a clear act of aggression against Pakistan.

- 14. In the case of Manavadar even the thin camouflage of a semblance of justification was not considered necessary and the State was taken under military occupation without the slightest explanation being given. A similar fate befell the Talukdari States of Sardargarh Bantva, Sultanabad and Mangrol. The unfortunate rulers of some of these States have been kept in detention and have been subjected to considerable pressure to wean them from their affiliation to Pakistan.
- 15. This brief account of India's dealing with a friendly State can leave no doubt in the mind of any impartial person that the new India does not feel berself bound by any moral or international code of rules. The Military coup d' etat by which the occupation of Junagadh and Manavadar and other States was achieved is of one piece with the general scheme of destroying the integrity and the very existence of Pakistan to which reference has been



An Indian Mortar team in action in Kashmir

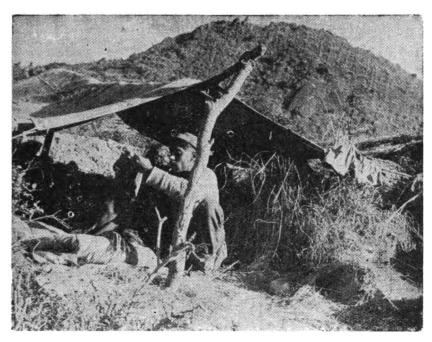
made. We have formally drawn your attention to the various acts of hostility culminating in actual seizure of Pakistan territory by the India Government in Junagadh, but have not received even the courtesy of a reply. Perhaps now that you propose to take the case of Kashmir to the U. N. O. you would be good enough to let us know why in spite of our clear request you have not withdrawn from the territories of Junagadh, Manavadar and Mangrol, etc. t

In this connection it is of interest to note that the arguments advanced by India for refusing to accept the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan have been conveniently and completely ignored in connection with the accession of Kashmir to the Indian Dominion. This again is fully in keeping with the general political attitude of India towards Pakistan.

- 16. These are not the only examples of aggression against Pakistan territory. Numerous raids by armed bands assisted by the Police and military have taken place across the border into Pakistan. The Royal Indian Air Force have been made repeated attacks on Pakistan territory causing damage to life and property.
- 17. Another illustration of the same attitude is provided by the refusal of the Indian Government to implement the recent financial agreement of all outstanding cases which had been referred to the Arbitral Tribunal. The India Government is deliberately withholding the payment of rupees 55 crores

of the cash balances which is the legal due of the Pakistan Government according to this agreement. This is the latest manifestation of their desire to strangle Pakistan financially and economically which characterised the pertition proceedings. In the case of military stores there has been a similar refusal to implement the agreement. The Supreme Commander who was appointed as a neutral authority under the Joint Defence Council to carry into effect the partition of the armed forces and military stores was forced, despite the protestations of the Pakistan Government, to leave by your government long before he could complete his task. At the time this was done the Indian representatives on the Joint Defence Council pledged the word of the Indian Cabinet that Pakistan would receive her due share of military shares. This pledge like other similar pledges of the India government has not been honoured and the slight trickle of military stores to Pakistan shows signs of stopping altogether.

- 18. To sum up, our counter-charges against the Dominion of India are as follows:—
  - That India has never wholeheartedly accepted the partition scheme but her leaders paid lip service to it merely in order to get the British troops out of the country;
  - (2) That India is out to destroy the State of Pakistan which her leaders persistently continue to regard as part of India itself:



In the thickly wooded country of Jammu and Kashmir Indian troops are engaged in expelling the raiders who have brought death and destruction to thousands of homes. Picture shows an Indian soldier's improvised home in forward area

- (3) That the systematic sabotage against the implementation of partition, the stoppage of such essential requirements as coal and rail transport, the deliberate withholding of Pakistan's share of funds and arms and equipment, the wholesale massacres of Muslim population are all designed towards one aim, namely, the drestruction of Pakistan.
- (4) That India's torcible occupation of Junagadh, Manavadar and other States in Kathiawar which had acceded to Pakistan, as well as the fraudulent procurement of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir State are acts of hostility against Pakistan whose destruction is India's immediate objective.

19. I however note with pleasure your assurance that the Government of India have always desired and still earnestly desire to live on terms of friendship with Pakistan. On behalf of the Pakistan Government I fully and sincerely reciprocate this desire. I am constrained, however, to observe that the Government of India have at no stage afforded any practical proof of their desire to live on terms of friendship with Pakistan, more particularly in the case of Junagadh and Kashmir. On my side I can assure you that the earnest desire of the Government of Pakistan to live on terms of friendship with India has in many instances restrained Government of Pakistan from taking action which would not only have been legally justifiable, but was in several instances urgently called for, and yet was not adopted in the hope that the attitude of the Government of India might even during these later stages be more favourably affected towards Pakistan. I find it more and more

difficult to persuade myself to continue to entertain that hope.

The course of events, very briefly set out above, would normally have been treated as a chain of aggression justifying extreme action on the part of the aggrieved Government. Now that your letter of the 22nd December 1947 has indicated an intention on the part of the Government of India to invite the intervention of the United Nations, a course which the Pakistan Government has so far ineffectively suggested to the Government of India, for the resolving of their differences, I have taken this opportunity to invite your attention to the main heads of the differences between the two Governments that stand in the way of an ami cable adjustment of our relations. It is my most earnest hope that these differences may be speedily composed and that our relations will thereafter ever continue to be on the most cordial, co-operative and friendly basis. I trust you will agree that the intervention of the United Nations, whatever form it is to take, should be invited in respect of all these matters, so that all pending differences may be speedily resolved.

> Yours sincerely, LIAQUAT ALI KHAN

o The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, India, New Delhi.

(30)

Telegram, dated the 3rd (received 4th) I anuary 1948, from Foreign, Karachi, to Foreign, New Delhi.

Your telegram, January 3rd.

Your messages still unworkable. There appears to be some mistake on

your side. Please check and let us know drum type setting. Meanwhile grateful if messages are repeated in another system.

(31)

Telegram, dated the 2nd January 1948, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Foreign Karachi.

Your telegram of January 1st, following is repetition of our telegram of December 31st which has been checked and found correct.

From Prime Minister, India, to Prime Minister, Pakistan.

You will remember that, on 22nd December, I handed personally to you a letter regarding Kashmir. In my telegram to you, (dated 26th December), I reminded you of the letter and repeated request for an early reply.

I regret to say that I have heard nothing from you so far, and, as we cannot afford to wait any longer, we are making a reference to the Security Council in terms of my immediately following. Telegram.

Ends.

(32)

Telegram, dated the 3rd (received 4th) January 1948, from Foreign Karachi, to Foreign, New Delhi.

Please cancel our telegram of date. We have decyphered telegrams. Regret inconvenience.

(33)

Telegram, dated the 3rd January, 1948, from Prime Minister, India to Prime Minister, Pakistan, Karachi.

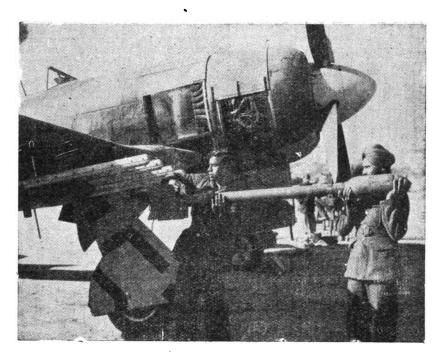
Your most Immediate telegram of 3rd January. Text of our communication to Security Council was transmitted to you on 31st December. In Foreign, Karachi, telegram of January 2nd we were informed that code could not be worked at your end. We have therefore, telegraphed text of our telegram of 31st December 1947, today in our telegram.

(34)

Telegram, dated the 3rd (received 4th) January 1948, from Foreign, Karachi, to Foreign, New Delhi.

From Prime Minister, Pakistan, to Prime Minister, India.

Your telegram, dated January 2nd, giving a repeat of your telegram, dated 31st December, In telegram you refer to a telegraphic reminder sent by you on 26th December. No such telegram was neceived by me. Message, dated December 26th, 1947, from Foreign, New Delhi, referred to Mukand Steel Works and not (repeat not) to Kashmir. You also say that you have heard nothing from me so far till the 31st December. I do not understand how you can assert this in face of my Most Immediate telegram dated December 30, in which I stated that I would hand over the reply to your High Commissioner on 30th December, I repeat below my telegram for your information.



Armourors fitting rockets to a fempest Aircraft at Jammu airfield

Begins

From Liaquat Ali Khan for Pandit Jawaharial Nehru. My reply to your letter, dated September 11th, regarding Kashmir which you gave me at Delhi will be handed over to your High Commissioner today for transmission to you by air.

Ends.

(35)

Telegram, dated 6th January 1948, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Foreign, Karachi.

From Prime Minister, India, to Prime Minister, Pakistan. Please refer to your telegram, dated 3rd January. My telegram, dated 26th December, did not (repeat not) refer to the Mukand Steel Works. For convenient reference, I am having the text of it repeated in my immediately following telegram. The telegram regarding the Mukand Steel Works at Lahore issued from here on the 26th December and bears different number.

- 2. I would specially invite your attention to the second paragraph of my telegram which refers to the letter which I handed to you personally on Monday, 22nd December. The only letter that I wrote to you on that date related to Kashmir.
- 3. Your reply to my letter of the 22nd December, which you say was handed to our High Commissioner in Karachi on the 30th, reached Delhi on the morning of January lst. My statement, therefore, that I had heard nothing from you till the 31st December was quite correct.

(36)

#### **CHARGES REPUDIATED**

Letter from Prime Minister, India, to Prime Minister, Pakistan, dated the 5th January 1948.

Dear Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan,

Your letter of the 30th December was received in New Delhi on the 1st January. I had gone to Lucknow for the day and did not, therefore, get it until the 2nd. On the 3rd I had to visit Ajmer and yesterday, the 4th, was fully occupied with celebrations of Burma's Independence and other business. This will explain the delay in my sending you a reply.

- 2. I do not think that any useful purpose will o served by my attempting to answer, at length, the counter charges that you have made against India in paragraph 18 of your letter. Pakistan's accusations that the accession of Jammu and Kashmir was procured by conspiracy, fraud and force has been repeatedly mad by you and as frequently denied and refuted by us. So far as the cases of Junagadh and Manavader are concerned, we maintain that there is no parallel between them and that of Kashmir.
- 3. Any impartial person familiar with the tragic Lappenings in the Punjab will recognise the complete baselessness of the suggest on that India organised the wholesale massacre of the Muslim population in any part of its territories. Massacres of non-Muslims began first in 1946 in Calcutta, and in March 1947 in the West Punjab. What happened in India against Muslims was by way of retaliation against the atrocities perpetrated on non-Muslims first in Calcutta, and later, in territories which are now part

- of Pakistan, e.g., Noakhali and the West Punjab. We have not only not encouraged, but openly and consistently condemned retaliation. We have also done everything in our power to protect Muslim minorities in India. We claim that we have done so more effectively than Pakistan.
- 4. I am not aware that there has been any stoppage of essential requirements, such as coal and rail transport, as a kind of sanction against Pakistan. Where delays have occurred these have been due entirely to other causes, e.g., shortage of wagons, or, in the disturbed areas of the Punjab, to dislocation of traffic owing to the disturbances.
- 5. There has been no deliberate withholding of Pakistan's share of funds and
  arms and equipment with intent to apply
  pressure to Pakistan. As I have already
  tried to explain to you, we stand by the
  financial agreement that was recently
  reached. Payment has been deferred
  because we cannot, while operations
  against Jammu and Kashmir State are
  being conducted from bases in Pakistan,
  with Pakistan's conniv nce and assistance,
  reasonably, be expected to make
  available funds which might be used to
  intensify military operations against us.
- 6. The first two charges, viz., that India has never wholeheartedly accepted the partition scheme, and that India is out to destroy the State of Pakistan which her leaders persistently continue to regard as part of India itself, are completely devoid of foundation, and I must emphatically repudiate them. Had we not desired to accept the partition scheme, nothing would have been simpler for us than to refuse acceptance when the scheme was first put forth. India has no responsibility for the sequence of events which you regard as evidence of India's resolve to destroy the State of Pakistan. The provocation for the events came from Pakistan. It is true that some of us have expressed the view that India and Pakistan must draw closer to each other The facts of history and geo-graphy fully justify this conclusion. Two neighbouring States such as Pakistan and India can either be friends, or live in a state of veiled or of open hostility. No responsible Indian leader has thought that Friendship between India and Pakistan, which is more desirable than mistrust or enmity, should be achieved by forcible compulsion of Pakistan into political union with India.
- 7. In conclusion, I would add that while I fully share your hope that our approach to the United Nations Security Council will help to lay the foundation of friendlier relations between Pakistan and India, it is not possible for us to invite the intervention of the Council on all the matters which you have mentioned. Peace between India and Pakistan is not threatened either by past events or by the entirely imaginary hostile motives that are attributed to us, but by the hostilities that are now in progress in general in Kashmir State between the Indian State Forces on the one and the invaders, tribesmen and Pakistan nationals, operating from bases in Pakistan and with assistance drawn from Pakistan, on the other.

This is an issue at once clear-cut and urgent, and, unless valuable time is to be wasted on acrimonious debate, this is the issue for the settlement of which the Security Council must, in our opinion, exclusively apply itself.

(37)

#### LIAISON OFFICERS' WITH-DRAWAL

Telegram, Dated the 7th (Received 8th) January, 1948, from PUNSG, Lahore, to Foreign, New Delhi.

Following from Liaquat Ali Khen for Jawaharlal Nehru.

Your statement that India would be completely justified in attacking Pakistan territory on plan of attacking alleged basis of so-called invaders has created situation particularly in districts adjoining Kashmir territory which makes it undesirable hat Indian Liaison Officers and troops should operate in these districts. I request that instructions should please be issued withdrawing your Liaison Officers and troops within 48 hours from following districts:—

Sialkot, Gujerat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Campbellpore.

Government of Pakistan will make all necessary arrangements for evacuation of any non-Muslims including abducted women still remaining in pockets.

(38)

#### **DESIRE TO PREVENT CONFLICT**

Telegram, dated the 9th January 1948, from Foreign, New Delhi, to Prims Minister, Pakistan, Lahore.

For Liaquat Ali Khan from Jawaharlal Nehru.

Your telegram of 7th January. My statement that India would be justified in sending troops to Pakistan bases near Kashmir border to stop invaders from entering Kashmir was mere repetition of what I have frequently stated If India is attacked by people coming from Pakistan or via Pakistan territory we are entitled to expect Pakistan Government to stop them and prevent invasion of India. If Pakistan Government is unwilling or unable to stop them then India is necessarily justified in taking measures to stop them herself. We have however avoided taking any such measures because of our earnest desire to prevent further conflict, involving grave consequences. We shall continue this policy unless circumstances compel us to act otherwise. Even now I would request your Government to prevent the use of your territory for purposes of invasion of Indian Dominion territory.

In view, however, of your request we are withdrawing our Liaison Officers and troops from Sialkot, Gujrat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Campbellpore District. We would request you also to withdraw your Liasion Officers and troops from Gurdaspur District.

We trust that your Government will make all necessary arrangements for evacuation of non-Muslims left in pockets and more specially abducted women. During last few weeks this process has slowed down very greatly on the Pakistan side while we have restored to Pakistan over 2,900 women. We propose to continue our efforts to restore abducted women and would earnestly request you to speed this process in P kistan

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

In a Special Order of the Day to all ranks serving in Jammu & Kashmir Forces, Lt. General K.M. Cariappa, O.B.E., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Delhi and East Punjab, Command has complimented officers and men whose names were brought to his notice for conspicuous gallantry in action in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Special Order of the Day reads: "Names of officers—VCOs and other ranks have been brought to my notice for gallantry in action in the operations in Jammu & Kashmir since hostilities began on October 27, 1947.

"I congratulate all those personnel for their gallantry and devotion to duty in the discharge of their duty to our Government. In the case of those brave ones who are killed in action, I send my deepest sympathies to their next-of-kin and ask them to comfort themselves in their tragic loss with the feeling that those who were killed, lost their lives in the service of their country—a more noble death no man could wish for."

The following is the first list of such officers and men: Infantry-Brig. M. Usman, Lt. Col. D. R. Rai (Posthumous) Major S.N. Sharma (Posthumous), Sub. Chagat Singh, Jem. Gajanandisare Hav. Mahadeo Singh (Posthumous), Naik Ismar Singh, Sep. Sahi Ram, Sep. Harnam Singh, Sep. Pundli Mahar; State Forces—Sub Kapoor Singh, Naik Lehna Singh, Sep. Mukhtiar Singh; Indian Signal Corps-Lieut. Ram Singh; Indian Armoured Corps-Daffadar Jage Ram.

The Government of India has instructed the export control authorities at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to deal with applications for export to Pakistan in the same way as those for exports to other destinations, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 15. This has been done to avoid delay, for according to an announcement on March 1, 1948, applications for export to Pakistan were to be addressed to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi.

Intending exporters should now apply to the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Bombay or Calcutta, or the Export Trade Controller, Madras. Pending applications are being forwarded to them.

Export licences are not required for goods which are not included in the Export Trade Control Notification, or for goods in transit.

# WELFARE COMMITTEE FOR KASHMIR PATIENTS

Wives of senior officers of India's Armed Forces in Delhi met in the second week of February and decided to form a Committee called the Women's Welfare Committee. The main purpose of the Committee is to attend to the welfare of the sick and wounded from Kashmir.

The meeting was convened by Mrs. Bucher, wife of the C.-in-C., Indian Army, at the joint request of the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh. Those who attended were: Lady Elmhirst, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Russel, Mrs. Thapar, Mrs. Chakravarti, Mrs. Srinagesh, Mrs. Thorat, Mrs. Daulat Singh, Mrs. Thorat, Mrs. Daulat Singh, Mrs. Giani, Mrs. Sarin, Mrs. Iongar, Mrs. Giani, Mrs. Sarin, Mrs. Iongar, Mrs. J. C. Sharma, Mrs. Chaudhuri, Mrs. Chanda, Mrs. Mukerjee, Mrs. H. M. Patel, Mrs. Nayaj, Mrs. Manilall, Mrs. Ranjit Singh, Mrs. Jaswant Singh, Mrs. Pritam Singh, Mrs. Sen, Mrs. Unni Nayar, Mrs. Pritam Singh, (Wife of the Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence), Mrs. Kallan, Mrs. Rodrigues, Mrs. Kirpal and Miss Baliga,

Mrs. Bucher was elected President and Mrs. Manilall, Chairwoman of the General Committee, Mrs. Iengar was elected treasurer.

#### THE INVASION

(Continued from Page 363)

have been brought from Jammu by the raiders. I shall be grateful if you will give all facilities to our M.E.O. organisation to evacuate them to India.

(11)

Extract from a letter, dated New Delhi, 12th February, 1948, from G. Leslie Cross, Section Leader Friends Service Unit, to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Indian Union, New Delhi.

"The Pakistan authorities have decided that this evacuation must be postponed, because conditions around Gujrat have deteriorated. Tribesmen have made several attempts recently to raid trains and it would not be safe to try to move non-Muslims either by road or by rail. This decision was made by the Pakistan M.E.O. authorities and was confirmed by the Chief of Staff at Rawalpindi. We left it at that and are going up to Jhelum tomorrow to take in relief supplies and a doctor, because conditions in Alibeg camp are getting worse."

"After we have looked to the immediate needs of the people in Alibeg, we plan to move in further to some of the other concentrations of refugees, so that their friends and relations may at least have news of their conditions."



# SECURITY COUNCIL FIDDLING WHILE KASHMIR BURNS

# Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar on Question of Priority

S a res. it of the information which I receive every day from India as to what is happening in my own country. I know it is the opinion in India, which accords with my own view of the matter, that we seem here to be fiddling while Kashmir burns. That is a very true description of what is now engaging the attention of the Security Council", said the Hon'ble Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Leader of the Indian Delegation, in the course of his speech at the Security Council on January 29 on the Kashmir question.

Following a the full text of the speech.

I am very grateful to the President, to the representative of the United Kingdom, and to the representative of Pakistan for the good wishes they conveyed to me yesterday afternoon as regards the recovery of my voice. I have no doubt that their good wishes have contributed a great deal to the improvement which my listeners, I hope, do notice in the quality of the voice with which I speak to them today.

Left to myself, I should have preferred to have been a listener until practically the end of this debate among the members of the Security Council before I elected to say anything at all on what has been placed before us this afternoon. However, I have decided to intervene at an earlier stage because I fear that those members of the Security Council who have not yet spoken might be under the wrong impression that the two resolutions which have been placed by the President before the Security Council have the agreement of both parties.

#### The Two Resolutions

It may be that they have the assent of the representative of Pakistan; I do not know. I am here, however, to state that the resolutions as framed do not meet with the assent of the country which I represent here this afternoon. When I say that they do not command the assent of my country, I do not want the Security Council to suppose that I am opposing every word or every idea that is contained in the two resolutions. There are, however, substantial matters included in these resolutions to which we find ourselves unable to assent. There was a difference of opinion between the representative of the United Kingdom and myself yesterday afternoon over the question of priority, the question of whether the Security Council first should debate the stoppage of fighting or the matter of the plebiscite.

I always listen with the greatest respect to whatever falls from the lips of the representative of the United Kingdom. I listened yesterday with the greatest care, and I pondered over everything that he said after I had listened to his



Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyanga

speech; but I must confess that on this one matter I am still unpretent as to the position which I took yesterday afternoon.

In the course of his remarks, the representative of the United Kingdom made an observation which describes the present situation in the Security Council in the most graphic manner possible. As a result of the information which I receive every day from India as to what is happening in my own country, I know it is the opinion in India, which accords with my own view of the matter, that we seem here to be fiddling while Kashmir burns. That is a very true description of what is now engaging the attention of the Security Council. I wish to assure the members of the Security Council that I mean no disrespect of any of them. It is possible that their honest view of the matter is embodied in the drafts of the two resolutions which have been placed before the Security Council. However, as I look back upon what has happened in my country and as I recollect and am reminded every day of what is happening in my country, I can not help thinking that we are now spending time on issues which should be taken up much later in our consideration of the whole problem, rather than on the one issue which should take precedence over all others. That conviction still remains with me in spite of all that the representative of the United Kingdom said yesterday, and in spite of all that has been said by the speakers this afternoon.

I shall tell the Security Council exactly what is the state of affairs in my country. As the Security Council has proceeded to debate the drafts of the two resolutions which have been submitted, I shall discuss the second of these resolutions because, in my opinion, that has some remote bearing on the issue which I consider should take precedence over everything else. Before I do so, I wish only to refer to one aspect of the war in which we have drifted into the debate on which we are now engaged.

#### Question of Priority

I can well understand the inconvenience and the embarrassment which you, Sir, must have felt in having to decide between the two opposing views on the question of priority-between myself and the representative of the United Kingdom. It was not an easy decision for you to take. But you seem to have cut the Gordian knot and avoided having to decide between us at all. You have taken the view that both these questions should be put on an equal footing, and you will undertake to do something which is very unusual in a deliberative body; namely, you will undertake to place drafts of two resolutions simultaneously on the table for debate. Perhaps I have no right to offer any criticism of this procedure; I would only say that it is somewhat unusual.

There is one matter about which I feel a sense of grievance, but you have already anticipated it. While apparently the drafts of these two resolutions were communicated to every member of the Security Council, as I have to infer from the fact that several of them probably had come prepared to offer their views on the two drafts, I, and I take it the representative of Pakistan also, from what he said, did not have the opportunity of securing these drafts in advance of the meeting so that we could apply our minds to them and come prepared to give full expression to whatever we had to say on the two drafts. Well, after all, that is a small matter.

#### Stoppage of Fighting

The Security Council has drifted into this debate, and several members have already spoken. I have said that I could offer my views on the second of these two drafts because I consider that it has some relation—though not an adequate relation—to the issue to which I consider the Security Council should first apply itself before it takes up anything else.

That issue relates to the stoppage of the fighting. We put that issue on the forefront of our own proposals for a settlement. What we tried to do has apparently been brushed aside. We attempted to propose something concrete, something which a Council of this composition and influence could issue as a directive to the parties concerned in order to bring about the stoppage of the fighting. That has been passed over.

Instead, there is a resolution before the Security Council which is, if I may say



# ACTS OF HOSTILITY MUST STOP

so without offence, innocuous in the extreme. I say that deliberately, because what does it attempt to do? It directs that the commission, which has been decided on but which has yet to come into existence and find its way to India, "... shall take into consideration that among the duties incumbent upon it are included those which would tend towards promoting the cessation of acts of hostility, and violence, and which are of a particularly urgent character".

#### The Commission

If there are acts of hostility and violence—and I say they are being perpetraced every day—and if they are of an urgent character, we are now advising the Commission, which is to come into existence in the future and find its way to India, to take into consideration as one of its duties the duty of doing something which would tend to promote the cessation of acts of hostility. We want acts of hostility to be stopped, if possible at once, or in the very near future.

The directive which the Security Council proposes to give to the Commission is this: "You constitute yourselves, you travel perhaps thousands of miles to India, and when you arrive there you had better recognized that it is one of your duties to find which will tend to promote the cessation of hostilities".

Are we nearing the solution of the immediate problem—the cessation of hostilities—with respect to which the representative of the United Kingdom so emphatically agreed with me? Is this not an illustration of our trying to fiddle here while India is burning.

Let us consider what is happening in India today. I received only this morning a telegram which states in part that the following raids in Jammu and Kashmir have taken place since the night of 23-24 January.

"23-24 January: A raid at Arn.

"23-24 January: 1,000 raiders at Ramgarh.

"25-26 January: At Blare Chak, 13 miles south of Jammu, 300 raiders"

Jammu is the headquarters of the Indian Army today in Kashmir. Thirteen miles from that place there was a raid by 300 raiders only three days ago. "On 25-26 January another 400 raiders at Arn". They raiderd our territory and, when our troops went to meet them to drive them back, they retired into Paxistan territory.

This goes on, and later I shall give the members of the Security Council an account of the fighting that has been continuing since we made our complaint to this body.

I should now like to draw the attention of the members to the fact that yesterday the representative of Pakistan pointed out that it was necessary for the Muslims of the Jammu and Kashmir State to be given an assurance beyond

all cavil that their lives and property would be perfectly safe. I wish to point out that portions of the Indian Army landed at Sringgar, the summer capital of Kashmir on 27 October. There was one very unfortunate killing of Muslims two hundred miles away, near Jammu City, on 4 November. There was another attempt at a similar killing on 6 November, but the attackers had the worst of it Our troops engaged them and inflicted 150 casualties. If these two incidents-which really constitute one incident-of the group killing of Muslims are left out, it will be seen that during all the period that our troops have been in Kashmir there has not been another instance of the group killing of Muslims.

#### Mass Killings of Non-Muslims

What is the account on the other side? There were mass killings during the same period of non-Muslims by Muslims in the thousands at places like Mirpur, Bhimbar, and Ramgarh. On January 16, only about a fortnight ago, the village of Panayat, twenty-two miles northwest of Raisi, in the province of Jammu, was sacked by a Muslim mob of four thousand. Large numbers of Hindus were killed and a number of women abducted. That is the state of affairs.

I ask the members of the Security Council whether, while these incidents have been taking place, even in the recent past, while attacks have been made from day to day on our borders from the Pakistan side, and while raiders have been driven back only to take refuge in Pakistan territory, we are discharging our obligations to world opinion if we ignore this situation, if we do not take the obvious, concrete step of asking that the facilities which those raiders enjoy for committing these murders and causing these deprivations should be denied to them. Are we meeting our obligations? Should it not go direct from the Security Council that these killings should stop beginning tomorrow at least, even if they happened in the past?

What is it that we are asking? The halting of killings is all that we are asking. We have not even copied the example set by Pakistan when its representative asked that those who participated in massacres and killings in the past should be brought to justice to be hanged by their necks until they were dead, as if we were going to conduct another Nuremburg trial in India. That is not what we have been asking. We say merely that incidents have happened, incidents are happening today. They happened because of facilities which are available in Pakistan. Should we not tell Pakistan "Please put a restraint upon these incidents. Please deny these facilities. Please refuse this assistance, at least in the future Is that too much to ask? Even if there were a war between India and Pakistan and we were considering the question of bringing about peace between the two Dominions, what would be the first step that in common sense we should take? Is it not that the fighting should stop? Is it not that acts of hostility should at least be placed under a truce for the time being? Yet we do not do that.

We say, let us look at the farthest instance of the long-range solution, and let us decide that now. Then the fighting will stop of its own accord. Is that the proper way of looking at a problem which is costing lives, which is costing the honour of hundreds of thousands of women in my country?

#### Pakistan's Responsibility

Now, I have said that what we have been asking for is this simple thing. You might well ask me, "Well, you assume that the Pakistan Government are responsible for these facilities being given to these raiders, these marauders and murderers. Have you any proof that that is true! They have denied it. We have appointed a Commission, and unless that Commission went out to India, made an inquiry and submitted a report, can we ask the Pakistan Government to do what you want them to do?"

That is a very legitimate question to ask. I submit that there is enough material before the Security Council to enable it, if not to find Pakistan guilty of what has happened in the past for purposes of punishment, at least to ask Pakistan to desist from giving the assistance which these raiders, maranders and murderers are finding in Pakistan territory.

It has been said that the responsibility of Pakistan is not very clear at all. I referred yesterday to some well recognised international obligations. I shall not quote any book on international law for that purpose: I am sure every member of the Security Council is aware what his international obligations are. I shall quote only two passages from a report submitted to the Security Council by a Commission appointed by it to make an enquiry into a matter of similar nature in another part of the world; namely Greece. Here is what the Commission said with reference to this matter.

"The existence of disturbed conditions in Greece in no way relieves the three northern neighbours of their duty under international law to prevent and suppress subversive activity on their territory aimed at another government, nor does it relieve them of direct responsibility for their support of the Greek guerillas".

It is the contention of the representative of Fakistan that the trouble in Kashmir is due essentially to the fact that certain people in the Kashmir State revolted against constituted authority because of their grievances against it; that other people went to their assistance from outside—from Pakistan and from the tribal areas.

Let us take those facts into consideration. On these facts, I say it is the duty of the Pakistan Government to prevent that assistance going to insurgents in Kashmir. The quotation to which I have just referred, from the report of the Commission established by the Security Council, was blessed, if not by the unanimous opinion of the Security Council, at least by the great majority of its members. That is a sufficient indication of what the obligations of Pakistan are, even on her own admission.

Another portion of the same report referred to above states the following:





The Government of India's Delegation to attend the U. N. Security Council session on Kashmir left New Delhi on Jen'7. Picture shows from (L. to R.) Mr. C. Parthasarathy, Secretary to Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar; Col. B. K. Kaul, Military Attachee at the Indian Embassy, Washington, the Hon. Mr. N. Gopelaswami Ayyangar and Mr. P. N. Haksar (extreme right) of the E. A. and C. R. Ministry. Members of the Delegation and Mr. H. V. R. Iengar (second from right) Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

"In the light of the situation investigated by it, the Commission believes that in the area of its investigation, future cases of support of armed bands formed on the territory of one state and crossing into the territory of another state, or of refusal by a Government, in spite of the demands of the State concerned, to take all possible measures on its own territory to deprive such bands of aid or protection, should be considered by the Security Council—I would ask the Security Council to mark these words—"should be considered by the Security Council as a threat to the peace within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations".

I have said that the material already before the Security Council is more than sufficient to pin this obligation upon Pakistan. Times without number we have asked Pakistan, appealed to her, pleaded with her to stop this aid and assistance. We did not succeed in India. We therefore came to a body whose first duty, we thought—and I hope the Security Council will enable us to think so permanently—was to see that what is recognised as a proper international obligation was discharged by every one of the members of the United Nations. We came and asked the Security Council to send forth this flat: "Here is a well-recognised obligation; we say that you have not discharged it, on your own admissions. Will you discharge it at least for the future."

The answer we received in reply to our proposal was, "Our Commission has been appointed; it will go to India and will recognize among its duties the duty of doing something which will tend to promote the cessation of hostilities".

I said that on the admissions of Pakistan herself, there is sufficient material before the Security Council with reference to this matter. I shall now refer, in some detail, to these admissions, and after I have finished with them, I shall invite the Security Council's attention to the evidence of some eye witnesses. In order that that evidence might not be suspected, I have selected eye witnesses who cannot be convicted of bias on either side.

I wish to turn to the admissions. In document No. 1, attached to the letter dated 15th January 1948, from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to the Security Council, which is a reply to the Indian Government's letter of 1 January 1948, it is admitted that "a certain number of independent tribesmen and persons from Pakistan are helping the Azad Kashmir Government in their struggle for liberty as volunteers."

My case is that, even if we concede that it was a struggle for liberty in Kashmir and that the people who went over to assist these who were fighting for liberty in Kashmir were volunteers, if they came from Pakistan it was the duty of the Pakistan Government to prevent them from giving that assistance. In document No. III, which is attached to the same letter the following is stated on page 20: "Consequently, some of these refugees and other Muslims from contiguous areas, who had numerous ties of relationship with the persecuted Muslims of the State, went across to assist their kinsmen in the struggle for freedom and indeed for existence itself". Is that not an admission that these people went from Pakistan, since the only contiguous areas are those of Pakistan in the south and west? It is not the Pakistan Government's case that people from the east—from the Dominion of India—went to the assistance of these insurgents in Kashmir. On the fourth side there are only the high Himalayas.

If people went from contiguous areas to the assistance of these people, they must have gone from Pakistan.

On page 22 of the same document—and in view of this background—is stated the following: "It is not surprising if independent tribesmen and persons from Pakistan—in particular the Muslim refugees (who, it must be remembered, are nationals of the Indian Union)." This is an extraordinary admission in this document. "These Muslims, because of the two-nation theory, had migrated from India to Pakistan, because they wanted to be in what they believed would be an Islamic State." No doubt in theory, and until their nationality in the Indian Union is snapped by legal methods, they are perhaps Indian nationals. However, to



Indian Army Engineers with an improvised water trough and a pump at a water point in Jammu Province. In the background men are filling their containers

lav emphasis on that fact in a document of this nature passes my understanding.

The document continues: It is not surprising if independent tribesmen and persons from Pakistan, in particular the Muslim refugees (who, it must be remembered, are nationals of the Indian Union) from East Punjab are taking part in the struggle for the liberation of Kashmir as part of the forces of the Asad Kashmir Government". This is another admission that these people have gone from Pakistan.

#### People of Poonch

In the course of his speech on 16 January 1948 before the Security Council, the representative of Pakistan stated the following while referring to the people of Poonch in Kashmir: "They were compelled, in view of the horrors committed elsewhere with which they were not faced, to evacuate their women and children, take them out of Poonch, and put them in West Punjab, and then come back to fight with weapons borrowed or taken from their friends or relatives in West Punjab". This is a tardy admission, no doubt, but an admission which shows that weapons were either borrowed or taken from friends or relatives in West Punjab and were taken to the scene of this conflict for the aid of the insurgents.

The representative of Pakistan had further repeated what the Prime Minister of Pakistan had stated much earlier, namely: "Kashmiris—and especially the inhabitants of Poonch—had many relatives in Hazara and in West Punjab. Consequently, feelings in certain parts of Pakistan rose very high and some people from the North West Frontier Province and the tribal areas, stirred by the atrocities in Kashmir rushed to the aid of their brethren".

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, in a telegram to the Prime Minister of India,—and this is quoted on page 106 of the speech of the representative of Pakistan—stated as follows: "In Poonch Muslims were attacked, and those in Jammu

massacred by the mobs led by Kashmir state forces, and when it was evident that there was to be a repetition in Kashmir of what had happened in East Punjab, it became impossible wholly to prevent tribes from entering the state without using troops, who would have created a situation on the frontier that might well have got out of control".

In this connection I wish to refer to one very important point ich has emerged from the statement made by the representative of Pakistan from time to time. The representative of Pakistan contended that, in so far as these tribe-men are concerned the Government of Pakistan tried to discourage their proceeding to Kashmir by every means short of war. Let us assume that it is a fact that they have attempted to discourage these tribesmen from going to Kashmir. The fact remains that these tribesmen have entered Kashmir in their thousands; they are now in Kashmir in their thousands; more tribesmen are on their way to Kashmir in their thousands. A discouragement short of war apparently had no appreciable effect on these tribesmen.

I submit to the Security Council and to the representative of Pakistan that, if measures short of war fail to prevent the infiltration of these people into Kashmir, it is the obligation of the Government of Pakistan to resort to measure of war against these tribesmen. I consider that this is a point on which the Security Council may usefully spend some time in debate, if not for resolving the trouble between the Governments of Pakistan and India, at least for the guidance of nations which may come into conflict in the future in similar circumstances.

That duty, which we contend rests upon Pakistan, has yet to be discharged by her Government.

#### Pakistanis in Kashmir

There have been varying estimates as to the numbers of these Pakistanis that are in Kashmir today, whether residents of the settled tracts of Pakistan

or residents of the tribal areas. But that it is a substantial number goes without saying. The lowest percentage that the delegation of Pakistan has relied on for these Pakistanis in Kashmir, both tribesmen and others, is 35 percent. Our contention is that it is a much larger percentage.

However, assuming that 35 percent is the correct estimate, the obligation still rests upon Pakistan to prevent this augmentation of the ranks of insurgents in Kashmir by as much as 35 percent —insurgents against the constituted authority in the State. These insurgents are present in Kashmir.

What do we say the Pakistan Government has been doing? Our case is that the Pakistan Government, or at any rate officers connected with the Pakistan Government, are not altogether exempt from the charge of having actively offered help and encouragement, and thereby made it easier for these raiders to proceed to Kashmir. I shall quote some testimony in this regard shortly.

For the moment, I shall deal with the question of what the Pakistan Government may be said to have admitted. We centend that these tribesmen and others have bases in Pakistan. There has been some denial of this fact. We contend that tribesmen have passed through Pakistan to Kashmir, and some argument has been advanced that this has not been established beyond all doubt.

In his speech, the representative of Pakistan stated that a tribesmen's leader has said, in the course of an address presented at the time of the Pakistan Prime Minister's visit to the tribal areas, that Pakistan had not given them sufficient help and had prevented them from going into Kashmir, so they were taking the route via the Swat State. The representative of Pakistan said, "The State of Swat—if again the members of the Security Council will turn to their maps—is almost on the border of Kashmir itself and is contiguous with the whole of the rest of the tribal area. That is one answer to the allegations of the representative of India that nothing was being done by the Pakistan Government to stop these rakistan Government to stop these tribes, namely the complaint of the tribes themselves that owing to the lack of co-operation of the Pakistan Government they found it necessary to cross the frontier from Swat to Kashmir.

#### **Swat State**

I would beseech the patience of the members of the Security Council and ask them to look at their maps once again. Swat is no doubt contiguous to the tribal areas; it is not contiguous to Kashmir. There is a bit of the North West Frontier Province stretching out like a kind of tongue between the Swat State and the Kashmir State. That perhaps explains why the representative of Pakistan was careful to qualify his observation by using the word "almost". But what he said subsequently might have given the members of the Security Council the impression that because the Pakistan Government prevented the tribesmen from passing through Pakistan territory into Kashmir, the tribesmen used some territory other than Pakistan territory as a route for reaching Kashmir.

If my resollection is correct, Swat as a State has acceded to Pakistan. I am subject to correction on this point. But even if Swat had not acceded to Pakistan it would still be geographically impossible for any tribesmen from the tribal areas to reach Kashmir except through Pakistan territory.

If Swat has acceded to Pakistan he would travel the whole way from his tribal area to Kashmir through Pakistan territory. If Swat has not acceded to Pakistan he would still, after crossing Swat, have to pass through the North West Frontier Province in order to reach Kashmir territory. That is a very minor point, but it is necessary for us to eschew, if possible, wrong impressions that might have been created.

#### Pakistan Premier's Speech

I have referred to the recent tour of the tribal areas by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He went there on an official visit accompanied, I take it, by a number of foreign correspondents. The following is an extract from a speech made by him in reply to an address of welcome by Afridi tribesmen, as reported in a bulletin entitled "Pakistan Affairs," for which we have to be grateful to the Ambassador of Pakistan in the United States. It says:

"Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan assured them that, as an autonomous part of Pakistan, the tribal belt would receive full consideration and sympathy from the Central Government".

#### He proceeds:

"You have played a prominent part in the achievement of our cherished goal of Pakistan. I assure you that you will be treated on an equal footing with people in settled districts enjoying the same rights and privileges".

#### The report continues:

"He thanked the tribesmen for reiterating their allegiance to Pakistan, and pointed out that the State would prosper only with complete solidarity among its nationals".

By implication he counted tribesmen among Pakistan nationals. I have been in some doubt for days past as to whether I could describe these tribesmen as Pakistan nationals, but whether or not they are such in law, here is the Prime Minister of Pakistan so describing them by implication. He added, "The tribal people are flesh of our flesh, and they shall be sharers in our schemes for economic, educational and political uplift for our people".

That is an aspect which must convince the Security Council that people in Pakistan, whether in the settled districts or in the autonomous tribal areas, have gone over in thousand into Kashmir State for the purpose—let us suppose for the moment —or helping certain insurgents in their great fight for liberty and national freedom in that State. On the strength of that admission I think that the Security Council should consider it its duty to tell Pakistan that ahe has no right to allow this sort of thing and must stop it from now on. That is what we are asking.

(Continued in next Col.)

# PAKISTAN SHOULD BE ASKED NOT TO HELP RAIDERS

## Mr. Ayyangar's Speech on Resolution Before Security Council

have brought to the notice of the Security Council, I say that the imperative duty of the Security Council is to ask Pakistan to take measures to provent these miscreants from finding help, assistance, bases, transport—everything that is needed for carrying on a campaign—on Pakistan territory'', said Mr.Gopalaswami Ayyangar in the course of his speech before the Security Council on February 3, in continuation of what he had said on January 29.

Below is the full text of the speech:

I had not finished what I had to say on the two draft resolutions placed before the Security Council by the former President, the representative of Belgium when we had to adjourn the meeting on Thursday afternoon last. I had hoped to resume my statement on the following day. However, a great tragedy intervened, and the resumption of my statement has to be postponed for another four days.

I shall now continue with what I have to say: however, as there has been a substantial interval between the time when I made the first part of my statement and today, perhaps it will help the members of the Security Council if I briefly recapitulate the points which I tried to make at that time.

I pointed out that the first business of the Security Council, in connection with the Jammu and Kashmir situation, was to take concrete steps immediately for the purpose of bringing about a stoppage of the bloodshed and the fighting that are now going on inside the State. For this purpose, I drew attention to what I considered the obvious obligations of Pakistan as an international personality, and, in that connection, I drew the attention of the members of the Security Council to what had been accepted as such obligations in similar situations.

#### (Continued from Previous Col.)

I said that we had made other allegations-namely, that Pakistan provides bases, supplies, arms and ammunition. Pakistan has categorically denied that anything of this kind is being done. There is, however, one very significant document in this connection and as it is the latest of its kind I should like, with the indulgence of the Security Council, to reach it fairly fully. It is a despatch which appeared in this morning's New York Times, and it gives the report of an interview which the representative of that paper in India had with an ex-Army officer of the United States namely Russell K. Height Jr. who, for two for two months, is supposed to have held the rank of Brigradier General of the rebel forces in Kashmir State.

I then went on to demonstrate to the Members of the Security Council that there was already enough material before them to enable them to give advice and make a recommendation to Pakistan, with a view to bringing about this stoppage of fighting as soon as possible. In that connection. I put aside all the material which we may be able to place before a commission, if and when it starts any detailed inquiry. I put aside material which perhaps would require more adequate proof than is possible in New York.

I also put aside opinions and mere impressions which gave some idea of the state of things with regard to the points that we ourselves had raised. I proposed to invite the attention of the Security Council only to admissions which the representatives of Pakistan—not merely those who are here, but those in Pakistan—had made in this connection.

I proposed also to invite the attention of the Security Council to accounts of what I called eye-witnesses, persons who were given special opportunities for observing facts and reporting them. I had almost completed the admissions part of my case. I was about to read the account of someone who might be expected to be very familiar with the state of things in the theatre of fighting when I had to interrupt my speech.

Before I take up the thread of the story from that point, I wish to fill in an omission which, unfortunately, occurred in the earlier portion of my statement. That relates to what I have described as the obvious obligations of Pakistan as an international personality. I quoted, I think, two extracts from the report of the Commission appointed by the Security Council in connection with the problem in Greece. Those extracts showed what was the correct attitude to take in those circumstances.

#### Problem in Greece

I now wish to invite the attention of the Security Council to what happened after that Commission reported, first in the Security Council itself, and later on in the General Assembly of the United Nations. After a great deal of debate in the Security Council, the matter was finally brought before the General Assembly, and the United States delegation submitted a resolution to the First Committee. I shall not read the long resolution that was submitted; I shall read only that portion which is relevant to the point I am making. I shall read paragraphs 3 and 4 of that resolution, which are as follows:





Raiders' truck which has been attacked by R. I. A. F. and knocked down in Jammu Province

"FINDS that Albania, Bulgaria and ougoslavia, in contravention of principles of the Charter of the United Nations, have given assistance and support to the guerrillas fighting against the Greek Government.

"CALLS UPON Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to cease and desist from rendering any further assistance or support in any form to the guerrillas fighting against the Greek Government".

That was taken up in the General Assembly, and in view of what has fallen already from the lips of the representatives of the United Kingdon, the United States and France, I desire to draw attention to what happened in the course of the debate regarding that Resolution. The representatives of the United Kingdom and France proposed amendments to this resolution. Their amendments were in identical terms. They were to the effect that paragraph 3 and 4 of the United States proposal be deleted and be replaced by the following

"TAKING account of the report of the Commission of Investigation which found by a majority vote that Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia had given assistance and support to the guerrillas fighting against the Greek Government.

"CALLS upon Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to do nothing which could furnish aid and assistance to the said guerrillas".

I read those two amendments to the Security Council merely to show how, in a similar situation in Europe, these three great countries took the view that, before anything further was done in connection with the situation they had to consider, it was absolutely necessary that those countries on the borders of Greece, from which those who invaded Greece were receiving help and assistance, should be called upon to stop that help and assistance.

The members of the Security Council are probably already aware of the fact that the Soviet Union did not see eye to

eye with these three great countries as far as this matter was concerned. I do not wish to go into the merits of the different cases presented by these two sets of countries, but there is one point which I think is relevant so far as my case is concerned.

I venture to submit that the Soviet Union's opposition to this resolution calling upon these three countries on the borders of Greece not to do anything which would assist or aid the invaders or raiders was due to the fact that the Soviet Union did not accept as correct the finding of the Commission of Investigation Concerning Greek Frontier Incident as regards the actual giving of aid and assistance. While the Soviet attacked the resolution on other considerations as well, it did not vote for this part of the resolution-I believe it abstained, rather than voting against it, but I am subject to correction in that regard because it was not convinced of the case against those three countries.

I express the hope that, had the Soviet Union been convinced of the correctness of that finding it would not have had the slightest hesitation in subscribing to the obvious proposition, that international obligations required that these three countries should be called upon to stop the help which was being given from their territory.

I think the Soviet Union also took the position that a great deal was needed for putting aright the government inside Greece, and that that was the ultimate and fundamental objective that had to be achieved before dealing with the stray border incidents, and so on.

With regard to that position, if the members of the Security Council will look at the scheme that India has presented for solving this Jammu and Kashmir trouble, it can be seen that we have suggested proposals which are calculated to achieve the end which was so insisted upon in the case of Greece by the countries which did not vote with the majority.

Having said that, I wish to invite the attention of the Security Council to certain passages in the speeches of representatives of countries voting with the majority, which show how important they considered the question of asking Greece's northern neighbours to stop giving aid and assistance.

Mr. Johnson, the representative of the United States, said, "The evidence shows beyond doubt that Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia have furnished material assistance to Greek guerrillas fighting against the Government of Greece. It shows that this assistance was continued even while the Security Council was actively debating the problem all through this last summer".

Interpreting it as assistance derived from these areas, this description of what was taking place in these three countries in relation to Greece is exactly what we say is taking place today in regard to Jammu and Kashmir. While we are sitting and debating this question at leisure in the Security Council, this assistance is being rendered, and fighting is actually going on. Mr. Johnson described the part of the resolution to which I referred as the operative part. He said: "It also calls upon Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania, on the one hand, and Greece, on the other hand, to settle their disputes by peaceful means.

Turning now to another portion of Mr. Johnson's remarks during the debate, here is an observation made by him which, I think, is of particular importance in connection with our case. Mr. Johnson said: "Further, since the Greek Government was the legal Government of Greece, no state had the right to give assistance to armed bands wishing to overthrow it. This was the essential situation before the Committee."

I would now read some portions of a very thoughtful speech which was delivered by Mr. Delbos, the representative of France. He said: "The Greek question before us has two aspects or more exactly, it has a general aspect and a more particular one. The general aspect is that this question is only an episode in the great movements in the world. The particular aspect is the situation of fact which prevails on the northern borders of Greece".

Then, after referring to various considerations in dealing with these two aspects, he went on: "These are the considerations which limit the possibilities and effectiveness of intervention on the part of the United Nations. They limit the scope of such an intervention as regards the particular aspect of the Greek question to which I referred a few minutes ago. In other words, the situation which actually now prevails in fact on the borders of Greece, on the one hand, and on the borders of Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, on the other, as well as the border incidents which repeatedly occurred and which are not denied by anybody-here is the problem which in truth and de jure, in a statutory manner, is the problem with which we are confronted. This is the problem which involves our responsibility because we have the right, and hence the duty, to do everything in order to prevent these

incidents from continuing and spreading and thereby jeopardizing peace and security in the Balkans and, therefore, in the whole world. This is the true question which polemics and propaganda should not succeed in concealing.

"What is essential", he proceeded to say, "is the finding of ways and means to preclude the aggravation of the situation". I do not wish to weary the members by quoting from other parts of speeches made by various members of the Security Council, but what I wish to insist on is this: when we are confronted with a situation such as has been brought before the Security Council by India, and India asks the Security Council to do something which would immediately stop the fighting and therefore, eliminate, the threat to international peace and security, I submit to the Security Council, with the profoundest respect, that its first duty is to take the steps necessary for bringing about a stoppage of the fighting.

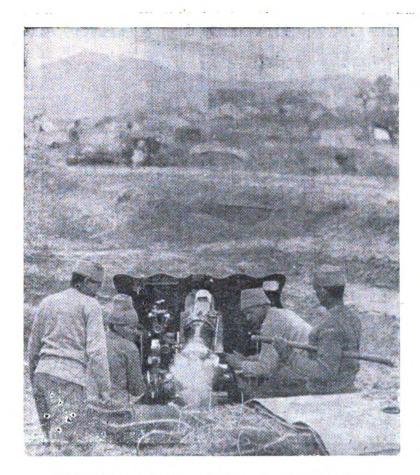
India is not trying to avoid the consideration or discussion of the measures that may be necessary, once the fighting has been stopped, to keep it stopped—to use a phrase which I think the representative of the United Kingdom used. India is not afraid of discussing those measures. In fact, in the scheme that India has submitted for consideration, which is one of the documents before the members of the Security Council, it has made suggestions which would deal with this long-range aspect of the problem.

Having filled in what I considered was an omission, because I thought it was necessary to draw the attention of the Security Council to what has happened in a similar case, I shall now proceed with the thread of my story where I left it last Thursday. I was then referring to a person who is an ex-sergeant of the United States Army Air Force. I think he went over to certain Eastern countries in search of employment, but apparently he was also a soldier of fortune and drifted into the service of the organisation which is conducting a certain amount of fighting inside the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The members of the Security Council have all heard of the Azad Kashmir Government. He entered the service of this organisation and became a brigadier general in charge of troops of fighters consisting both of local inhabitants and tribesmen.

#### Trumbull's Despatch

Robert Trumbull, the representative of the New York Times in India, who has been quoted by the representative of Pakistan, sent a despatch to his paper here, under date of 28 January. It is a longish despatch and I do not propose to read the whole of it. It is not my purpose to slide over anything that he may have said, but I am trying to make two points and I think it will suffice if I quote only those portions of the despatch which have a bearing on the points I am trying to make.

This is what Mr. Trumbull says: "I interviewed Mr. Haight clandestinely in Lahore, Pakistan, twelve days ago, but I agreed to hold his story until he let me know by code telegram that he was leaving the country. This was



Fighting in Jammu Province. A field-gun in action in Noushahra

because there had already been three attempts on his life, and when I met him he felt his safety in Pakistan was none too secure. He was in fact very decidely "on the lame"—whatever that may mean. Wearing a jungle green uniform with a brigadier general's insignia and the black and white Azad Kashmir flash, written in squiggly Urdu, on his shoulder, Mr. Haight led tribesmen and native Kashmir Poonchis in several engagements against the Indian Army. The slim, blond, former United States Army Air Force sergeant was a picturesque figure in his kula—a straw bonnet shaped like a beehive—and an eighteen foot Poonchi turban which he learned to wind himself. In the field he discarded his ten-gallon Stetson because it looked too much like the hat worn by the Indian ARMY Gurkhas"

Then he describes more of the characteristics of this man, the experience he had when he was in the service of the Azad Kashmir Government. Thereafter, he proceeds to say: "Mr. Haight said gasoline—a scarce and strictly rationed commodity—was supplied plentifully to the raiders by the Pakistan authorities".

It is part of our case that help, in the shape of petrol, among other things, had been received by the raiders and rebels in Kashmir from certain Pakistan authorities. Here is someone who was actually leading the army of the raiders and rebels, and who told Robert Trumbull that gasoline was supplied plentifully by the Pakistan authorities.

He then proceeds with the despatch as follows: "Mr. Haight also found Pakistan Army personnel running the Azad Kashmir radio station, relaying messages through their own Pakistan Army receivers, organizing and managing Azad encampments in Pakistan, and supplying uniforms, food, arms and ammunition, which, he understood, came from Pakistan Army stores through such subterfuges as the 'loss' of ammunition shipments.

"Although he insisted that the Kashmir fighting broke out in rebellion against atrocities committed upon Moslems by the Hindu Maharaja's Dogra troops, Mr. Haight characterised the Azad Kashmir Provisional Government, headed by Sardar Mohammed Ibrahim Khan (who is now in New York), as 'Pakistan puppets'. He also deeply implicated high Pakistan Government officials, notably the Premier of the North West Frontier Province".

I do not wish to read more of this. I understand that on landing in New York this estimable gentleman had an interview in which he is reported to have said that both India and Pakistan were lying. It may be his opinion that we are lying, but we only hope that in the statements made to Robert Trumbull he did not himself lie, and that he will stick to what he says. I read these passages from Robert Trumbull's despatch merely because they furnish corroboration of matters about which we can produce any amount of acceptable proof at any properly conducted inquiry.

## RAIDERS' BASES IN PAKISTAN

I have quoted them, too, because I am interested in convincing the Security Council that the material now available to it is sufficient to enable it to take immediate action in the direction I have indicated, and I hope that it will be realised that an American speaking to another American and having intimate knowledge of what was happening in these disturbed areas on account of the position he held, was not likely to have concocted a story for mere newspaper consumption.

#### From Other Sources

That is about the latest despatch which I have, but I should like to quote passages from other sources of a similar nature which support the case I am trying to make. Here is an extract from a despatch published in the London Times on 20 Janury, 1948, from its special correspondent at Rawalpindi. One fact to note is that the despatch gives an account of a Press Conference held by one of the ministers of the Azad organization at Rawalpindi. It says:

"Although this Government"—that is, the Azad Government—" has all the nomenclature of Government machinery, it is difficult to assess either its power or the amount of its control. At present it could be just a facade, an effort to dignify revolt and invasion being fought in faraway hills completely foreign to the back rooms and hotel lounges in which its members work and talk. These men have none of the characteristics associated with revolutionary leaders, but it is obvious that the military commanders of the Azad forces are in agreement with them.

"The Military commanders are more impressive. Many of them are exofficers of the 'Indian National Army' formed by the Japanese, but this despicable background in no way detracts from their obvious prowess and efficiency".

A description is then given of the troops these officers command, and the report continues:

"These mobs, however, were composed of thousands of Poonchis and Mirpuris with military experience—9,000 Poonchis served overseas in the late war—and they were now more or less organised into 24 battalions. The tribesmen constituted the other half of their forces but were an undependable element.

Then comes a paragraph which is somewhat significant:

"Inspite of the recent efforts of the Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, to persuade the tribesmen not to take part in the Kashmir campaign, hundreds of them are still swarming down on the Grand Trunk Road through the Northwest Frontier Province and West Punjab. Many of them, although not in large numbers as alleged by Pandit Nehru, can be seen in the towns near the Kalmir and Jammu border".

I rely on that last paragraph as proof of one of the main allegations that we are making—that Pakistan gives access to these people, that they pass through Pakistan territory before entering Kashmir, and that in Pakistan territory they have a number of bases.

If the members of the Security Council will look at their maps, I can enumerate for them the points concerned from the north westernmost corner to the southeast corner of the boundary between Kashmir and Pakistan, starting from Abottabad, passing through Rawalpindi, coming down to Jhelum, Lalamusa, Gujrat, Sialkot, Shakargarh and Chak Amru. All along that border from one end to the other, there is a series of places where these gentlemen from the northwest are concentrated and looked after, and from these places they make raids on Kashmir territory, and, when Indian troops engage them, they run back into Pakistan territory.

That is our case. I challenge any member of the Security Council to go to that area and to satisfy himself whether or not what I say is almost literally true. The things are there for any member to see. They happen everyday, and here is the special correspondent of the London Times who tells how these people go through the two provinces of Pakistan—the Northwest Frontier Province and West Punjab—from end to end along the border with Kashmir, from where they conduct their operations.

#### Desire for Loot

I also have a later account again published in the London Times dated 26 January 1948. It comes from that newspaper's special correspondent at Lahore, and is an account of the tour of the tribal territories by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. In the course of that account this passage occurs describing the fighting in Kashmir.

"Religion can be a double-edged weapon. Many tribesmen describe the fighting in Kashmir to be a Jehad (holy war); others are willing to use such a movement as an excuse for their love for fighting and desire for loot. Peaceful elements may be willing to co-operate with Islamic Pakistan, but a 'holy war' combined with blocdy excursions in search of loot and women is more to their taste".

"Appeals to support Pakistan by not participating in the fighting in Kashmir fall on deaf ears, and any effort on the part of Pakistan to restrain them will further antagonise.

"There is ample evidence that Pakistan has tried to restrain them. Throughout his tour Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan was met with complaints about lack of official assistance for the Kashmir campaign and about attempts by political agents to prevent the departure of volunteers".

Close to the end of this account is a

passage which is of more than ordinary significance. "In spite of these efforts the Indian indictment which now lies before the Security Council alleges Pakistan intervention in Kashmir. While they are roaming over the hills of Kashmir and Jammu, the tribesmen do not constitute any direct threat to the already uneasy peace in the Dominion but Pakistan leaders are well aware of the difficulties which lie shead. The Grand Trunk Road through the North West Frontier Province and Western Punjab is swarming with armed bands marching and riding in the direction of Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Jhelum, and other points of access to Kashmir. Many, for the first time in their lives are seeing well-irrigated fields and bazars bewilder-ing in the variety of the goods displayed. Frightened shopkeepers have seen their stocks disappear into tribal fighters' haversacks without payment. Little loot remains on the cold, rain-soaked hills in Jammu, and there is thus a real danger that many tribesmen will turn westwards". "By turn westwards", the writer means into Pakistan itself.

It is further stated in this despatch: The total number of tribesmen engaged in the operations is estimated at between 10,000 and 20,000. The task of removing them will be extremely hazardous, if not impossible, and the resentment of the tribesmen will be Pakistan's only reward".

I referred to the tour of the tribal areas by the Pakistan Prime Minister. He did his utmost to fraternize and make friends, with the tribesmen. I should like to repeat that these people are not of a mettle which is easily susceptible to offers of friendship and fraternization. This is obvious from the way in which the tribesmen acted on the advice that apparently Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan gave. However, one has to recognise that these people have to be tackled with strength and firmness. Fraternization interspersed with encomiums, on whatever they are based or whatever they proposed to do in Kashmir, will not aid in stopping those people from going to Kashmir.

#### An Interview

A report from the Daily Telegraph of London, dated 20 January, 1948, by its correspondent Douglas Brown, carries an account of an interview which Mr. Brown had with a member of the Azad organisation. I shall ask the Security Council to note that interview was granted to this correspondent at Rawalpindi at the Pakistan Army Headquarters. I shall not touch upon what happened between the Minister and Douglas Brown. The following is Mr. Brown's report of the speech of Liaquat Ali Khan: "In a speech Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan reiterated what he said many times during the past week, that Pakistan was heart and soul with the Azad Government, but refrained from joining the struggle for fear of causing war between Pakistan and the Indian Union which would be disastrous to Moslem interests generally.

Here is another account of part of this tour which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune; it is by Margaret Barton,

whe has already been quoted by the representative of Pakistan: "The tribal chieftain, the Chief of the Shinwari Tribe, a sub-sect of the Afridis, is supposed to have said in the course of this tour; 'Our blood has been shed in Kashmir and we are determined to have revenge. There is a blood feud now between the Muslim tribesmen and the Dogras of Kashmir. The fight is between us and has nothing to do with Pakistan or with any other United Nations member nation. Kashmir belongs to us by right of religion and continuity, and as soon as the snows are gone, we shall capture it.

After the Conference the leader said that they had told the Prime Minister they would not accept compromise on Kashmir reached between India and Pakistan. "We want revenge not only on the Kashmiri, but also on India. We will fight this battle not only in Kashmir, but also in Delhi and Patiala."

Discussing the matter with these tribesmen, the Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, is supposed to have said: "He had made no commitments to the tribes but felt that they would eventually be influenced by fair argument". I hope his anticipation will be realized. However, according to our knowledge of these tribesmen—we have known them for over a century and a half—this is perhaps too optimistic a note ever for a Prime Minister. The article continues: "If the United Nations decision appeared to have been made with Muslim interests in mind, Pakistan would be able to persuade them to accept the decision provided it seemed just".

With regard to the whole of this tour, there is one significant adjective which is used in an account sent to the New York Herald Tribune by Margaret Barton on 16 January. I shall read to the Security Council but refrain from making any comments on it. It is as follows:

"The Malik's principal complaint was the same one which had been voiced with almost suspicious unanimity. Liaquat Ali Khan has talked during the last four days. They are not being allowed to proceed to Kashmir, where they are determined to go, in order to save their Muslim brethern from carnage by the Hindus". What is suspicious about the unanimity I shall leave unexplained.

I have read to the Security Council accounts which support the case that we are trying to make, and which come from people who are neither Indians nor Pakistanis.

#### Raids

In this connection, I would once again refer to the raids that have occurred and which are still occurring. They happen every day. Day after day I receive reports from my Government which describe these raids—the casualties inflicted, the number of villages burned and the manner in which the raid is accomplished, namely, having come overnight to perpetrate this act of destruction, these raiders disappear in the early hours of the morning back into Pakistan territory.

I do not wish to weary the Security Council with accounts or quotations in Sir G. S. Bajpai (left).
Secretary-General,
E. A. and C. R.
Ministry and Col.
Chaudhri, new ladian
Mititary Attachee in
Washington, photographed at the
Willingdon airport
just] before their
departure to U. N.
Security Council



regard to these masters. However, I would refer once more to three incidents which occurred during the month of January. These incidents show that unfortunately, this lust for blood, for loot, for arson, and so on, is still going unchecked in Pakistan.

I have already referred to what happened in Karachi on 6 January, and my colleague on the Indian delegation has dealt with it in some detail. Some account has also been given of the massacre of passengers in a train at Gujrat. Figures have already beer given to the Security Council about the massacre that took place at Parachinar.

I refer to these incidents in order to indicate one inference which I ask the Security Council to draw from the present state of affairs in India and Pakistan. If these three incidents had taken place in the first half of October instead of in January, I am almost certain that there would have been acts of retaliation on the Indian side, acts which perhaps might have been even more drastic than those which took place in these three incidents in Pakistan. Those retaliations have not taken place. That they have not taken place was primarily due to the great restraining influence that Mahatma Gandhi exercised during his life. That restraint was also due to the fact that those who are responsible for

running the Indian Government are determined to see that such retaliations do not recur. That is why you will find that while these incidents happened in the Pakistan area, retaliations have not taken place in the Indian area.

#### Need for Drastic Action

Unless the Government of the area concerned is prepared to take drastic action and does not stop with talking nicely to the people who break the law, the situation will not be brought under courol. That is why I have pleaded with the Security Council that if measures short of war—which, let us assume, Pakistan is taking—have not been able to stop the incursions of these people into Kashmir territory and aggravating the fighting, then Pakistan should take to force in order to put down this kind of violence and breach of international obligations.

That this is the feeling even in Pakistan is obvious. I shall read to the Security Council an extract from an article which appeared in the Pakistan Times, a newspaper published in Lahore, commenting on the Gujrat incident. It reads as follows:

"A large number of non-Muslim men, women and children have been killed in and near Gujrat. All these inno-





Indian Army Pioneer Corps repairing a road near Naushahra

cent souls were in our charge, and Pakistan had guaranteed them protection until they crossed our frontier. We have betrayed our ideals, and broken our pledged word. People who call themselves Muslims and fellow citizens of Pakistan have been guilty of gross savagery and inhuman brutality. The name of Pakistan has been blackened and besmirched, and the name of our people and our religion has been once more dragged into dust".

After some further remarks, the article proceeds as follows:

"It is not enough to bow our heads in shame. We had much rather lift up our heads and look for the causes and agencies which still make the perpetration of such heinous deeds possible. Apart from the madmen who committed the crime, or some official agency, we do not know who, they also must share the blame for what has happened. There must have been indifference or lethargy, a lurking unwillingness in some quarter, which held back the hands of law from dealing out sterner measures before the foul deed was done.

We must formulate and force immediate measures to persuade, cojole or coerce our citizens more into civilised conduct ".

Now during the last few days, these raids are becoming concentrated on the only line of communication between Jammu and India. Large crowds of these raiders have attacked this road, and the villages beyond this road inside our limits. They have set fire to houses in a number of villages. They come overnight and parpetrate these dastardly acts, and they go back into Pakistan territory in the morning. Our troops have strict orders not to overstep our territory.

The thing goes on from day to dayblood is shed and property is lost. There is no sense of security in any village along this border.

In the light of all the facts which I have brought to the notice of the Security Council, I say that the imperative duty of the Security Council is to ask Pakistan to take measures to prevent these miscreants from finding help, assistance, transport-everything that is bases, needed for carrying on a campaign-on Pakistan territory.

Unless that is done, the evil will go on in an intensified manner. Whatever decisions we may take with regard to other questions, we shall not be stemming the tide of this ruthless destruction.

We have had placed before us a resolution which I already have described as being innocuous, in our opinion. Parhaps it might be described more harshly, but I would content myself with that. What I would say is that this resolution is not going to tackle this problem of the cessation of fighting, we ought to do something more positive.

In this connection, I should like to make a suggestion for the consideration of the Security Council. I know that, being only a party to a dispute which is under adjudication by the Security Council, I am not entitled to move any amendments: however, I certainly can submit a suggestion which, if it finds favour, can be moved as an amendment by some member of the Security Council.

What India is prepared to accept with regard to this part of the case-and I wish to insist that India is not prepared at this moment to accept anything lesswould be something along the following lines. Instead of the resolution which I have been discussing all this time, I should like the Security Council to consider something along the lines of what submit it I have put it in the form amendment, but I submit only as a suggestion for the consideration of the members. If my suggestion is accepted, it would read as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Considering its resolution of 17 and 20 January 1948,

"Considering the urgency of achieving the cessation of fighting and other acts of hostilities;
"Adopts the following resolutions:

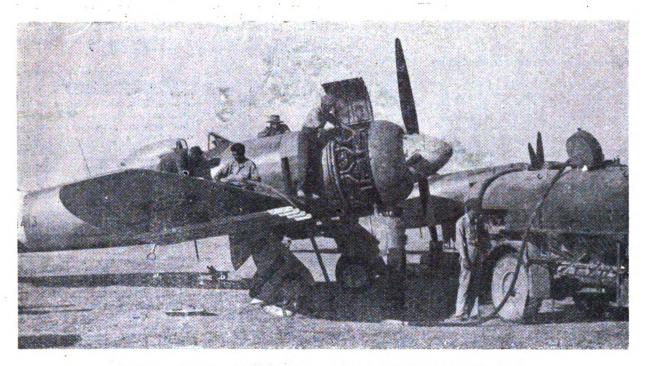
"(i) The Security Council

"Recommends to the Government of Pakistan that they should use all their efforts to persuade the tribesmen and others now in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir State who have invaded Kashmir. to withdraw from that territory,

"To prevent the passage through Pakistan territory of such invaders to the Jammu and Kashmir State; to deny the use of such territory for operations against the State and also refuse supplies and other material aid direct and indirect to such invaders.

"(ii) The Security Council further recommends that the Commission of the Council shall among its duties regard as particularly urgent the promotion of measures intended to bring about as expeditiously as possible the cessation of fighting and other acts of hostility;

"And in the pursuit of this end the



A Tempest of the Royal Indian Air Force being re-fuelled and attended to by the ground crew before taking off on a sortie

Commission shall ensure that its functions under paragraph C (2) of the resolution of the Council dated 20 January 1948 are exercised without delay and with every diligence".

In the second part of this resolution, we have retained the substance of what is proposed in the resolution which was placed before us by the representative of Belgium when he acted as President of the Security Council. In the first part of this resolution, we request the Security Council to implement the suggestion which we have made both today and the previous day on which I spoke.

In the first place, we ask the Government of Pakistan to use its efforts in order to stop this help as of tomorrow, if possible. It may be that in the conditions in which the Government finds itself today—with the tribesmen in Pakistan—any advice it gives to the raiders and to the tribesmen may not be listened to with alacrity. However, we have no doubt that if this request should go forth to these invaders and raiders with the weight of the authority of the Government of Pakistan there would be a tremendously welcome change in the stuation as regards the fighting in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Appeal to Pakistan

We appeal to Pakistan, not merely in the interests of the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, but in their own interests and in the interests of the preservation of the law and order in the Dominion of Pakistan itself, to take this action without the least possible delay. Our feeling is that unless this help comes from or through the Government of Pakistan, the fighting in Kashmir will not stop. If this assis-

tance dries up, then there is every likelihood of the fighting in Kashmir stopping as soon as possible.

Resolution (ii) has for its object the functioning of the Commission when it undertakes its mission. Certainly, it will use all its mediatory influence in bringing about agreed understandings between the two Dominions. It will see also that resolution (i) is carried out and is implemented in the spirit in which it has been proposed. That is why reference is made to paragraph C(2) of the resolution dated 20 January 1948.

We wish to say nothing more with regard to this second resolution, although it is the first resolution which we took up for consideration.

#### **Ouestion of Plebiscite**

We pass on now to the resolution on the question of the plebiscite. I should like to be as brief as possible with regard to this matter.

As far as India is concerned, after fighting is stopped, normal conditions are restored and everybody belonging to the State is returned to his home and land, we want conditions to be established with a two-fold objective; first, the establishment of a system of self-government acceptable to the people of the State and second a final settlement of the question of accession.

We have made proposals in this regard in our scheme. When I say, "We have made proposals," I should like the Security Council to understand clearly that these are fields in which India as such has no jurisdiction. Pakistan as such has no jurisdiction and, if I may venture

to say so without disrespect, neither the United Nations nor the Security Council could be said to have jurisdiction to give any direction. The matter is one entirely for the State of Jammu and Kashmir and its people. I venture to say that this particular position is common ground between India and Pakistan.

I shall read one or two passages from Mr. Jinnah's pronouncements, to the Security Council. He said some time near the end of last July, "the Muslim League recognizes the right of each state to choose its destiny". He was referring to the Indian States. "It has no intention of coercing any state into adopting any particular course of action".

A year previous to that—I think in June 1946—when he was talking about the Muslim Conference in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and its objective, he said, "I hope the Maharajah will now without further delay meet the demands not only of the Moslem Conference, but of the people of Kashmir generally, namely, that a full and responsible Government be granted immediately, and steps taken to implement the declaration without delay". The Muslim Conference of the State also declared its policy to be "one for the attainment of responsible government under the aegis of the ruler. It never supported the idea of wiping off the ruler."

I quote these passages from statements of Mr. Jinnah and the Muslim Conference of Jammu and Kashmir from documents for which those two were responsible, and I add that that is the objective which leaders in India have in view. That is the objective which the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir headed by Sheikh Abdullah have in view.

Our Prime Ministers have declared times without number that that is the objective which they would like to see realized for Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Responsible Government in Kashmir

That being so, the only question is whether the person who at the moment centres in himself all the powers of sovereignty is willing to part with those powers in favour of representatives of the people, because that is what responsible government means. The question exists because we cannot dictate this to him nor can anyone else dictate this to the Maharajah. I am in a position to say that the Maharajah himself is prepared to take the steps necessary for the establishment of responsible government in the State at the earliest possible moment. A matter of that kind cannot be a matter of agreement between India and Pakistan. It cannot be the subject of a directive from the Security Council. But in order to ease matters and in order to show that the grievance for which the local insurgents might be said to be fighting need no longer exist, and the cause for such fighting might be considered to have ceased to exist. I have taken the trouble to ascertain what the Maharaja's wishes are and what he is prepared to

As I have said, I am in a position to say that the Maharaja is prepared immediately to take the steps necessary for the establishment of responsible Government as soon as peace is restored.

As I said, a matter of this kind cannot go into an agreement between us and Pakistan, but the Government of India is willing and the Maharajah of Kashmir and his people are willing, that the intention of the Maharajah and his Government with regard to the question of responsible Government, should be stated in any document that might go forth as a result of the Security Council's labours.

Before I proceed, I might say that apart from the stoppage of fighting, the two parties interested in the Jammu and Kashmir question—each for its own reason-are the insurgents who want a responsible government and Pakistan which wants the question of accession to be finally settled. As far as the insurgents are concerned I have indicated what the Maharajah is prepared to have announced in his name as his decision. As the Security Council is aware, the Government of India is fully committed to the view that after peace is restored and all people belonging to the State have returned there a free plebiscite should be taken and the people should decide whether they wish to remain with India, to go over to Pakistan or to remain independent, if they choose to do so.

That being so, the only question for consideration is whether the Maharajah and his people are willing that this plebiscite be taken. On that point also, I am in a position to inform the Security Council that the Maharajah has agreed to the taking of this plebiscite after fighting has been stopped and after normal conditions have been restored.

A further point that arises for con-

sideration in this connection is what is meant by a free plebiscite. I am afraid that there is a lot of mixed and, perhaps, confused thinking in regard to this particular matter. We have to take the verdict of the people of a state which is now being governed by machinery which it has had for years. Kashmir has functioned as a state for many years. It conducts own administration.

It has an administrative machinery which does not compare with the administrative machinery of any other Indian State. The question is whether, when one wants to take a vote on a particular question, one can oust that machinery completely and put something which comes from the outside in the place. I think that would be an amount of encroachment on the ordinary sovereign powers of any state, to which no state would be willing to agree.

In so far as I have been able to gather through reading, in connection with arrangements made in similar cases elsewhere in the world, under the auspices of the United Nations, I have not seen a case—and I am subject to correctionwhere the established government of a state was superseded and the United Nations imposed another administration upon it for the purpose of conducting a plebiscite. After all, the resolution before us confines itself only to the conduct of the plebiscite. The resolution says: "The Security Council is of the opinion that such plebiscite must be organized, held and supervised under its authority". I think this has not I think this has not happened anywhere else. What is the reason for suggesting that we must make an exception in the case of Jammu and

Our position and the position of the Maharajoh-after all, it is his view and that of his people which should count in this connection—is that the plebiscite should be taken, but as doubts have been raised as to whether everyone will have a free vote and the minorities will have their chance, we are quite willing that the plebiscite should be conducted under the advice and observation of people whom the Security Council may appoint in this connection; that is to say, these advisers and observers could go in and lay down procedure, from the preparation of the electoral votes, if necessary, down to the stage of polling, counting of the votes, and the declaration of the result. The Maharajah and his government are quite prepared to accept that position.

#### **A Constructive Suggestion**

In this connection, I also have a constructive suggestion to make for the consideration of the Security Council. This is what the Maharajah and his Government are prepared to accept in this connection. It is merely a suggestion and the Security Council may adopt it as an amendment, if it agrees with the proposal. The proposal reads as follows:

"Whereas India and Pakistan agree that the question of accession of Kashmir shall be determined by plebiscite and that the plebiscite be held under international auspices, "The Security Council recommends that the plebiscite be taken under the advice and subject to the observation of persons appointed by the Council".

The proposal has been worded in this fashion advisedly, because both Pakistan and India have interests in the question of accession, and therefore some agreement has to be reached between them. Therefore, the preamble states that India and Pakistan agree that the question of accession may be determined by piebiscite. But the actual plebiscite and the actual taking of it, as I have already contended is a matter for the Government and people of the State of Jammu and Kashwir. That is why it states: "The Security Council recommends that the piebiscite be taken under the advice and subject to the observation of persons appointed by the Council.

We are making this recommendation and it could be agreed to by India and Paristan. The implementation of the recommendation will be carried out by a third party who is not before us. but that third party, I am in a position to assure the Security Council, will be prepared to implement this particular recommendation of the Security Council. We have taken out the words which conferred authority on the Security Council for organizing, supervising and directing this plebiscite; on the other hand, we give the Security Council the right to appoint advisers and observers. After all, even under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, most of what has been resolved here is put in the form of recommendations; in fact, in the draft of the other resolution, I have taken out the words which spoke of opinion and that sort of thing. used the word "recommends" advisedly, A recommendation of that sort applies so long as we continue to be members of the Security Council; if we are parties to that resolution, we are supposed to implement that recommendation. The use of the word "recommends" removes the objection which states, sensitive to ideas of sovereignty, have to being directed or ordered about by the Security Council. So that when you use the word recommends", it really means that it is your advice and you expect the advice to be carried out, provided we are parties to your giving us that advice.

That is why we have deleted here the words which might be considered objectionable by those in whom the authority is vested today. We have made it a recommendation, and although the party concerned is not before the Security Council to help in the solution of the question, we are in a position to give an assurance that that party would be ready to accept the resolution if it were worded in that way.

In conclusion, I should like to commend to the Security Council these two resolutions which I have been discussing in a speech more lengthy than any I have had to make in my life before. The resolutions are interlinked, and we would impress upon the Security Council most strongly our view that unless both are agreed to in the form we have suggested it would be difficult for us to agree to either by itself.

(Continued on page 409)

## MODIFIED APPROACH TO KASHMIR side agency or agency which does not model to be a model of the people PROBLEM URGED

#### Ayyangar's Speech in Security Mr. Council

T the resumed discussion on the Kashmir question in the Security Council on March 10 Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar said:

When the debate on the Jammn and Kashmir question was interrupted on February 12, we were debating the draft resolution which had been placed before the Security Council by the representative of Canada then functioning as President of the Security Council. We had reached a stage in that debate when I considered it necessary to ask the Security Council for an adjournment of the debate for enabling me to go back to my country and hold consultations with my Government in order that I might come back fully armed with the results of those consultations and fully euiqpped for participating in continuance of that debate with greater chances of achieving a result satisfactory to both India and Pakistan. With the permission of the Security Council I went back to my country and for a number of days held continued consultations with my Government.

We have explored all avenues of settlement. I may at this stage assure the Security Council that India is essential. tially a lover of p ace. She stands for maintenance of peace in the world, for avoidance of war and she has immense faith in the capacity of the United Nations and the Security Council in achieving this end of maintaining world peace. But for that faith we would not have come to the Security Council with the reference that we did on January 1. It is our hope that with the help of the Security Council we shall not be continued in the Pakinten which reach a settlemet with Pakistan which would, in the first place, end at the earliest possible moment the fighting that is still going on and, in the second place, would lay the foundations for a more permanent understanding between the two countries, so that all future conflicts might either be avoided or might be solved with satisfact.on to both countries. That is really our objective. I am asked by my Government to reiterate our faith in the efficacy of this world organization and the Security Council.

#### Modified Approach Needed

The interruption in the debate that has taken place has enabled us to review the wnole position. I would express the hope that it has also enabled members of the Security Council to review their attitude on questions that have arisen for consideration in respect Jammu and Kashmir problem. As a result of this review on both sides, it is my expectation that we shall bring to the solution of this knotty problem a some-what modified approach, not only from our side but also from the side of Pakistan and, may I add, from the side of members of the Security Council themselves.

That being the general line on which I would ask the Security Council to approach the question afresh today and subsequent days on which we may debate this problem, I desire to refer to three or four particular issues on which we stuck on the last occasion. The first and most important of these was the question of bringing the fighting that is going on to an end as quickly as possible. I do hope that in spite of the eight or ten weeks that have elapsed since we brought this question to the notice of the Security Council, we shall yet realise that the utmost priority has to be given to measures that should be taken for the stoppage of fighting in Kashmir.

It is an unfortunate fact that sanguinary fighting has proceeded in that State during the two months and more that we have been considering this problem here. One wonders whether we might not have saved many lives and expenditure of much material and money if we had been able to arrive at a settlement much earlier than we shall.

#### A Constitutional Issue

That being the first thing that I would, on behalf of my Government, urge on the Security Council today, I shall take up the other points on which I thought at the time we had reached a kind of impasse. Those points are, roughly speaking, points which relate to the ensuring of a free and impartial plebiscite on the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir State.

The first of these points related to the substitution, as suggested by certain participants in the debate, of a neutral and impartial administration for the administration now functioning. On that point, I should like to repeat what the President said. There is a fundamental constitutional issue involved in making a suggestion of that sort. That constitutional position, by which a question of that sort has to be left to the decision of the Jammu and Kashmir State, its Ruler and the people, has not to be maintained. Any attempt on the part of the Security Council to demand that the internal administration of a sovereign State should be put into the hands of an agency unconnected with the State perhaps, or an agency which does not command the support of the people of the State, is a proposition which is unthinkable, and I would respectfully urge the Security Council not to press that

It will not be possible for us, and I say it with a full sense of responsibility and with the full authority of my Government behind me, to yield on the question of doing away with the administration that is functioning now and substituting in its place some kind of outthe State.

#### Maharaja's Proclamation

In this connection I should like to mention for the information of the Security Council that, since we last met, the Maharaja of the State of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a proclamation. There are two or three important features of this proclamation.

One feature is that full responsible government is conceded to the people of the State. The second feature is that a suitable machinery should be set up as early as possible for framing a constitution which would give this full responsible government of the people of the State, and if that Government is established, it will inure to the benefit not merely of one part of that State but to the benefit of the whole of the State, including the area in which there is some local fighting still going on.

The third feature this proclamation has published to the world is the conversion of the Emergency Administration into a regular Council of Minister, under the existing Jammu and Kashmir State constitution. This Council of Ministers is to function as far as possible as a responsible executive. That change has taken place. The head of this new Council of Ministers is now engaged in forming his Cabinet and it will be of interest to the Security Council to know that only yesterday I received a cable that he is putting forth his best efforts to include in his Cabinet representatives of schools of political opinion other than his own. I hope he will succeed in bringing into his Cabinet representatives of all sections of political opinion so that the Interim Government may evoke the smallest possible amount of criticism.

#### Free and Impartial Plebiscite

So far as the question of Interim Government is concerned, the next point for ensuring a free and impartial plebiscite that was being debated on the last occasion related to the question of retention of the armed forces of India in the State during the interval that has to elapse between the stoppage of fighting and the completion of taking of the plebiscite.

There also I would invite the attention of members of the Security Council to the very wise advice that the President gave in his speech during the last debate. I ask that for the exclusion of the armed forces of India altogether from the State during that period is not a matter which is within the range of practical politics so far as we are concerned, but the essential reason for making that demand is that the armed forces of India which may remain within the State should not be allowed to interfere with the taking of a free and unfettered vote on the question of accession when the plebiscite comes to be conducted.

On that point I have been instructed to assure the Security Council that we are quite prepared to consider any reasonable suggestions that might Le put forward by any members of the Security Council for the purpose of ensuring that the armed forces do not have opportunity to interfere with voting during the time of the plebiroite. We are quite willing to go as far as we possibly can to ensure that. We do not want there to be any pressure, any violence, any coercion. used on even a single voter in the matter of his choice between India and Pakistan on the question of accession.

if there is anything we can do short of withdrawing our forces altogether from the State for the purpose of ensuring this non-interference with the plebiscite. we shall be quite prepared to consider suggestions.

There is one matter in this connection which I should like to lay before the Security Council. The retention of the armed forces is an obligation which we owe the State of Jammu and Kashmir for ensuring its defence from external aggression and for going to the aid of the civil power when it is inevitable that armed forces should be used for the purpose of maintaining internal law and order. It is only for those two purposes that we wish to retain armed forces within the State. We, as much as anybody else in the Security Council, are totally against anything that will smack of armed forces induencing the casing of votes during the plebiscite.

#### Independent Machinery

The third point that was considered on the last occasion was the machinery that should be devised for the conduct of this plebiscite. My delegation, the Government of India, and 1 are perfectly convinced—in fact it is our desire—that arrangements should be so devised that this machinery for the conduct of the plebiscite will be allowed to work in a completely unfettered manner, without any pressure or influence being exercised on it by the administration of the State, to ensure in the eyes of the world that vote at the plebiscite was cast in conditions which would be open to no criticism on the score of coercion. pressure or anything else of that sort. quite anxious that this machinery should have, in the field of activity assigned to it, as much independence as it is pussible to give to it, consistent only with the maintenance of the sovereignty of the Jammu and Kashmir State and with the maintenance of proper relations that should subsist between the Federal Centre-namely, the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir State.

We are willing to consider any suggestions that may be put to us, subject only to this one condition: we want this machinery to work independently. We want thus machinery to propose rules and regulations which can be put into force without any amendment or modification. We are prepared to issue orders, and see that those orders are implemented by the Government of the State, to the effect that no administrative, police or military pressure shall be allowed to be exercised over the voters during the taking of the plebiscite. That, I hope, will give the Security Council confidence that the Government of India is as anxious as anybody else that this plebiscite should be conducted in a perfectly free and unfettered manner.

As to what concrete steps could be (Continued in Col. 2)

## MR. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR EXPLAINS KASHMIR ISSUE

## Broadcast Interview in New York

the situation was brought to the notice of the Security Council, it has yet to discharge its elementary and obvious duty in taking measures to bring about the immediate stoppage of the fighting in Kashmir", said Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Ayyanger, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the Security Council in a broadcast interview from the New York city radio station on March 15. The interviewer was M ade Davidson, nows commentator of the radio station,

"It further allowed itself", continued Mr. Ayyangar, "to drift into a long drawn debate on usues which could and should be settled after steps stopping the fighting had been taken. We in India have genuine faith in the ideals which founded the United Nations and we will strive our utmost to strengthen this organization so long as it promotes these ideals. My study of its actual functioning, however, has produced in me a feeling of some disappointment. While in the social, economic, cultural and humanitarian fields of activity its work has been notable, in the political field proper, its achievement so far has fallen short of expectations. In fact, 1 an filled with lear as to whether in its functioning in the political field, expediencies of the hour, based on narrow individual national interests have not often thrown into the shade its high purposes and lotty ideals. I sincerely hope, this danger which is only too real, will be consciously and resolutely grappled with and conquered by the Big powers who dominate the organization. If this hope of mine fails to materialise, the stability of the organization will get rudely shaken, and no country will regret it more than India a country which under the inspiration and guidance of Mahatma Gandhi has been a lover of peace and non-violence".

#### Indo-Pakistan Controversy

Replying to Davidson's enquiry regarding the matters in controversy between India and Pakistan Mr. Ayyangar said, "I am airaid there is not enough time for me in this talk to give you an adequate even though a bare outline of this controversy. I have necessarily therefore confined myself to the major issue relating to Kashmir. In the subcontinent of India there are a number of principalities with hereditary rulers known as Rajas, Maharajas and Nawabs, who under British rule were in theory absolute but who, in actual fact, were

(Continued from Col. 1)

taken to bring about this result, it is not for us to make suggestions, but we shall be quite willing to consider any reasonable suggestions that are put forward for ensuring peace. More than that I do not wish to say on this occasion. I hope, with the help of the Security Council, we shall arrive at a settlement on these questions which both the representative of Pakistan and we will recognize and agree, is most satisfactory in the circumstances of the situation.

## Indian Delegation to Security

The Indian Delegation to the Security Council, with Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar as Leader, returned to New York on Thursday, March 4. Since his presence in Kashmir was necessary, Sheikh Abdullah, who was one of India's representatives did not return with the Delegation. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Secretary General, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, took his place.

under the effective subordination of the British Power. On the transfer of power from Britain in the middle of August 1947 the Stat s administered by these rulers were declared, in theory, to have regained their independent status. They were, however, free and expected to join one or the other of the two new Dominions, India and Pakistan. Most states did so join but there was hesitation in the case of some, particularly two large sized states, Kashmir and Hydereled. Pakistan was designed and even new claimed that it was an Islanic State based on religion. India, on the other hand, is a secular Democracy which unequivocally rejects religion as the basis of statebood. The Government of India have laid down and have followed unfunchingly the policy that in the case of Indian states where opinion is divided or likely to be divided on the question of accession to either Dominion, the matter should be decided finally in the democratic way, by ascertaining the verdict of the people of the state concerned, through a plebiscite or referendum.

#### How Kashmir Acceded to India

Soon after partition of what had been British India, agitation was started in Kashmir state by a section of the population, one part of it against the alleged autocratic rule of the Maharaja. This was exploited by the people and authorities of the neighbouring Dominion of Pakistan as an excuse for promoting activities for coercing Kashmir to accede to Pakistan, ostensibly for the purpose of helping fellow Muslims in Kashmir who were represented as fighting against the tyranny of the Hindu rules. Hordes of wild tribesmen from the Noth-West marched through Pakistan territory and entered into and invaded Kashnir where they perpetrated all kinds of herrors on the innoc nt unarmed population. In their mad career they pillaged, looted and burnt villages, killed large numbers of persons, abducted, dishonoured and committed unmentionable outrages on women, and even offered some of them for sale in the bazars. They finally threatened Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, with a population of two lakhs with the fate that had overtaken a large number of villages and smaller towns,



Already the normal administration of the State which until then had been in two minds as to whether to accede to India or Pakistan broke down. In consequence the Maharaja with the whole-hearted support of the Muslim leader of the most popular political party in the State, appealed at this critical juncture, to the Government of India for help, and applied for the accession of the State to the Government of India. India felt compelied to respond to this appeal from the ruler and people of a neighbouring state whose integrity was in great jeopardy They accepted the offer of accession and sent help. At the same time true to their principles, they announced that they were willing, after the restoration of normal conditions that the question of the accession of the State to India might be submitted to ratification by the free vote of the people of the State, freedom being ensured, if necessary, by conducting the plebiscite under international auspices.

#### Fighting must Stop

Inspite of this however, tribal onslaughts continued with moral and material support either direct or indirect from the Pakistan authorities and nationals. Raiders and aiders were and are using Pakistan terriory as a base for their operations against Kashmir and as a refuge for retiring into when pursued by the Indian army out of the Kashmir State territory. At the end of last December the situation was that in selfdefence the Indian army might find itself compelled any day to enter Pakistan territory for striking at the bases of the raiders and this might provoke armed conflict with Pakistan India, as a m mber of the United Nations, brought this situation to the notice of the Security Council with the request that Pakistan which had openly and demonstrably committed an obvious breah of international obligations towards a neighbouring friendly state, should be called upon to deny all facilities and assistance which the invaders and the insurgents were obtaining from her territory. The Government of Pakistan in their reply while not wholly denying ha ges of complicity on the part their nationals sought to condone and excuse it by magnifying the local trouble into a fight for freedom by an oppressed popula-tion, and charged the Government of India with deliberate armed intervention for the purpose of securing Kashmir's accession by force. Though it is nearly 21 months since the situation was brought to the notice of the Security Council it has yet to issue the obvious directive to Pakistan for taking measures to bring about the immediate stoppage of the fighting in Kashmir. It has further allowed itself to drift into a long-drawn debate on issues which could and should be tackled after steps stopping the fighting have been taken.

#### Conditions for Plebiscite

These other issues relate to the holding of the plebiscite. This matter centres now on conditions necessary to ensura freedom of voting and impartiality in the conduct of the plebiscite. The point most in controversy is that Pakistan insists on a change of the present administration in the State immediately. India, on the other hand, is equally insistent that while the Security Council should have

the utmost freedom to advise, supervise and watch the course of the plebiscite the question of the personnel of the internal administration of the State is one which is not within its competence, and which should properly be left to be determined by the ruler and the people of the State.

#### India's Draft Constitution

Mr Ayyanger was also asked questions about Inda's new constitution. He said: "In framing our constitution we have not hesitated to draw freely on the experience of other nations. Our endeayour has been to examine the best feature of the existing constitutions elsewhere and adapt them to our own peculiar conditions. The constitutional development of my country thus far has inevitably and quite naturally followed the British pattern of parliamentary demo-cracy. While the new constitution retains this basic pattern with the removable executive responsible to the legislature we are following the American precedent in a number of matters, particularly, in providing for the President or head of the State for being elected for a term of years and for a supreme court with powers to pronounce upon the constitutionality vis-a-vis the written constitution in addition to merely interpreting it.

The peculiar conditions of Indian society made it necessary for us to state from the very beginning in the clearest possible terms certain fundamental rights Briefly they provide against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste of sex ; they provide equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters of employment under the State; for freedom of conscience. religion; freedom of speech, expression freedom to assemble peacably without arms, freedom of association, freedom of movement throughout the territory of India etc. We have, by special provision, forbidden the turies-old but inequitous practice of untouchability and the enforcement of any disability arising out of this custom has been declared in future to be an offence punishable in accordance with the law. The prohibition of traffic in human beings and enforced labour and the ban on employment of children in factories are also mentioned. Another arresting feature proposed in the constitution is the enactment of thirteen articles laying down certain directive principles of State policy for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the people by securing and protecting a social order in which justice, social, economic and political shall inform all institutions of national



R.I.A. F. in Kashmir. An R. I. A. F. pilot about to get into a Tempest aircraft for a sortie over raiders' positions in the Western districts of Jammu Province



Aftermeth of Naushahra Battle: Maj-Gen. Kulwant Singh, G. O. C., J. A. K. Forces shows to Sardar Baldev Singh, the Defence Minister, the marking on the many rifles captured from the raiders around Naushahra

## INDIAN ARMY'S EXPLOITS IN JAMMU

Sharp decisive engagement recently south of Ramgarh, south of the Samba-Kathua road in Jammu Province, where troops of the Madras Regiment wiped out an entire party of Pathan raiders from Pakistan. illustrates the nature of work the Indian Army is doing to guard the Jammu border.

Twenty-three Pathans, armed with two automatic weapons and many rifles, slipped into Jammu territory from Pakistan on the night of February 14/15. They avoided our patrols and pickets and making their way in the dark reached a desorted village which they looted and set on fire. On their return, however, they were not so lucky. They ran into one of the Madras Regiment's pickets.

It so happened that two Company Commanders were in the area, Major C. P. A. Menon and Capt. K. Venugopal. To these Company Commanders it was an exciting prospect after days of dreary routine patrols. They leapt into Bren carriers with Jemadar P. R. K. Ramarao and Madrassi Bren-gunners. They dashed to the spot in which the raiders were said to be concealed. The carriers reared to the spot and the Brenguns came into action. Caught under cross fire the Pathans tried to dash to safety but were picked off one after another until 20 were killed. Three, including the leader of the raidors, decided that discretion was the better part of valour and prudently threw their hands up. They were brought back, and the triumphant Madrassis collected all the rifles and automatics and brought them back to headquarters.

One raider, who was armed with a Bren gun. ran in a frenzy to avoid the Madrassis' bullets and threw himself into

a well. If he had expected to escape being noticed he was mistaken. A sepoy went to the brim of the well and sat there with a sten-gun waiting for his head to bob up. But the Pathan perhaps could not swim or was stunned by the fall. He did not appear on the surface. The sepoy thereupon let himself into the well, dived and recovered the Bren gun.

The weapons and the prisoners captured in this engagement were produced in Jammu city before the Prime Minister when he paid a short visit to that place.

#### Frontal Attack on Raiders

The story of an Indian officer's gallantry in leading his company in a frontal attack on raidors who were well entrenched at a bridgehead in Jammu reveals the fierceness of the fighting.

Major G. A. Wright of Dinapore, Bihar, commanded a company which was detailed to secure the bridgehead. Another company had tried to put in a flanking attack but had failed to dislodge the raiders who were dug in on high ground near the bridge. Major Wright's company was pinned to the ground as they were within full view of the raiders and the slightest movement drew heavy fire. Since the advance of the main force was dependent on the capture of the high ground, Major Wright decided to put in a frontal attack. In short spurts the various Sections of the Company advanced until they were close to the high ground and then, led by Major Wright himself, the Company charged the raiders' position on the hills. Although unnerved by the sight of gleaming bayonets coming closer and closer the raiders made a fight for it,

but were beaten and routed. Major Wright's personal example was in a large measure responsible for the capture of this feature.

Sepoy Dewan Singh of Pithoragarh tehsil, Almora district, laid down his life in arresting the onrush of large numbers of tribesmen and saving the lives of many of his comrades. His platoon position was attacked by a strong force of tribesmen. The raiders made some ground and advanced closer to the position. The Platoon Commander eventually ordered his platoon to withdraw. The raiders were quite close by now and would have inflicted heavy easualties on the withdrawing plateon had not Dewan Singh, with complete disregard for his safety, given covering fire. He seized his Bren gun and began to fire from his hip with great accuracy. He accounted for at least 15 casualties among the raiders and halted them temporarily, thereby allowing the remainder of his platoon to withdraw. As he continued to fire, he was severely wounded in the shoulder but, ignoring his wound, he stayed there alone and unafraid. The raiders discovered that there was just one Bren gun and one Sepoy in front of them and concentrated on him. Sepoy Dewan Singh did not, however, think of his safety. He received a burst of small arms fire on his chest as he fired his Bren gun. He fell dead.

#### Sharp Action

Lance-Havildar Jogindar Singh killed seven raiders in a sharp action which began with an attempt by the raiders to encircle one of our patrols. When the patrol was returning to its base it was suddenly fired at from both flanks. Jogindar Singh left some of his men to look after one party of raiders, and with the remainder of his men attacked the other party. Charging forward, he opened fire with a Sten gun and killed three Pathans. The remainder of the Pathans fled. Joginder Singh proceeded to deal with the other party. Again, he led the rush on the raiders, using his Sten gun, and killed four more tribesmen, causing the others to run away. This N. C. O's dash and gallantry proved an example to his men

#### Continuous Killing

There has been a steady killing of raiders, sometimes the numbers are small, sometimes enormious as in NAUSHAHRA. but the killing is continuous. This proves the effectiveness of the Indian Forces tactics. There has been ample evidence to show that the casualties which the raiders have suffered, either in their ineffectual attempts to storm some of our pickets or in clashes with our columns and patrols, have impaired their morale although this deterioration in spirits has not apparently reached the bases from which the raiders have been penetrating into Jammu and Kashmir The exaggerated claims made territory. by the raiders' headquarters have led many tribesmen and others to go into the State and thus there is a constant stream of armed fighting men coming to take the place of those who were killed or wounded.

A recent development has been that

a number of Hurs have been reported among the raiding force around Uri.

The following is a summary of operations in the various sectors during February.

UR1. Our forces in Uri hold strong positions on the snow-clad hills around the town. There have been many attempts by the raiders to storm one picket or another but each time the storming parties have been forced to suffer**ing** after casualties. Our own patrols have probed suspected enemy positions all around Uri and interfered with their lines of communications. Our lines of communications between Srinagar and Uri has been maintained without interruption. The country around Uri is so hilly, wooded and covered with snow that the raiders have found it difficult to bypass Uri and proceed to Mahura or Baramula. Some time ago one band of raiders crossed the Jhelim well west of Uri in an effort to reach Mahura by a detour. This party was spotted by our artillery, shelled and dispersed. Subsequently a claim was made by the raiders that one of their long-range columns actually reached Mahura.

Recently, finding that Uri is a position which they can neither take nor bypass, one or two small parties of raiders have taken the track linking Muzzaffarabad with Tithwal and proceeded thence to Handowar. There was some fighting beyond Handowar between our column and the raiders, but th fighting has dwindled to sniping. Some villages which were occupied by our forces.

#### Raiders Move to Skardu

Further north in the Rendu area some movement was reported and one of our aircraft flying in Arctic conditions made a reconnsissance of that area. Perhaps imagining that the air activity was a prelude to our advance towards that region the raiders moved from Rendu towards Skardu where they were met by one of our detachments and halted. The fighting in the Skardu area again was on a minor scale. Skardu is over 200 miles north-east of Srinagar.

Pounch. It has been claimed by the Pounch. It has been claimed by the raiders that they have tightened their ring around Pooneh. Although Poeneh is technically isolated, partly because of heavy snow drifts on the Hajipir Pass on the road to Uri, aircraft of the RIAF have been landing on a strip made by the infantry, and supplies and reinforcements have been sent. Infantry columns have been moving further and further afield from Poonch and many hills held by the raiders have been cleared. The peasants of the neighbouring areas who have assembled in Poonch have been going back to their land to harvest their standing crops under the protection of our troops. On two or three occasions raiders made simultaneous attacks on some of our pickets on the hills around Poonch, but they were beaten back with casualties and none of our pickets has been seriously threatened. There are 35,000 civilians in Poonch and RIAF transport irreraft have been ferrying supplies such as salt, blankets, medical stores and food provided by the State Government.

# DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S CONGRATULATIONS

The Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallablibhai Patel in a letter to the Defence Minister has congratulated Indian troops on their success in the battle of Naushahra fought on Feb. 6.

The congratulatory letter reads: "I should be grateful if you would kindly convey to Brigadier Usman and his men my heartiest congratulations on their success in the recent operations against the raiders and my warmest appreciation of the courage, valour, resourcefulness and determination with which they have repulsed such serious attacks on our position in Naushahra. Their achievement on this occasion is in the best traditions of the Indian Army and we are all proud of it."

The Prime Minister and the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh have also personally congratulated Brig. Usman and his men on their achievement.

Naushahra. Our forces in Naushahra have widened their perimeter after a series of local actions in which some times our infantry made bayonet charges. During the attack by the raiders on Naushahra on January 6, in which they suffered heavy casualties, the Commander himself being killed, they had formed a ring around Naushahra. In order to prevent a repetition of this, our force commander in Naushahra drove a wedge in the raiders' positions by capturing a tactically important place called Kot north-east of Naushahra. The raiders reacted strongly and made a serios of attacks on Kot, all of which were repulsed. The result was that, when the raiders mounted their second big attack on Naushahra on February 6, they could not come, as they had done earlier, from all round. They tried in vain to neutralise Kot and the hill called

Taindhar on which came some of the most furious attacks. Although at conservative estimate over 1,900 raiders were killed on February 6, there is reason to believe that reinforcements of fresh and newly trained men have arrived in the area.

Akhnur. The town of Akhnur is only some eight miles north of Pakistan torritory which jute out like a tongue in that area. As a result of border incidents many villagers in that area had abandoned their homes and flocked to Jammu but recent intensified patrol activity by our forces has resulted in the return of these villagers to their homes.

Jammu. South-west and south of Jammu border raids again have been numerous but more troops have been sent to that area and the villagers are returning and settling down.

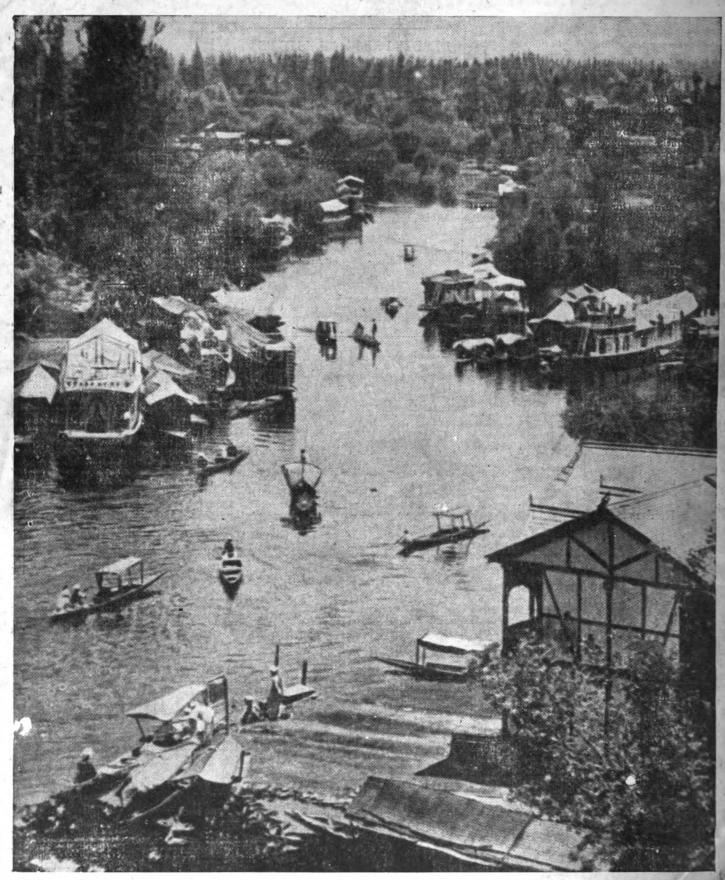
#### MR. AYYANGAR'S SPEECH

(Centinued from Page 404)

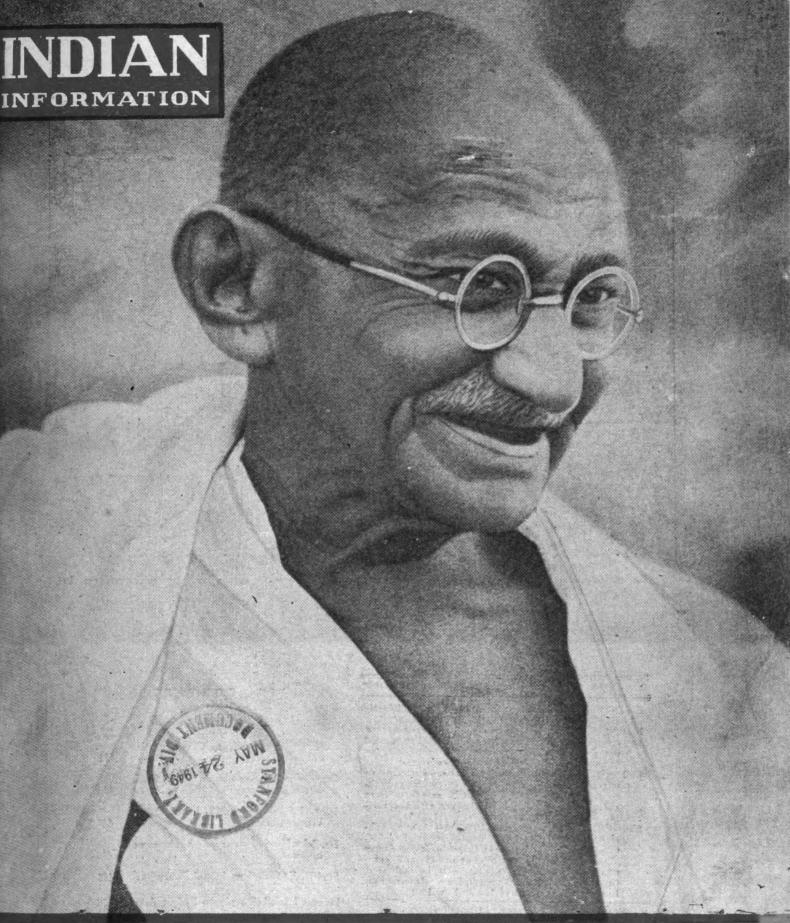
There is one further aspect of this matter which I must not fail to place before the Security Council. My colleagues of the Indian delegation and I have given most anxious thought to the draft resolutions which were placed before us the other day, and have spent a great deal of time in trying to devise something which we could accept in connection with the matters treated therein. The form which we have now suggested represents about the maximum to which we are prepared to go. If anything short of that were adopted by the Security Council we should be placed in the most difficult position, and should have then to consider what we might have to do. I trust that this development will not take place, and that the Security Council will find it possible to agree to what we have suggested for consideration after so much anxious thinking.



Aftermath of Naushahra Battle: Brig. Usman who commanded the Indian Forces in Naushahra in the recent battle, points out his Forces' position to Siriar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, during his recent visit. Maj.-Gen. Kulwant Singh, G. O. C. J. A. K. Forces, is also seen in the picture



Dal Lake, Srinagar



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April 15, 1948

TRIBUTES TO GANDHIJI • PANDIT NEHRU
ON INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

PRICE 4 ANNAS



Mahatma Gandhi at All India Radio, New Delhi, in November 1947, when he broadcast a message to the refugees in Kurukshetra Camp

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# FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

## Prime Minister Outlines India's Foreign Policy

straightforward honest policy, an independent policy, is the best. What that policy should be at a particular moment, it is very difficult for me or for this House to say because things change rapidly from day-to-day. It may be that we have to choose what might be a lesser evil in a certain set of circumstances—we have always to choose the lesser evil". said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharla! Nehru. Prime Minister, replying to the debate on a cut motion to discuss India's foreign policy in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on March 8.

Below is the text of the speech :--

In criticising the foreign policy of the Government of India during the last year or six months I should like this House for an instant to turn its mind to any country today and think of its foreign policy—whether it is the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., China or France. These are supposed to be the Great Powers. Just think of their foreign policy and see if you would say that the foreign policy of any one of these countries has succeeded, obviously succeeded from any point of view, from the point of view of moving towards world peace or preventing world war, succeeded from even the mere opportunist and individual point of view of that country.

#### International Situation

I think if you will look at this question from this point of view you will find that there has been a miserable failure of foreign policy of every great power and country. It is in that context that we shall have to see these things. It is not really the failure of the foreign policy of any particular Power though perhaps two or three Major Powers to influence foreign policy greatly. It is a gradual or rapid deterioration of the international situation.

Now surely the responsibility for that deterioration might lie on some Powers. In India our responsibility is very little. We may have functioned well or badly on the international stage but we are not, frankly speaking, influential enough to affect international events very much. Therefore if that great deterioration has taken place in the international sphere it is not due to our policy. We suffer from it just as every other nation suffers from it and I think it is this vague feeling that somehow we have suffered or something that has happened that induces members to search for reasons why we have suffered.

I think that is a very right approach, because we must find out the reasons, where we might have erred, how we might have bettered our lot and so on and so forth. Nevertheless, I think the real reason is that the causes lie entirely outside any policy that we have pursued. There are bigger and deeper causes

affecting the world and we, like the strongest of nations, are pulled hither and thither by these forces. That is one fact that I should like the House to bear in mind.

#### Unfortunate Events in India

Another factor and what is more applicable to us is this: that owing to the unfortunate events that have happened in India since the 15th August, 1947, anything we did outside the world has suddenly lost weight or lost weight for a time. We counted for something, not very greatly of course, more in our potentiality than in actuality, because potentially we counted for a great deal, though actually we need not have counted for much. But the events that occurred after 15th August in India. Pakistan, etc., all over here—Pakistan I might say naturally did not count for much because it had no background: it was a newcomer; it was we who counted-those events suddenly brought down our credit in the international domain tremendously.

It affected the United Nations when they were meeting last October, considering the South Africa issue. Undoubtedly the fact of the events in India affected the decision of the United Nations General Assembly in regard to the South Africa issue; so also in regard to other matters. All these facts have nothing to do with foreign policy.

The point I wish to place before the House is this, that it may be desirable for us to adopt a certain foreign policy or a certain other one. But all this has no relationship, it has nothing to do, with what has happened. Other factors govern it. If you like it was a fault, but we have been rather passive about all these matters, and where we have been somewhat active are the very things in which some of the Honourable Members desire us to be more active than we have been.

We are asked to collect the smaller nations round about us in India or elsewhere. But the point is the very activity call it idealistic; I do not think it is purely idealistic; I think it is, if you like, opportunist in the long run,—this policy that we have so far pursued before we became a Government and to some extent after we became a Government that is, standing up somewhat, in so far as we can, for the weak and the oppressed in various continents, is not a policy which is to the liking of the Great Powers who directly or indirectly share in that exploitation. It is that that puts us in the wrong with them.

There has been a lot said about other matters. It is a clear issue before this House. Here is Indonesia. We have done precious little in the way of actual active help; we are not in a position to

do that. But we have got sympathy towards them and we have expressed it as publicly as possible. Because we give our sympathy and some feigned degree of help to Indonesia and because this offends and irritates some of the major powers of the world, are we to withdraw that? Are we to remain quite tame and say, "No, this might irritate this power or that", because it does irritate this or that power and there is no doubt about it.

#### The Fundamental Thing

Naturally, we cannot as a Government go as far as we might have done as a non-official organisation where we can express our opinions as frankly and as aggressively as possible. Speaking as a Government we have to moderate our language. We have sometimes to stop doing things which we might otherwise do. Nevertheless, the fundamental thing is, do we sympathise and openly sympathise with a country like Indonesia in her struggle for freedom, or do we not? That applies not to Indonesia only but to several other countries. In each case we have to face the passive hostility of various interests, not only the direct interests involved, but the indirect interests involved, because the direct interests and the indirect interests hang together in such matters.

It has been an astonishing thing how in the last so many months, this Good Offices Committee functioned in Indonesia all good people, and as it happens the Secretary of the Committee was an Indian. The way it has functioned and the result it produced are not at all satisfactory. If this House is dissatisfied with what the Security Council has this year done or considered in regard to Kashmir they would be still more dissatisfied, I think, if they consider the Indonesian Good Offices Committee's work, because unfortunately the approach to these problems is a certain approach with which this House cannot fit in on account of our past traditions, on account of our ideal etc.

#### No Camp Followers

Now I am not talking in terms of this bloc or that bloc; I am talking independently of these blocs as have appeared in the world stage. We have either to pursue that policy generally within limitations—because, we cannot pursue it whole heartedly, nevertheless pursue it openly—or give it up. I do not think that anything could be more injurious to us from any point of view-certainly from an idealistic and high moral point of view but equally so from the point of view of opportunism and national interest in the narrowest sense of the word—than for us to give up these policies that we have pursued, namely of standing up for certain ideals in regard to oppressed nations, and trying to align ourselves with this great power or that and becoming its camp followers in the hope that some crumbs might fall from their table.



I think that would be undoubtedly from the narrowest point of view of national interest, a bad and harmful policy.

I can understand some of the smaller countries of Europe or some of the smaller countries of Asia being forced by circumstances to bow down before some of the greater powers and become practically satellites of those powers, because they just cannot help it. The power opposed to them is so great and they have nowhere to go to. But I do not think that consideration applies to India.

#### Citizens of No Mean Country

We are not citizens of any weak or mean country and I think it is foolish for us to get frightened, even from a military point of view or any point of view, of the greatest of the powers today. Not that I denude myself about what can happen to us if a great power in a military sense goes against us; I have no doubt it can injure us. But after all we have in the past opposed ourselves as a national movement to one of the greatest of world powers. We opposed ourselves in a particular way and in a large measure we succeeded by that way, and I have no doubt that if the worst comes to the worst and in a military sense we cannot meet these great powers, it is far better for us to fight in those ways than submit ourselves and lose all the ideals which we have.

Therefore let us not be frightened too much of the military might of this or that group. I can not frightened and I want to tell it to the world on behalf of this country that we are not frightened of the military might of this power or that. Our policy is not a passive policy or a negative policy. In fact these words are used rather vaguely.

#### Veto in United Nations

Two or three instances that were given perhaps gave an indication of the thing that was working in the minds of some of the Honourable Members which they have not had the time of the desire to say clearly. I shall give one instance. It was stated, that we supported the veto in the United Nations presumably because we did not wish to offend the Soviet group.

Now I want to place the facts before the House as far as I remember them. The veto was put there, as the House will remember, by the common consent of all the Great Powers—all the Great Powers in every Group. It was put there because—and may I say that the Soviet felt that way, the United States also felt that way,—these huge and great Powers did not like the idea of half a dozen little countries just telling them to do this or that.

Both felt that way and neither of those were prepared to submit just to a kind of majority voting of little nations put together, so that it was put there in the Charter right at the beginning. Whether the veto was used or misused, I am not going into the question, but now this question arose that the veto should be removed. This was not liked by several Great Powers. It was not a question of

supporting this bloc or that bloc. Both the blocs did not like the removal of that veto.

Now the problem before us was that if that veto was somehow removed by a veto or decision of the United Nations, there was little doubt that the United Nations ceased to be that instant. That was the choice. It was not a question of liking the veto. On behalf of India, and on behalf of many countries, it was stated openly that we disliked this veto and that its hould go, it was pointed out it could only come by some kind of general agreement.

Now we agree with what Mr. Santhanam said that the United Nations, in spite of its failings and weaknesses, is something that is good. It should be encouraged and supported in every way, and should be allowed to develop into some kind of world government of world order. Therefore we instructed our delegates not to press this question of the veto to breaking point and to say that although we did not like it, it should remain there so long as it should not be removed by some kind of agreement of the major Groups involved.

#### What India has Done

In that way various questions come up and each question has to be considered on the merits. I do not know if any honourable member has analysed our voting at these international conferences. It would help them perhaps to appreciate the scene better if they took up any of the major issues during the last year in the United Nations or its various Committees and Councils and find out what India has done.

It is certainly true that our instructions to our delegates have always been obviously and firstly to consider each question in terms of India's interest, secondly on the merits—I mean to say if it did not affect India, naturally on the merits and not merely to do something or give a vote just to please this Power or that Power, though of course it is perfectly natural that in our desire to have friendship with other Powers, we avoid doing anything which might irritate.

As a matter of fact we go as far as possible to try and win over. It is not our purpose to enter into other people's quarrels. Our general policy has been to avoid entering into anybody's quarrels. If I may say so, I have more and more come to the conclusion that the less we interfere in international conflicts, the better, unless our own interest is involved, for this reason that it is not in consonance with our dignity just to interfere without any effect being produced.

Either we should be strong enough to produce some effect or we should not interfere at all. I am not anxious to put my finger in every international pie. Unfortunately sometimes one cannot help it. One is dragged into it. For instance there is the Korea Committee. Well, not only are we in that Committee, but ulimately our representative became the Chairman of that Committee. Now that leads to another matter, to which

reference has been made by some honourable member, That is this.

#### In Unofficial Councils

It is an odd contrast today that while in the official councils of the United Nations we may not perhaps pull the weight we ought to, nevertheless in the unofficial councils outside our weight has considerably increased. Why is that so? Because progressively, people see that within the United Nations things are done not very idealistically or morally or in terms of the underdog or in terms of the smaller nations or in terms of the smaller nations or in terms of these people try to search for someone else and in their search for someone else who might perhaps give a lead in these matters, almost automatically their eyes turn towards India.

Now I do not wish to enter into any comparisons with other countries, and certainly we have done nothing in India to merit any question of leadership of anybody. There is time enough for us to lead others when we can lead ourselves properly and I do not wish to place the case of India at any higher level. We have to look after ourselves.

That is why I am, if I may say so, in spite of being Minister in charge of External Affairs, not interested in external affairs so much as internal affairs at the present moment because external affairs will follow internal affairs. But there is not basis for external affairs if internal affairs go wrong. Therefore also I am not anxious to widen our scope of representation all over the world. It is fairly wide now. That too we have been almost compelled by circumstances to do because we simply cannot be an independent nation without having that representation, but I am not anxious to extend it any further unless some very special reason arises.

That being so, nevertheles the fact remains that we stand for certain things. Now when we come into contact with the external world, do we stand for them or do we not? We have to choose. I have no doubt at all, as I said right at the beginning of my remarks, that in the long run it is to the great advantage of India for it to attract to itself the sympathy and the hope of millions of people in the world without offending others. It is not our purpose to offend others or to come into conflict with others. Nevertheless the world is in a pretty bad way and it is easy enough for people to tell me "Oh, you talk idealistically, you should be practical".

#### Results of being Practical

May I remind the House that we have seen these many years the results of persons and things being very practical? I have had about enough of this practicalness, which leads to incessant conflict and which leads to all the misery and suffering that we have seen. If that is the meaning of being practical, the sooner we are not practical the better.

But that is not being practical That is being grossly impractical, in their march without looking to the left or to the right and each group just contracting in close

circle, full of langer for the other group, trying to win over other small or big nations by some immediate advantage or something given. I do not say that is good enough for this country and we really are not even compelled by circumstances to do it. We might have been compelled by circumstances but we are not compelled by circumstances to give up because it does amount to giving up our independence in order to gain the goodwill of this country or that country.

I think not only in the long run but in the short run, that in lependence of opinion and independence of action will count. That again does not mean that we should not associate ourselves closely in certain activities with particular countries. We do. Pandit Kunzru referred to the necessity for our developing economically, militarily and otherwise. Surely this House realises that nothing is more important in the opinion of this Government than to make India economically strong and military,—not strong in the Big Power sense, because that is beyond our capacity, but as strong as we can to defend ourselves if anybody attacks.

We want to do that. We want the help of other countries; we are going to have it and we are going to get it too in a measure—I am not aware of this having been denied to us to any large extent. Even in taking that help, economic or other, or even in getting political help, it is not a wise policy to put all your eggs in one basket, if I may say so, that one should get help and more especially at the cost of one's self-respect. Because then you are not respected by any party; you may get some encomiums etc. but ultimately even those may be denied, and then you may have no basket to sit in.

#### Independent Policy

Therefore, purely from the point of view of opportunsim if you like, a straight forward honest policy, an independent policy is the best. What that policy should be at a particular moment, it is very difficult for me or for this House to say because things change rapidly from day to day. It may be that we have to choose what might be a lesser evil in a certain set of circumstances—we have always to choose the lesser evil.

We stand in this country for demo cracy, we stand for an independent Sovereign India. Now, obviously anything that is opposed to the democratic concept—the real, essentially democratic concept, which includes not only political but economic democracy—we ought to be opposed to. We will resist the imposition of any other concept here or any other practice. That I can understand

But there was a curious confusion in the speeches of some Honourable Members when on the one hand they talked about our standing for the weak and the oppressed, against imperialism and all that, and on the other hand they asked us m "e or less to side with possibly a power here or there which may stand for imperialism. It may be that sometimes we have to side with this Power or that Power. I can quite conceive of our siding with an Imperialist Power. I do

not mind saying that; in a certain set of circumstances that may be the lesser of the two evils. But nevertheless, as a general policy it is not a worthy policy or a worthwhile policy.

May I state another fundamental difficulty before us? Because of our past record in India, that is the antiimperialist record, we have not been persona grata with many groups and peoples outside. We have not got rid of that yet. With the best will in the world, those people do not like us. Those people govern opinion elsewhere, they govern the Press. It is amazing how a certain section of the Press, say in the United Kingdom, deliberately and offensively misrepresents us. Now as I was sitting here a telegram came to me, a telegram from a foreign correspondent in this country sending a long message to his paper in London, which is the most offensively false thing that I have seen. It amazes me that any person who has been here for some months should have the temerity to send such false messages, and it is about time that the Government of India dealt with this matter more firmly.

We have been extraordinarily lenient towards the Press, Indian or foreign. We have gone out of our way to tell them that we will not do anything even if they send messages which are extremely disagreeable to us. But there is a limit to falsehood and that limit has been passed, I think in regard to some messages.

#### Joining a Bloc

What does joining a bloc mean? After all it can only mean one thing: give up your view about a certain question, adopt the other party's view in that particular question in order to please it and gain its favour. It means that—nothing else so far as I can see because if our view is the view of that party, then there is no giving up and we do go with that bloc or country or whatever it is. The question only arises when we are opposed to it on that point; therefore we give up our viewpoint and adopt the other one in order to gain a favour.

Now, I am prepared to agree that on many occasions not only in international conferences but in this House, one gives up one's point to gain a compromise, and I am not prepared to rule out the possibility of our subordinating our viewpoint in international conferences in order to gain something worthwhile. That is perfectly feasible, that is often done. But this general approach is the worst possible approach to get anything from that country. I should like this House to realise that even if we wanted to adopt that policy, this approach is the worst approach to get that thing done. Because you have got to leave your viewpoint about it, you simply give it up to get a few crumbs, and the next day you do not know where to go. You do not know what it comes to.

The fact of the matter is that inspite of, in a military sense, our weakness—because obviously we are not a great military Power, we are not an industrially advanced Power. Nevertheless, India even to-day counts in world affairs and the trouble that you see in the United Nations or the Security Council

is because she counts, not because she does not count. That is a fact you should remember, If we had been some odd little nation somewhere in Asia or Europe, it would not have mattered anything. But because we count, and because we are going to count more and more in the future, everything we do becomes a matter for comment, and because many people do not like our counting so much. It is not a question of our viewpoint or of attaching ourselves to this or that bloc; it is merely the fact that we are potentially a great nation and a big Power, and it is not liked possibly by some people for anything to happen which strengthens us.

#### Our Information Services

So there are these various things to be considered. It is not such a simple matter for us, as just by a resolution, to affiliate ourselves to this organisation or that organisation and get all the privileges of membership of that organisation. That kind of thing is not going to happen. And therefore, Sir, I do submit to this House that while undoubtedly much has happened in the past so many months or year which is very undesirable, so far as the External Affairs Department is concerned it has not functioned at all well, if I may admit frankly to this House. Also as far as our Information Services are concerned thay have not functioned at all well. That is all perfectly true. But so far as our fundamental approach to this pro-blem is concerned, I just do not see how we can fundamentally vary it. As occasion arises we adapt to circumstances—that I can understand—but the fundamental approach I do think has to remain the same, because the more you think about it, the more you analyse it, there is no other way. It is not a question of your adopting a certain policy because idealistically you think it a good one but I do submit that if you give it up there is no other policy for this country to adopt with the slightest

After referring to India's external publicity arrangements and what improvements can be made, the Prime Minister went on:

#### Indians Overseas

As for Indians overseas, I will just say one or two words. Many of these difficulties continue and they are likely to continue. I am sorry to say that we do not get much help from the British Colonial Office. Not only we do not get much help, but it astonishes me, used as I am to the delays of the Government of India—and they are pretty remarkable—but the delays of the British Colonial Office are indeed a revelation.

I remember that we sent some urgent letters and also reminders by cable. It took us exactly ten months to get a reply. The matter was about sending a Deputation to some of the british colonies just tohave a look at the Indians there. It was a very simple matter, no great principle was involved but still it took them ten months to reply, and within that time, events balleted and it could not be done. So that what I mean is, we come up against this

bureaucratic red tape in all these offices here as well as there.

But the real difficulty is this question of citizenship. Now, these Indians abroad, what are they? Are they Indian citizens? Are they going to be citizens of India or not? If they are not, then our interest in them becomes cultural and humanitarian, not political. That interest of course remains. For instances, take the Indians in Fiji or Mauritius. Are they going to retain their nationality or will they become Fiji nationals or Mauritians? The same question arises in regard to Burma and Ceylon. It is a difficult question. This House gets mixed up. It wants to treat them as Indians and with the same breath, it wants complete franchise for them in the countries where they are living. Of course, the two things do not go together. Either they get franchise as nationals of the other country, or treat them as Indians minus the franchise and ask for them the most favoured treatment given to an alien. These difficulties come up in regard to the citizenship and the rest.

Finally, Prof. Ranga right in the beginning asked a question about India being in the British Commonwealth. Apparently, he has been misled by some newspaper reports that have been appearing recently about a Delegation that has gone from here to London to discuss this matter. It surprises me how people can give rein to their imagination. I suppose this Delegation referred to a Defence Ministry Delegation led by Mr. H. M. Patel. It had nothing to do with this matter; it had to do entirely with

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## PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICITY POLICY

REPLYING to a cut motion in the Dominion Parliament on March 15 on the demand for grant to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, said:

Sir, on the occasion of a cut motion in regard to the policy of the External Affairs Ministry, rather incidentally and casually, I made a reference to the British Information Services in America. In fact, my colleague, Mr. Shiva Rao, had mentioned it and I stated that they had been asked and they had been carrying on propaganda at the request of the Pakistan Government-Further I mentioned that they had employed some Indians. Now the British Information Service in America have contradicted that statement and have clearly stated that they are not carrying on any propaganda, or rather publicity, on behalf of the Pakistan Government and that they have not employed any Indian on their staff. I must accept that now and I express my regret for having made a statement which was not factually true. I do not wish to enter into argument.

But, apart from being factually true or not, it is possible to point out many things which occur, and which occur simply because they have been occurring for a long time past and it is difficult to get out of the old rut. A little while ago, an article by an eminent British

Journalist dealing with Kashmir was circulated by the British Information Services not only in America but in various foreign countries. Now this article contained certain statements which were completely untrue. For Instance, to mention one, it stated that it was after the accession of Kashmir to the Indian Union that the Tribal people, irritated by that accession, invaded Kashmir, which was just a reversal of what took place. This is a minor matter. I merely mention this because people who have been connected in the past with a certain type of work naturally tend to look at a problem from that point of view; it is difficult to get out of that rut. However, I am sorry if I made a statement on the last occasion which was not correct. I regret it.

#### **External Publicity**

Now, in regard to external publicity I have very little to say except to welcome many of the suggestions that Mr. Shiva Rao made. External publicity, it is called, and perhaps Hon'ble Members may think that we should try to flood foreign countries with facts and figures in the nature of propaganda. I do not think that it is desirable for us to do that or that we can in fact do it. I do not think our approach should be the pure publicity or the advertisement approach. We cannot do it because the way to do it would be to spend far vaster sums than we can ever afford, to engage for bigger personnel and so on and so forth.

I But my main reason for not desiring to do so is that I do not like that approach at all. That approach tends inevitably to become a dangerous approach, and while it may perhaps create an impression now and then, the value of it progressively lessens when people realise that it is too much propaganda of a particular type. I would much rather place the facts before the public here in India or outside. Naturally, I shall place them inevitably from our point of view, and try to give the backgroud of the facts—but facts and nothing more than facts as far as possible—and allow other people to judge. Of course, it makes all the difference in the world how facts are placed before the public. Statistics may be made to tell almost any tale. This is so. Anyhow, this business of publicity, whether factual publicity or any other kind of publicity, is an extraordinarily tricky business anywhere, and more especially in foreign countries. It is easy to criticize it, and I think many of the criticisms advanced are justified. It is also easy perhaps to draw up schemes which appear good on paper but which may not succeed so well in practice.

As I told the House on the last occasion we have been discussing this problem—the problem of this external publicity—because external publicity is so intimately aligned to external policy that normally every country has its external publicity organized by its Foreign Office and not by its internal publicity, machine. Here, owing to



Lady Mountbatten distributing prizes at the Baltala Girls High School and College during her recent visit to Calcutta

various developments, war-time developments—because this was only thought of in war-time—external publicity became a part of Information Department. The more I have given thought to it the more I have realized that this is not a very satisfactory arrangement. Obviously, there must be the closest co-operation between the internal publicity machine and external publicity. But it is far better, I think, that the External Affairs Ministry should have a greater part in the organization of external publicity than it has had thus far

#### Public Relations Officers

I agree with Mr. Shiva Rao when he referred to Public Relations Officers rather than publicity agents abroad.
That conveys far more the idea of the work they ought to do. At the present moment the various hand-outs, etc. that are issued no doubt do some useful purpose, but I do not think they are worth the money we spend upon them. My own impression, not now I mean, but previously, and my own, because I have myself tried to do-not as a Member of the Government but as a private individual or as a member of the Congress organization—some kind of external publicity, is that all these hand outs and pamphlets and leaflets find their way to the waste paper basket. They influence very few persons—except a few persons who have been previously converted and who use them and keep them for their own benefit. The whole thing has to be looked upon entirely from a different point of view, from a psychological point of view, from the point of view of the requirements of each country concerned.

For instance, the approach in the United States of America is likely to be different,-I think completely differentfrom the approach in France and even more different from the approach in the Soviet Republic. The kind of paper that one may produce in America ought to have some bearing on the kind of information that America requires. In France it will not be the same. I can say that with assurance. They have a different outlook and attach different values. The kind of information that we send to the Soviet Republic will be entirely different or almost entirely different. The kind of information that the Soviet Republic asks us, our Ambassador tells us, is almost entirely economic information like what is being done on our various projects, various schemes, dams, reservoirs, river valley schemes and the rest, irrigation, edu-cation. They ask us for these; they are interested in them. No particular enquiry about politics as such has come from them.

Now, it may be that they deliberately put forward those kinds of enquiries because they are mostly put forward by governmental agencies there. But my point is that the approach has to be different in every country that we tackle. It can only be fully appreciated by competent Public Relations Officers as well as our Embassies and Legations there as to what is required and how it can be done properly. And then it has to be co-ordinated with our publicity arrangements here. So I do think that all this matter has to be considered fully, and in fact the External Affairs Ministry and the Home Ministry are considering this

matter. We hope to evolve some more feasible and better method. Inevitably we shall have to approach this question by the method of trial and error. There is no way to find the perfect method of doing things except by experience.

Then again, the other countries that include in this kind of publicity have done so for many years and have got a great deal of experience. They spend vast sums of money, employ very large number of persons, and have already developed very intimate contacts with the publicity organizations in the countries they function in. It is easy for them. We may send the brightest of our young men from here. It takes time for him to develop those contacts, and not only physical contacts, but psychological and other contacts, so that if results are not brilliant, the House should realise that it is not a mechanical matter, of sending shoalful of pamphlets, leaflets or lecturers and others, but developing something which is much more intricate and difficult. Undoubtedly the present arrangements are not very happy, and they have to be changed, I think, more or less on the lines of some of the suggestions made in this House.

#### Information and Broadcasting

Now coming to Information and Broadcasting, may I say that both in regard to information and broadcasting, and publicity, & co., the Ministry has very kindly given me full notes containing a large number of particulars. I do not propose to read them to the House because that will take too long a time and the House might get lost in a large number of figures: but the House should know those particulars of course and I shall suggest to the Ministry to place them before the House or before the public in the proper form so that they may know exactly what is being done. Now my own view of the set-up for broadcasting is that we should approximate as far as possible to the British method, the BBC; that is to say it would be better if we had a semi-autonomous corporation under, of course, Government, with the policy controlled by Government but otherwise being not conducted as a government department but as a semi-autonomous corporation (hear, hear). Now I do not think that is immediately feasible. I have merely mentioned this to the House, I think we should aim at that even though we may have many diffi. culties.

In fact, in most matters we should aim at these semi-autonomous corporations, the policy being distantly controlled by Government, but Government or Government departments not interfering in their day-to-day activities. But that is not an immediate issue. Obviously, these debates about the policy to be pursued about our various services—news services, the language question and the rest—have given an indication of the mind of the House. That helps. But if they are to bear real fruit, there should be far more discussions more or less on the—shall I say—not academic level but certainly on the scholarly level carefully by committees, &co.

#### Advisory Committees

It is impossible really to consider these matters in vague speeches connected with cut motions. I am sorry to learn from

an honourable member that these Advisory Committees have not been functioning in some of the provinces. I should have thought that in regard to broadcasting & co., it was necessary for such committees to function very frequently, for advice to be taken, for them to be told what was happening, and generally for co-ordination between the non-official element and the official element.

I should have liked the Standing Committee attached to this Department also to consider all the matters that are raised in this House and discuss them with the officials in the department. That is the proper way of dealing with them. It is not very satisfactory for honourable members to make speeches here and for me or someone elso make a reply, and there the matter ends for the year. I hope, therefore, that this kind of intimate contact and intimate discussions over those matters will take place much more so in future than in the past.

Now take any question, like the language question. It is obviously a matter for high scholastic consideration, not a matter which can be disposed of properly in the heat of a political debate. More especially, a broadcasting organization should consider it from that point of view, should have indeed high class advisers who know something about languages and the rest and who can advise them. In England, I believe there is no such language issue, as to what language should be employed. The best literary figures in England are employed to advise the BBC—men like Bernard Shaw and others like him, they have on the permanent Advisory Committee as to the use of language. I am not quite sure if the biggest literary figures are asked to advise us, if the results would be very happy because their advice would probably apply to other literary figures, and persons like me will not understand at all what has happened. That is a conceivable possihappened. I hat is a conceivable possibility. Nevertheless, my point is that persons capable of understanding this problem, in its educational as well as public aspect, should dispassionately consider this, should be attached to the Broadcasting Ministry, should advise them and should make lists of words, vocabularies, etc. to be used. That is done in every country over though these done in every country even though there is no such type of controversy that exists here. That applies to the kind of news that is to be given also.

#### Rural Broadcasts

Now there can be no two opinions in this House as to the importance of the development of broadcasting in the rural areas. I did not quite understand what Shrimati Kamala Chaudhri said, something about much more time being given to the rural areas. It is not a question of time at all, I think. Suppose you give instead of an hour a day, five hours a day. They can only listen at certain times and there is such a thing as overdoing it. Nor do I think it would be at all right for us to proceed in our broadcasting programme with the fixed desire to benefit the other person concerned. I do not know how honourable

(Continued on Page 446)



Nepal's Prime Minister in Delhi: Mr. H. V. R. lyengar, Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, greeting His Highness the Maharaja Gen. Sir Padma Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister of Nepal, on his arrival at the ceremonial platform in New Delhi Railway Station on March 12

### INDIA'S CONDOLENCE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and the Minister in Charge of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations while replying to a cut motion in the Dominion Parliament on March 15, on the demand for grant for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said:

Before I deal with the subject matter of the debate, I should like to make a reference to the tragedy that occurred in Europe a few days ago.

I refer to the death of Mon. Jan Masaryk, the Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovakia Republic. Not only is this in itself a very tragic event—so far as I am personally concerned I was acquainted with him and it was a personal loss to me also—but in the circumstances in which it has occurred, it may have grievous consequences. I took the liberty to send to the Ambassador of the Republic of Czechoslovakia here the sympathy and condolence of the Government and the people of this country and I am sure the members of this House will also like to add their own sympathy to that message.

#### Prime Minister's Message

The Prime Minister sent the following message to His Excellency the Ambassador Czechoslovskia to India:

The Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia and has the honour to convey, on behalf of himself and the Government and people of India, most profound regret at the termination of the life of Mons. Jan Masaryk Mons. Masaryk was the distinguished son of a great father and had rendered notable service both to Czechoslovakia and to the cause of international goodwill and understanding. His tragic death has deprived Czechoslovakia of a great patriot and Minister, and the world, of a person who worked incessantly for international peace.

## AIR MARSHAL SIR THOMAS ELMHIRST

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Chief of the Air Staff and Air Marshal Commanding, the Royal Indian Air Force has been sent by the Government of India to the United Kingdom on deputation, after the completion of which he is availing of short leave.

During his absence from India, Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, O.B.E., will be in command of the R. I. A. F.

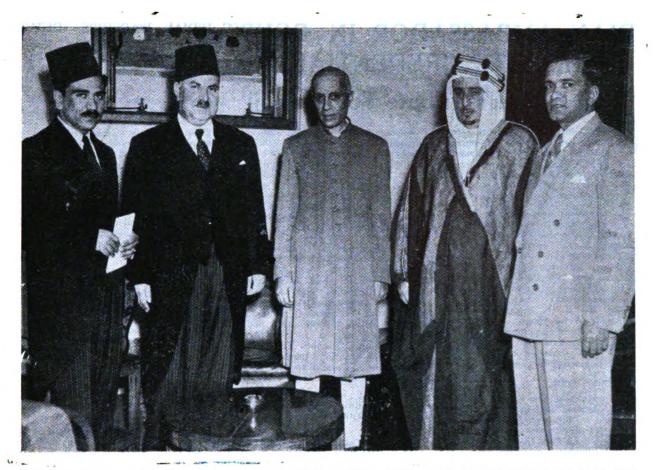
## PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL MEETS PANDIT NEHRU

His Highness the Maharaja General Sir Padma Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister of Nepal, who arrived in New Delhi, on an informal visit on March 12, called on the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at his residence on March 15. He was received by the Prime Minister and his daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by the Nepalese Ambassador in New Delhi, Commanding General Singha Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana and other high ranking Nepalese military officers, including Gen. Krishna Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, General Bijoy Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana and Gen. Narendra Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana and Gen. Narendra Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana and Gen. Narendra Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

After spending about half an hour with Pandit Nehru the Nepalese Prime Minister and party returned to the Nepalese Embassy.

In view of the acute shortage of nitrogenous manures in the country, the Government of India have decided to reimpose the ban on the export of horn and hoof meal with effect from March 13, 1948. A notification to this effect is published in the Gazette of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 13.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948



Transjordan Minister in New Delhi: The Transjordan Minister of State, Mohammad Pasha Elshuriki, who arrived in New Delhi on March 5, met the Hon'ble Prime Minister the next day and conveyed to him congratulations for independence of India on behalf of His Majesty, King Abdullah of Transjordan. (L. to R.) M. Hakim K. Tell (Secretary to the Minister), M. Mohammad Pasha Elshuriki, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, M. Sharif, Hamid Sad Eddin (Adviser to the Minister), Mr. P. A. Menon, Joint Secretary E. A. & C. R. Ministry

## INDIA SHINING PRIDE OF THE EAST King Abdullah's Greetings To Pandit Nehru

great country to fulfil this duty is a proof that the East, after a new awakening and the need for closer co-operation, has begun to feel conscious of a common goal", said His Excellency Mohammad Pasha Al Shurajqi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister of State of Transjordon, greeting the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in New Delhi on March 6.

His Masjesty King Abdullah in his message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wished all best wishes for the welfare and happiness of "Great India" and the sincere feelings of cordiality between all Nations of the East and in particular to "dear India which is the shining pride of the East".

Conveying this message, the Ambassador Extraordinary went on; with the object of expressing these feelings and appreciation, we have come to you. The passing clouds have not been able to cover the horizon of our hopes and faith in the freedom of East and its progressive message which was nursed with patience and sacrifice by that Immortal Leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi. That Great Man who made the world listen even in his deep silence, the voice of an absolute

faith in the human brotherhood showed them the reality of life which never vanishes.

By paying our tributes to the memory of the Great Leader who is no more with us and to the great message of the East, we are only pointing to that light which was fed by the tears and blood of human beings in order to shed light on the right path and on human beauty estimated by different standards which in fact are the same.

"Under the light, the Hashimite Kingdom of Transjordan heartily offers its blessings on the declaration of India as an "Independent State" taking her significant place amongst the nations of the world for the maintenance of peace, and in the service of civilisation and progress.

"Permit me, Your Excellency, to assure you of the closer and cordial relations between our two Eastern and friendly States and also let me express again the best wishes of His Hashimite Majesty, our most respected King, for the happiness and welfare of India and her dear people".

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

(Continued from Page 414)

defence matters and certain materials that we wanted to purchase in England and elsewhere. No such question has been discussed.

As to our general position, however, that was defined in this Constituent Assembly in the early stage and it will finally be decided by the Constituent Assembly itself. There is no question of any committee or any individual discussing it or coming to even preliminary conclusions about it. Whatever the final decision may be, it is quite certain, I believe, that India will be a completely independent and sovereign Republic or Commonwealth or State whatever you like to call it.

Now, that does not do away with the consideration of the other problem of what our relations should be with, whether it is England or the British Commonwealth or any Group. That is not merely a theoretical question, but a very practical question. Again in regard to citizenship, in the various British colonies, exactly what type of relationship we should have which might effect that citizenship. All these must be considered, but apart from that politically and otherwise, India must be a completely independent country.

### INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN EGYPT INDIAN WARSHIPS RETURN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

### King Farouk's Tribute To Gandhiji

WITH dignified and colourful ceremonial and evidence of public goodwill India's First Ambassador to Egypt Dr. Syed Hossain presented on March 14 his credentials to the Egyptian Monarch H. M. Farouk the

The Ambassador drove to the Abdin Palace in a glass sided coach drawn by four horses which was escorted by 100 cavalrymen of the Royal Guard in magnificent blue and crimson uniform with drawn swords. Conducting the Ambassador was the First Chamberlain of the Royal Palace. In a separate coach rode members of the Embassy staff, the Counsellor Mr. S. N. Haskar and the Secretary Mr. Avtar Singh. Hats were doffed and a wave of clapping from spectators lining the route followed the glittering cavalcade as it proceeded already down the broad boulevard to the Palace.

#### A Historic Event

On his arrival at the Palace, as also on his departure, the Ambassador was saluted by a full guard of honour. Having received the Ambassador's Having received Credentials in the throne room His Majesty then welcomed him to Egypt and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would grow in friendship and that his sojourn there would be happy. His Majesty also remarked that the arrival of Free India's first Ambassador to Egypt was an historic event. The Ambassador tanked His Majesty for his gracious words

of welcome and said that India fully reciprocated the sentiments which His Majesty had expressed and for his part he fully realised the historic significance of his Mission. The Ambassador con-veyed to His Majesty the personal greetings with which he had been charged by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India and by Lord Mountbatten, the Governor-General of India.

The Ambassador also told His Majesty that his most sympathetic message of condolence on the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi had evoked warm response in India. The Ambassador added that during the last conversation he had with Mahatma Gandhi shortly before his death the Mahatma had expressed keen interest in Egypt and in his forthcoming Mission. The Ambassador had hoped to bring a personal message from Mahatma Gandhi to His Majesty but that alas had remained unwritten.

His Majesty replied "We all here feel that Mahtma Gandhi's death was not only a loss to India but to the whole world

Members of Cairo's small Indian colony gathered to see and applaud their country's representative and Egyptians cordially congratulated them on this formal opening of relations between the two countries. For the Indian residents it was a great occasion as one of them said "We have waited a long while for this day and now that it has come we are certainly very

#### Gallantry Kashmir Fighting ln

A further list of Officers, VCOS and Other Ranks whose names were brought to the notice of the G. O. C.-in-C., Western Command (Formerly DEP Command) for conspicuous gallantry in action in Jammu and Kashmir is now

The following is the List of such Officers and men:-

Infantry—Brig. Pritam Singh, Maj. S. M. S. Brar (Posthumous), Jemadar Mall Singh, Havildar Kuldip Singh, Havildar Parshuram Mithboandar (Posthumous), Naik Shishpal Singh, Sita Ram Jadhav, Naik Pirbhu Singh (Posthumous) L-Naik Ram Singh, Sepoy Ramchander Singh (Posthumous) Sepoy Rama Sawant; State Forces-Lt.-Col. Hira Nand, Havildar Sewa Singh, Naik Jogindar Singh: Indian Armoured Corps-Lieut. Noel Gordon David.

The following is the further list of such officers and men:-

Infantry.—Maj. S. P. Chopra. Cap. M. P. Machaiah, Cap. Bakshish Singh, Jemadar Basdeo, Jemadar Vishnu Powar, Jemadar Dhan Singh (Posthumous). L.Hav Jegindar Singh, L.Hav. Sardar Singh (Posthumcus), Naik

Jadhunath Singh (Posthumous), Naik Krishna Sonawane, L-Nk. Karam Singh, Sepoy Chanan Singh, Sepoy Singh, Sepoy Ram Singh (Posthumous) State Forces—Captain Hazura Singh, L-Naik Phuman Singh; Indian Armoured Corps-Jemadar Umrao Singh.

(Continued from Col. 3)

were receiving scholarships from Government or local bodies in Provinces and States which now form Pakistan and have migrated to the Indian Union as refugees, are undergoing considerable hardship due to loss of scholarships.

The Government of India, therefore, have addressed letters to the Govern-ment of West Bengal, East Punjab and Assam asking them to make necessary arrangements for the continuance of scholarships to refugee scholars from East Bengal, West Punjab and Sylhet.

The Government of India have also decided that atudents receiving scholarships from the Central Government and from the Governments of N.-W.F.P. and Sind or the local bodies in these Provinces should continue to get these subject to the usual conditions attached to these scholarhsips.

## AFTER VISITING U. K.

HMIS Kistna and HMIS Cauvery returned to Bombay on Feb. 29 after their recent cruise to the United Kingdom. They left Bombay on Dec. 23, 1947 and passe through the Suez Canal on Jan. 2, 1948 and arrived at Malta on Jan. 6, 1948. From Malta they proceeded to Gibraltar where they stayed for a day and en route to England they carried out a search for a missing aircraft in the vicinity of Tangier.

The ship had on board about 300 officers and men for the Cruiser Achilles which is now under refit at Chathan Dockyard. The men are undergoing courses prior to joining the Cruiser and HMIS 'Kistna' landed her contingent at Portsmouth while HMIS Cauvery proceeded to Plymouth. On Jan. 16, 1948, both the ships were inspected by Admiral Lord Fraser, the then Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, and now the First Sea Lord, and by Mr. Mani, the Deputy High Commissioner for India. Subsequently the Commanding Officers and First Lieutenants of the two ships were invited by Viscount Hall, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Fraser to lunch on board HMS Victory.

During their visit to England, the ships' companies were shown round the various Naval establishments and they also visited the battleship Duke of York, the Cruiser Sirius and the destroyer Scorpion as well as Nelson's Flagship HMS Victory. The ships' companies were also taken in batches on a three-day sight-seeing tour to London.

This was the first occasion of Indian warships proceeding outside waters since India has become independent. Officers and men displayed a keen interest and have created a favourable impression on their hosts.

There are now some 50 Naval Officers and 500 Naval ratings in England undergoing various courses of training. HMIS Sutlej, a third sloop, is on her way to the United Kingdom with a further contingent of 150 men for training for the cruiser and is due to arrive at Portsmouth on March 12, 1948.

It is expected that HMS Achilles will be commissioned as an Indian ship in June, 1948,

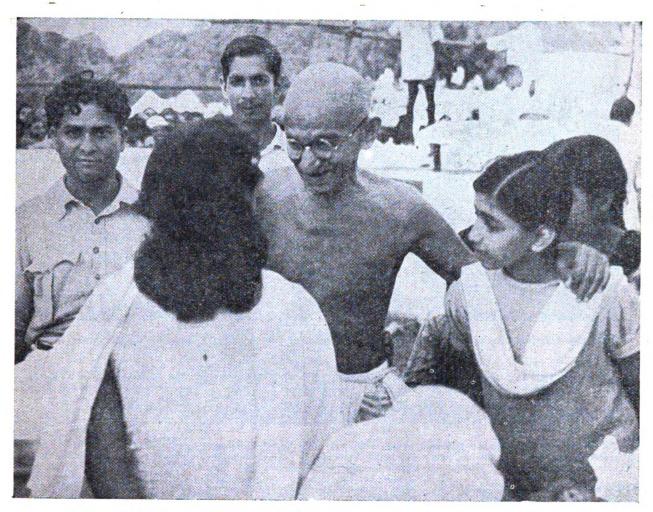
#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM PAKISTAN

Students who were receiving scholarships from the Provincial Governments or local bodies before partition of India and have now migrated from Pakistan to the Indian Dominion as refugees, will continue to get their scholarships, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 6.

Grant of such scholarships will be continued subject to the conditions attached to the grant of the original scholarships of the refugee students joining a Government or Government aided college, school, or technical instrtution in India.

Representations were received by the Government of India that students who (Continued in Col. 2)





Mahatma Gandhi shares a joke while on his way to prayer meeting at Bhangi Colony, Delhi. 1947

# GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL GANDHIJI'S MESSAGE determination to strive to the utmost to fulfil his great message. To him the call of duty was permanent and duty demands of the Indian people today courage, vision and faith, and the pursuit

THE following Resolution of the Government of India was published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on February 2:

"Sudden and overwhelming tragedy has befallen India and the world. On the 30th January, shortly after 5 p.m., the fell hand of an assassin ended a life of supreme value to humanity, a life round which had revolved India's destiny for half a century. Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation and beloved of his people, apostle of non-violence, saint and prophet of peace, great soldier for treedom, and lover above all, of the lowly, the humble and the oppressed, perished while on his way to prayer to which his fellow-countrymen flocked every evening to listen to his message. The evening sun set in mourning over a nation's tragedy.

The last great act of Gandhiji was his decision to sacrifice his life to bring about peace and harmony among the people of India. On Sunday, January, 18, he terminated his fast, on a solemn pledge being taken on behalf of the people, and India heaved a sigh of relief.

This life of intense and continuous service to India and humanity has ended now in death which has also been a fulfilment of that life of service, but it now remains for the Government and the people of India to fulfil that pledge in letter and spirit.

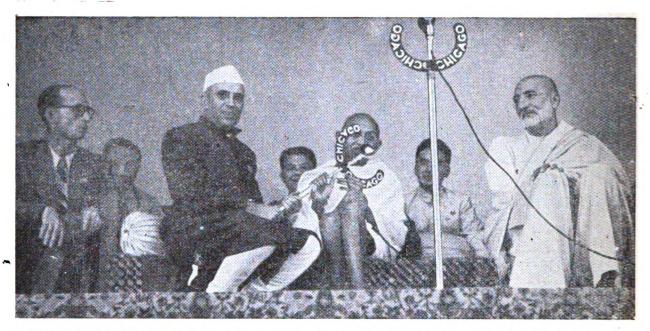
The greatest and noblest of India's sons has passed away and the world mourns him and pays homage to his mighty achievements and the splendour of his spirit. Overwhelmed by sorrow, the Government of India still think with pride and thankfulness of their great leader, who has been an inspiration to hundreds of millions of people and has taught them the path of high endeavour and right action. In death as in life he was smiling, serene, and full of love for all, the very embodiment of his message of truth and ahimsa. His life was one long struggle for justice and tolerance between man and man.

The Government of India, in paying reverent homage to the glorious memory of Mahatma Gandhi declare their

determination to strive to the utmost to fulfil his great message. To him the call of duty was permanent and duty demands of the Indian people today courage, vision and faith, and the pursuit of truth and the practice of tolerance. They urge upon their countrymen to remember, even in this hour of national bereavement, this duty and to face the future with stout hearts and steady gaze. They must assist the Government to fight the dark forces of evil and violence that are at work in our midst and that have succeeded in putting an end to the most precious treasure that India possessed.

But even this act has only heightened the splendour of his spirit which shines today and will always shine upon the Indian people and on humanity. As in life, so now, that great spirit will guard and guide India which he loved so passionately and served so uncessingly and with such devotion. India and India's message were embodied in his own magnificent self. Let us therefore be true to Gandhiji and to India and strive our utmost to realise the India of his dreams".

It is regretted that owing to unavoidable delay we could not publish the material about Mahatma Gandhi in an earlier issue of I.I.



Mahatma Gandhi addressing the Asian Relations Conference. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan also appear in the picture

## WE MUST ALL HOLD TOGETHER: thought he had made a mistake—Himalayan errors he called some of his own mistakes. That truth led him to fight evil takes. That truth led him to fight evil and untruth wherever he found them regardless of the consequences. That

THE Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, broadcasting on February 14 said:

Two weeks have passed since India and the world learnt of that tragedy, which will shame India ages to come. Two weeks of sorrow and searching of heart, and strong and dormant emotions rising in a flood, and of tears from millions of eyes. Would that those tears washed away our weakness and littleness and made us a little worthy of the Master for whom we sorrowed. Two weeks of homage and tribute from every corner of the globe, from kings and potentates and those in high authority, to the common man everywhere who instinctively looked to him as a friend, a comrade and a champion.

The flood of emotion will tone down gradually as all such emotions do, though none of us can ever be the same as we were before, for he has entered in the very texture of our lives and minds.

#### Memorials

People talk of memorials to him in statues of bronze or marble or pillars and thus they mock him and belie his message. What tribute shall we pay to him that he would have appreciated? He has shown us the way to live and the way to die and if we we have not understood that lesson, it would be better that we raised no memorial to him, for the only fit memorial is to follow reverently in the path he showed us and to do our duty in life and in death.

He was a Hindu and an Indian, the greatest in many generations, and he was broud of being a Hindu and an

Indian. To him India was dear because she had represented throughout the ages certain immutable truths. But though he was intensely religious and came to be called the Father of the Nation which he had liverated, yet no narrow religious or national bonds confined his spirit. And so he became the great internationalist, believing in the essential unity of man, the underlying unity of all religions, and the needs of humanity, and more specially devoting himself to the service of the poor, the distressed and the oppressed millions everywhere.

His death brought more tributes than had been paid at the passing away of any other human being in history. Perhaps what would have pleased him best was the spontaneous tributes that came from the people of Pakistan. On the morrow of the tragedy, all of us forgot for a while the bitterness that had crept in, the estrangement and conflict of these past months, and Gandhiji stood out as the beloved champion and leader of the people of India, as it was before partition cut up this living nation.

#### What Gandhiji Stood For

What was his great power over the mind and heart of man due to? Ages to come will judge and we are too near him to assess the m ay facets of his extraordinarily rich personality. But even we realise that his dominating passion was truth. That truth led him to proclaim without ceasing that good ends can never be attained by evil methods, that the end itself is distorted if the method pursued is bad. That truth led him to confess publicly whenever be

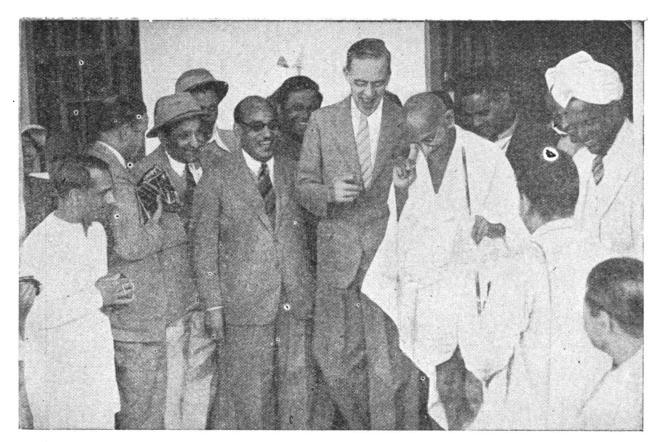
thought he had made a mistake—Himalayan errors he called some of his own mistakes. That truth led him to fight evil and untruth wherever he found them regardless of the consequences. That truth made the service of the poor and the dispossessed the passion of his life, for where there is inequality and discrimination and suppression, there is injustice and evil and untruth. And thus he became the beloved of all those who have suffered from social and political evils, and the great representative of humanity as it should be. Because of that truth in him, wherever he sat became a temple and where he trod was hallowed ground.

His physical body has left us and we shall never see him again or hear his gentle voice or run to him for counsel. But his imperishable memory and immortal message remain with us. How can we honour them and live up to them?

#### The Great Unifier

He was the great unifier in India, who taught us not only a bare tolerance of others but of a willing acceptance of them as our friends and comrades in common undertakings. He taught to-rise above our little selves and prejudices and see the good in others. His last few months and his very death symbolise to us this message of largehearted tolerance and unity. A little before he died we pledged ourselves to this before him. We must keep that pledge and remember that India is a common home to all those who live here, to whatever religion thay may belong. They are equal sharers in our great inheritance and they have equal rights and obligations. Ours is a composite nation, as all great nations must necessarily be. Any narrowness in outlook, any attempt to confine the bounds of this great nation, will be a betrayal of his final lesson to us and will surely betrayal

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1049



Sir Stafford Cripps meets Mahatma Gandhi : On March 27, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi had an interview with Sir Stafford Cripps, who had come to India to carry on negotiations for a constitutional settlement between Britain and India. Sir Stafford sees Mahatma Gandhi to his car

lead to disaster and to the loss of that freedom for which he laboured and which be gained for us in large measure.

Equally important is the service of the common man in India who has suffered so much in the past. His claims must be paramount and everything that comes in the way of his betterment must have second place. Not merely from moral and humanitarian grounds but also from the point of view of political commonsense, it has become essential to raise the standards of the common man and to give him full opportunity of progress. A social structure which denies him this opportunity stands self-condemned and must be changed.

Gandhiji has gone though his flaming spirit envelopes us. The burden is upon us now and the immediate need is that we should endeavour to the utmost of eur ability to discharge that burden. We have to hold together and fight that terrible poison of communalism that has killed the greatest man of our age. We must root this out not in any spirit of illwill to misguided individuals but in militant opposition to the evil itself wherever it may be. That evil has not ended by the killing of Gandhiji. It was an even more shameful thing for some people to celebrate this killing in various ways. Those who did so or feel that way have forfeited their rights to be called Indians.

I have said that we must all hold together in this hour of crisis for our nation and must avoid public controversy as far as possible and lay stress on the points of agreement on essential matters. I would make special appeal

to the Press to help in this urgent task and to avoid personal or other criticisms which encourage fissiparous tendencies in the country. I would appeal more specially to the millions of my colleagues and comrades in the Congress who have followed, haltingly enough often, the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### Fundamental Agreements

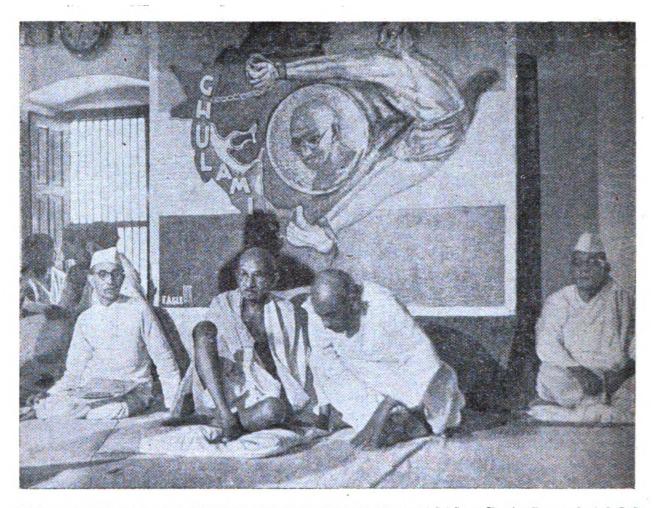
It has distressed me beyond measure to read in newspapers and otherwise learn of whisperings about vital differences between Sardar Patel and myself. Of course there have been for many years past differences between us, temparamental and other, in regard to many problems. But India at least should know that these differences have been overshadowed by fundamental agreements about the most important aspects of our public life and that we have co-operated together for a quarter of a century or more in great undertakings. We have been sharers in joy and sorrow alike. Is it likely that at this crisis in our national destiny either of us should be petty-minded and think of anything but the national good? May I pay my tribute of respect and admiration to Sardar Patel not only for his life long service to the nation but also for the great work he has done since he and I have functioned together in the Government of India. He has been a brave captain of our people in war and peace, stouthearted when others might waver, and a great organiser. It has been my privi-lege to have been associated with him for these many years and my affection for him and appreciation of his great

qualities have grown with the passing of time.

Recently certain reports appeared in the public press which were unauthorised and which led people to believe that I had used strong language to criticise my old friend and colleague, Jayprakash Narayan. These reports were incorrect. I should like to say that I have deeply regretted some of the policies pursued by the Socialist Party in India and I think that they have been led by the atress of events or emotion into wrong action and wrong statement. But I have never had any doubt about the ability and integrity of Jayaprakash Narayan whom I value as a friend and I am sure that a time will come when he will play a very important part in shaping India's destiny. Unfortunately the Socialist Party has adopted rather negative policies for a long time and has often ignored wider considerations which must be given priority.

#### Tolerance in Public Life

I plead therefore for tolerance and co-operation in our public life and joining together of all the forces which want to make India a great and progressive nation. I plead for an all out effort against the poison of communalism and narrow provincialism. I plead for a cessation of industrial conflict and a joint endeavour of all concerned to build up India. In these great tasks I pledge myself and I earnestly trust that it may be given to us of this generation to realise somewhat the dream that Gandhiji had. Thus will we honour his memory and erect a worthy memorial for him.



Mahatma Gandhi photographed with Sri Pyarelal, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Sri Sarat Chandra Bose at the A. I. C. C. meeting at Ramjas College, Delhi, in 1947

# FOLLOW GANDHIJI'S TEACHINGS: SARDAR PATEL'S STATEMENT

THE Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel issued the following statement on February 14:—

"Friends from far and near who have been close associates and workers of Gandhiji in the various constructive measures which were part of his life's mission, have been writing to me letters of extreme pathos and sorrow. They seem to feel bewildered and helpless at the sudden tragedy which seems to have overwhelmed them. While I sincerely appreciate the depth of their feeling and the extent of their dejection, I should like to ask them to face the blow in the manner in which Gandhiji's teachings and his own attitude towards personal and national misfortunes in the past becken to us. If they viewed the matter in this light, they would find that any prolonged nursing of sorrow or continued feeling of demoralisation is entirely out of place.

#### Path of Duty

The nation has been through the 13 days of the mourning with exemplary

discipline and sustained concentration. This is as was to be expected. At the same time, the end of the period mourning unmistakably signifies to us the crying need for setting down immediately to the many constructive tasks which Gandhiji had made his own, and which it is our sacred obligation to continue, alas! no longer under his personal guidance, but still under the inspiration of his teachings and the wise counsel which he always gave us when he was living. The path of duty, therefore, lies in ceasing to reflect over loss or to nurse our grief, but to undertake with renewed vigour and enthusiasm the completion of the constructive work which Gandhiji has left unfulfilled, but which, I am confident, he would have liked us to pursue with single-minded devotion and undivided attention. I hope, therefore, that these kind friends would heed my advice and take up anew the threads of the work where they left, completely overpowered by the shattering blow which they had

#### Attempts to Raise Temples

I also deplore with all the emphasis at

my command the many attempts that are being made to raise temples or erect memorials which would savour of idolatory. I am sure nothing would have displeased Gandhiji more than these attempts. He has often expressed his views on such matters in no uncertain terms. I would, therefore, request those who contemplate taking any of these steps or embarking on any similar undertakings to desist from carrying out their intentions. The surest and most pleasing memorial to Gandhiji is to follow his inimitable teachings and to devote oneself to the constructive ideas which he preached and practised. It is only thus that we can really enshrine Gandhiji in our hearts and after all that is the place where we shall all like him to be, always.

True knowledge of religion breaks down the barriers between faith and faith. Cultivation of tolerance for other faiths will impart to us a truer understanding of our own.

Human nature is in its essence one, and therefore the aggressor unfailingly responds (that is in the end) to the advances of love.

-MAHATMA GANDHI

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948



# LYING IN STATE

(Above) Mahatma Gandhi's body lying in state in Birla House on January 31, 1948.

\* (Right) Miss Manu Gandhi and Mrs. Abha Gandhi with the blood-stained shawl of Mahatma Gandhi.



INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948



Mahatma Gandhi's funeral procession in Kingsway on January 31, 1948. The Secretariat Buildings and Parliament can be seen in the background

## Arrangements by Government Institutions Following Mahatma's Death

URING the period of State mourning, notable part was played by the Defence Forces, the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs in connection with the Funeral arrangements.

On February 2, messages of thanks were sent by Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, to the three Services chiefs for the help rendered by the Services at the funeral of Mahatma Gandhi.

In his message to General F. R. R. Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, Sardar Baldev Singh said: "Please accept my gratitude for the very great help rendered by you, the Army Officers and Men at the Funeral of Mahatma Gandhi. It is not an easy job to cope with such a huge mass of men, women and children on a solemn occasion like this. The disciplined devotion of our soldier, and their spirit of loyal service so ungrudgingly given has been highly appreciated by everybody, by the Prime Minister and all Members of the Cabinet. Kindly convey my heartfelt thanks to all concerned".

Similar messages were also sent to the Flag Officer Commanding R. I. N. and the Air Marshal Commanding, R. I. A. F.

The Services also paid their homage to Mahatma Gandhi. On February 4, officers and men of the R.I.A. F. in Delhi held a meeting at the Race Course Camp to express their deep grief at the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi. S.Ldr. Ramunny, who presided and several other speakers referred to the various aspects of Gandhiji's life and a resolution expressing the loss suffered by humanity at the passing away of Gandhiji was passed.

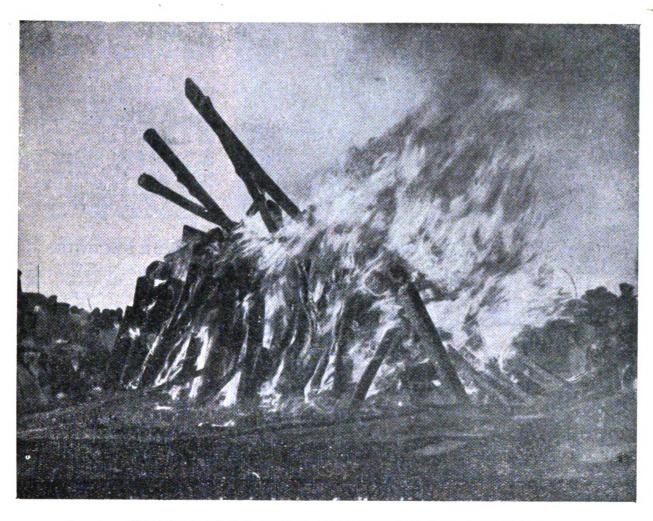
On February 10, men of the 3-5 Royal Gurkha Rifles, the 3rd Indian Grenadiers, a garrison company of the Mahratta Light Infantry and R. I.-N. led by Brigadier D. S. Brar, O. B. E., Commander, Bombay Sub Area, and Captain, B. S. Soman of the R.I.-N. Establishment, Bombay, paid their last homage to the relies of Mahatma Gandhi and laid wreaths after salutation at Town Hall, Bombay. Captain Maneckjee of the Bombay Home Guards also accompanied the party.

On February 12, officers and men of the Delhi-East Punjab Command conducted special prayers in the places of worship in Unit Camps and paid homage to the Father. of the Nation. All the troops of the DEP Command were drawn up on the parade grounds and precisely at 12 noon the guards presented arms and the troops stood to attention in silent homage to Mahatma Gandhi. At the R ed Fort men of the 5 Royal Gurkha Rifles held a special prayer ceremony in which Lt. Gen. Cariappa, GOC-in-C DEP Command took part. In other parts of the country too Defence Forces held special meetings to mourn the death of the Father of the Nation.

#### HEAVY TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC

The Posts and Telegraphs Department in Delhi had to cope with the sudden heavy demand on telegraphic and trunk telephone service on Friday and Saturaday January 30 and 31 immediately after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Telegraph traffic from Delhi on January 30 and 31 were nearly thrice the normal daily traffic. Foreign Press telegrams transmitted on January 30 amounted to about 21,500 words, inland Press telegrams about 28,900 words and other traffic over 1500 words. On the next day (January 31) foreign Press telegrams amounted to over 29,000 words and inland Press telegrams 13,725 words.



Flames consume the body of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on January 31, 1948

#### 12,000 Calls in Two Hours

It is estimated that nearly 12,000 calls were handled between 5-30 to 7-30 on Friday (January 31) by the Connaught Place and Lothian Exchanges. The number of trunk calls made between 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Friday was 946 and on the next day 864.

The Delhi Trunk Exchange passed between 6 and 7 p.m. on Friday (January 30), four overseas calls also from Lake Success, New York and London.

Special arrangements were also made for passing through the large trunk traffic, both official and private, between Delhi and the chief centres in India. On January 31, for example, over 500 trunk calls were passed during seven hours chiefly between New Delhi and the Provinces.

On February 4, the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs issued the following circular to the officers and staff of the P. and T. Department:—

The officers and staff of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department deeply mourn the tragic death of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Our grief is all the more poignant since only two

days before he passed away, he paid a most handsome compliment to us in the following words:—

"I congratulate the staff of the Postal Department for carrying out their duties in this manner (referring to the safe delivery of an ordinary letter containing currency notes of the value of Rs. 1000) and for not accepting any bribe. If the staff of other Departments also work in the same manner, not touching other people's money and not accepting bribes, then we shall have advanced considerably".

I had asked for an interview with him in order to convey to him our gratitude for the kind words, but alas, before I could call upon him, he was no more.

#### Selfless Service

He is no more, yet he can live—in our hearts and in our lives. The real influence of a saint is felt after he sheds his mortal mould—witness Christ, Mohammad, Buddha. Our Bapu exemplified in his life the highest ideal of selfless service, sacrifice and unity. To the workers in the Posts and Telegraphs Department whose motto is "Service before self", his life and teachings have a special meaning and significance.

Let each one of us rededicate himself to the service of the public and resolve to serve the people of India in his humble way but with at least a spark of the burning spirit and zeal of our departed leader.

The Postal Department decided to issue special stamps in memory of Mahatma Gandhi of denominations of  $2\frac{1}{7}$  annas and 12 annas.

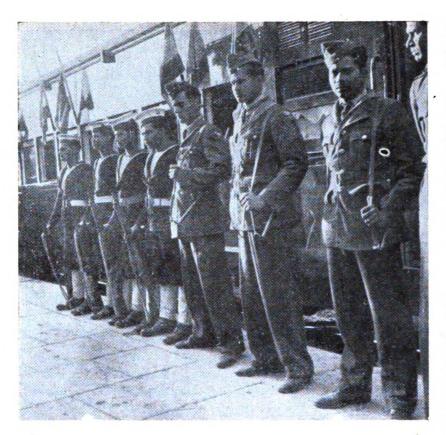
For the convenience of Press representatives travelling in the Asthi Special special telegraph counters were opened at Tundla and Kanpur Railway Stations. Special facilities for telegraph and telephone communications at Allahabad were also provided in connection with the immersion of Mahatmaji's ashes on February 12, at Triveni Sangam.

Mr. Krishna Prasada, Director-General Posts and Telegraphs, went to Allahabad to supervise personally the provision of these facilities.

#### ARRANGEMENTS BY RAILWAYS

The Railway authorities had to make all the arrangements in connection with the Asthi Special that was to carry Mahatma Gandhi's ashes from Delhi to Allahabad. It was a five-carriaged green painted E. I. Railway train com-



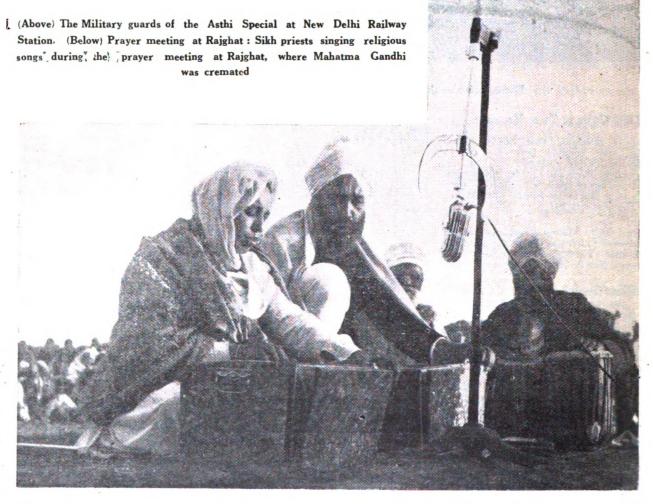


prising only III Class in which Mahatma Gandhi always used to travel and carried 400 passengers. The train was preceded half an hour earlier by a pilot. Handpicked coal was used for the engine.

Paying a tribute to railwaymen in the course of his Railway budget speech in the Dominion Parliament on February 16, Dr. John Matthai said: "In the preparations which were made for the special train I happened to be a good deal behind the scenes and I was in a position to observe not merely the enthusiasm, but the touching loyalty, the almost pathetic devotion, with which not merely the officers in the top position but the humblest gangmen laboured in order that this effort of the Railwayz may be the unqualified success that it has proved to be".

#### A. I. R.'S ACTIVITIES

All India Radio arranged for a running commentary on the funeral ceremonies on January 31 in Delhi and for a full account of the immersion ceremony at the Triveni and similar ceremonies in other provinces on February 12. The Delhi Station of A. I. R. broadcast a running commentary in English and Hindustani from 12 noon till the end of the ceremony. In addition to this, all stations of A. I. R. broadcast similar commentaries on immersion ceremonies in the various provinces. An eye-witness account of the ceremony at



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Allahabad was also broadcast in Gujrati and Marathi from Bombay, in Tamil and Telugu from Madras, in Bengali from Calcutta and Oriya from Cuttack.

## MOURNING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

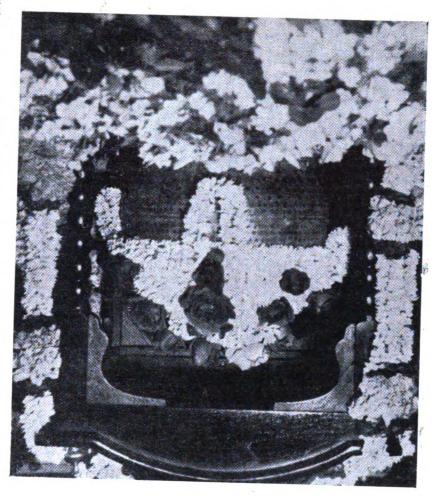
In view of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, the At Home to be given at Government House on February 14 in honour of Ceylon's independence was postponed until a later date.

There was a memorial service for Mahatma Gandhi at the Cathedral Church of the Redemption, New Delhi, on February 12, the National Day of Mourning. Their Excellencies the Governor General and lady Mountbatten attended the Service.

#### **VACUUM IN THE ETHER**

India's international services through the ether, operating from Bombay were suspended for two minutes in homage to the sacred memory of Mahatma Gandhi at 11 o'clock on the morning following Gandhiji's tragic death. Indian terminals, the radio and cable services working to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, China and other places went into silence and all the taff remained at their posts of duty in an attitude of respectful prayer. Even high speed machines throwing out hundreds of words into the ether every minute paid their homage in complete silence. All radio beams also became silent, thus cutting India off from contact with the outside world while all minds were concentrated on what was taking place at Delhi.

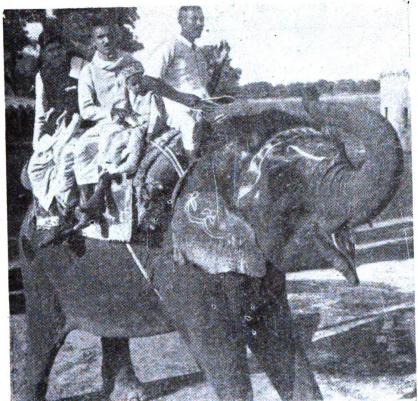
At the request of Indian residents in Ceylon, a portion of Mahatmaji's ashes was sent to the Island. It was also decided to send portion of the ashes intended for Malaya to Singapore in the first\_week.of March.





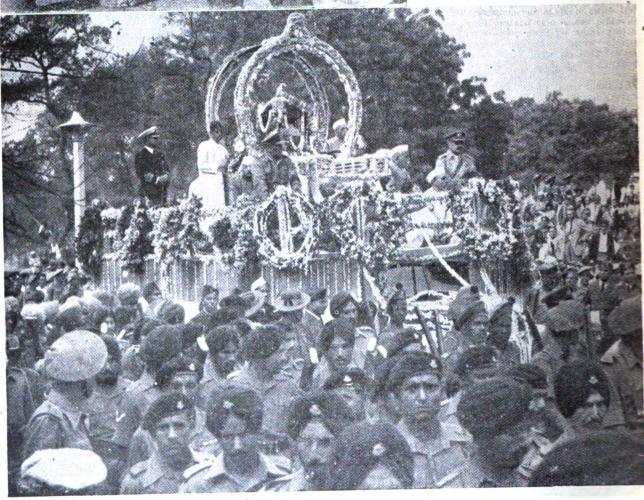
(Above) The urn containing the sacred ashes of Mahatma Gandhi in the Mahatma Gandhi Asthi Special

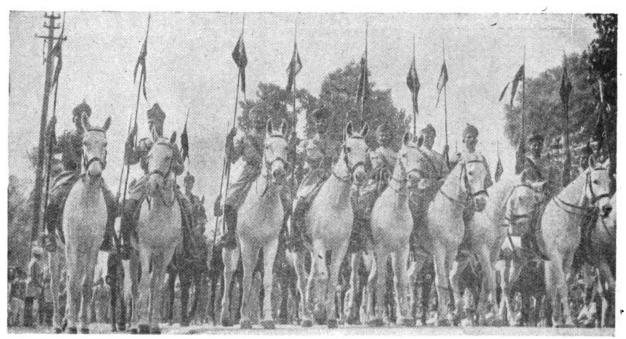
(Left) Two peasant women greet the Asthi Special with folded hands at a wayside station during its journey to Allahabad



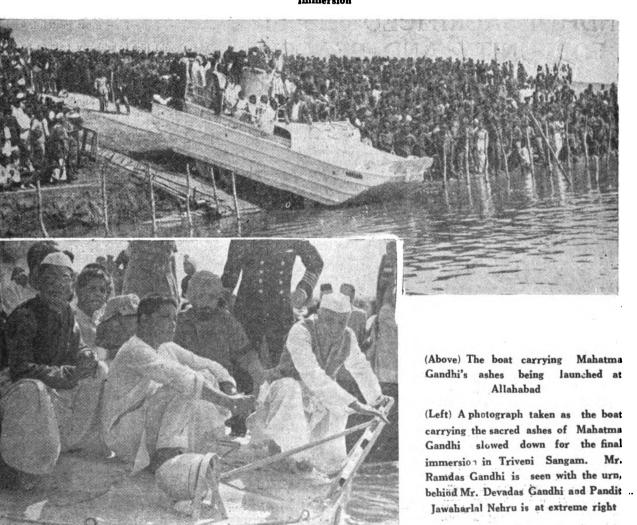
(Left) A peasant family can e from a distant, village ridirg an elephant to pay homage to the Mahatma Gandhi Asthi Special at a wayside Station

(Below) The vehicle, with the sacred ashes of Mahatma Gandhi moving at Allahabad in procession to the Triveni Sangam, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Mr. Pyarelal and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel are seen at front in the carriage. Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Mr. Ramdas Gandhi are seated on the right and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appears on the left





The mounted horsemen who formed part of the procession at Allahabad when the ashes were taken to Triveni for immersion





At Allahabad on the occasion of the immersion ceremony of Mahatma Gaudhi's ashes in the Triveoi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the gathering

## GANDHIJI SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR UNITY AND PEACE

MMEDIATELY after the immersion ceremony at Allahabad on Feb. 12, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed a gathering of several lakhs of people on the banks of the Triveni and urged them to work for the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity and peace for which, he said, Mahatma Gandhi had striven and had even sacrificed his life.

Pandit Nehru said: "His antim yatra (last journey) is now over. For 50 years Gandhiji wandered over this land from the Himaleyas to Kanya Kumari. No other Indian in history travelled so far and wide over country as he did. But he did this not for the sake of fun but to know and serve his people.

"Though his earthly sojourn has ended, his spirit will serve as a beaconlight to posterity. He will continue to guide us. Future generations will hug his name and his picture to their hearts. For 10,000 years and more Mahatma Gandhi's name will shine out in the world as a 'Vijayi' (invincible). We should follow the path of truth and 'dharma' set out by him and all will be well with us and our country". Continuing, Pandit Nehru said that Gandhiji devoted his life to bringing about unity. For this purpose a few weeks ago he undertook a fast. As he led the country towards her freedom he also preached against violence and communalism. But soon after he had won them their freedom, they stood divided among themselves and a wave of violence was sweeping the country. Freeing a downtrodden people, and the way he did it, was a remarkable achievement unparalled in the history of the world. But the free India today "stood humiliated abroad and bruised in her own soul".

The Prime Minister warned that the method of violence in politics would only destroy our freedom. "That way lies disaster. Our country will perish if some of us become intolerant of others' opinions and want to stifle others by killing them. Obviously such persons do not carry public opinion with them. That is why they want to finish off others".

### Congratulations To U. P. Government

On returning to Delhi the same day, the Prime Minister sent the following telegram to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of U. P.:—

"May I express my deep appreciation to you and your Government for the excellent arrangements made in Allahabad today for the ceremonics connected with the Immersion of Mahatmaji's Asthi. The journey of the Ashes from Delhi to Allahabad by special train attracted, as it was bound to do, vast numbers of people who wished to pay their homage to Gandhiji. The Railway Board and the U. P. Government have to be congratulated on a fine piece of organisasion. In Allahabad again, vast crowdr collected on the route and on the river side. The procession and other ceremonies took place in an orderly and solemn manner, befitting the occasion.

The burden of these arrangements fell on you and your Government and I am grateful to all those concerned for the help they rendered on this historic occasion. I shall be glad if you will convey my thanks to the District Authorities, to the Military and the Police as well as others, officials and non-officials,

who co-operated in this great task. To you personally I an most grateful.

I should like to add my tribute to the vast numbers of people who came to pay their homage in an orderly and disciplined manner. May this magnificent tribute to the Father of the Nation be followed by a single-minded endeavour to work in a united way to fulfil the great tasks he has set us".

I cannot account for the existence of evil by any rational method. To want to do so is to be co-equal with God. I am therefore humble enough to recognize evil as such; and I call God long suffering and patient precisely because He permits evil in the world. I know that He has no evil in himself; and yet if there is evil He is the author of it and yet untouched by it.

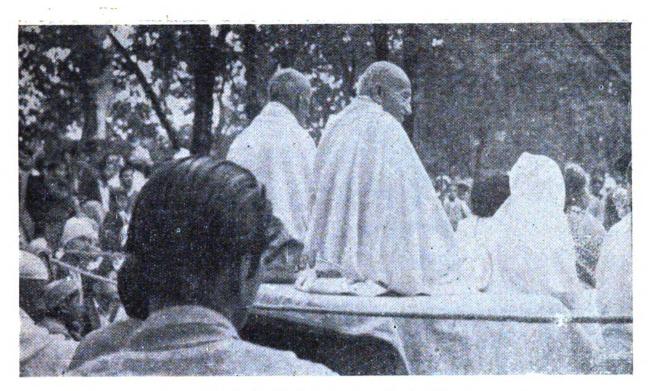
I feel life more in tune with the infinite when I am silent, though I agree that we should always be in tune with it, whether we are silent or speaking, whether we are in solitude or in burstling crowd.

I have made the frankest admission of my many sins. But I do not carry their lurden on my shoulders. If I am journeying Godward as I feel I am, it is safe with me.

In my humble opinion non-co-operation with evil is as much a duty as is co-operation with good.

Love does not burn others, it burns itself suffering joyfully even unto death.

- MAHATMA GANDHI



Mahatma Gandhi at a prayer meeting in Simla

## PARLIAMENT'S TRIBUTE TO GANDHIJI

HEN the Indian Parliament met on February 2 after the tragedy, the House adjourned for the day after paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi for his manifold services to the country. Eleven Members representing various faiths, parties and interests spoke on the occasion.

#### SPEAKER'S TRIBUTE

The Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Mavalankar, Speaker, said:

We are meeting today under the shadow of a double calamity, (1) the sad demise of the tallest man of our age who has led us from slavery to independence and (2) the reappearance of the cult of political violence in our country.

Ever since Mahatmaji came on the Indian political firmament, he opposed violence and we had thought that he had succeeded beyond measure. Though our belief was rudely shaken by the recent communal disturbances and by the exhibition of popular temper in recent months leading to mass migrations, we had hugged the hope that the idea of cold, calculated murders for achieving political ends had left this country. The unfortunate and dastardly outrage last Friday evening has disillusioned us and has placed before us, for solution, a further problem of rooting out from the soil, the idea of violence for political ends. It seems, we have yet to realize that political violence is the greatest enemy of individual liberty and, therefore, of democracy. We cannot condemn this idea of violence for political ends in

too strong terms. Mere condemnation of the misguided and mad perpetrator of the tragedy is not enough. On every thinking citizen rests the responsibility of so acting and shaping his life as to ensure that the cult of terrorism cannot have a favourable soil to germinate and grow in our country. As Gandhiji often used to say "Real democracy is not possible without non-violence".

#### **New Orientation to Politics**

I had the fortune of coming in close contact with Mahatma Gandhi ever since he set his foot on the Indian soil in 1915 for permanent residence here. Since then, I had, all these years, the privilege of doing my bit of public work under Mahatmaji's inspiration and guidance. Naturally, the history of our country and our struggles for liberty for the last 34 years stand before my eyes. We are reminded of our then ideology, as to the contents, forms and methods of attaining Swaraj, and the evolution these have undergone, under the influence of the Mahatma.

#### Inspired New Hopes

Various events crowd to my mind, but this is not the time or occasion when one can go into details. Enough to say that, in presenting to us the alternative of non-violent resistance, better described as Satyagraha, he lifted the wet blanket of frustration and inspired in us new hopes of attainment of success in our fight against British Imperialism. He gave us the vision as to the true meaning of Swaraj for the masses and

has brought us back to our own, in every walk of our life, from mere imitation of the West. There is no sphere of our life, in which the hand and influence of the Mahatma is not seen and felt. He gave a new orientation to our politics, our economics, our education and strove for spiritualising everything in our public life. He was the greatest man of our age. He always had the love of Humanity burning in his heart even amidst the darkest periods of batred and violent struggle, and was never a pessimist even when he knew that his voice was a solitary one. Such an unshaken faith in his own principles and mission was naturally a source of strength to us.

We lose him at a very critical time, not only in the history of our country but perhaps in the history of the world. He had the outlook of homanity, international brotherhood and "one world". We have no words to express all that we respect, love, feel and mourn about him.

He was never a member of any Legislature. He had never been even a visitor to a Legislature except once. As he says in his autobiography, he attended the proceedings of this House only once in his life and that was on the occasion of the debate of the Rowlatt Bill. After describing the impassioned eloquence of the late Srinivasa Sastri on the Bill, he says:

The Viceroy seemed to be listening spell-bound. His eyes rivetted on Sastriji...For the moment it seemed to me as if the Viceroy could not but be deeply moved...But you can wake a man only if he is really asleep... The Government was anxious only to go through the farce of legal formality..."

This explains his attitude towards the then Legislature. The pos.tion today



Mahatma Gandhi performing the opening ceremony of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital in Allahabad in 1941. Pandit Malaviya and Dr. Jivraj Mehta are seen at right

is entirely different. Through his imspiring guidance and efforts, India has attained independence and both the Legislature and the Government are our own. I wish he had been with us on these premises some day to bless us all by his presence in the sacred and responsible work we have undertaken through this Legislature.

I am sure the whole House shares my feeling that Mahatmaji had been a parent to all and each of us and we deeply mourn today his absence and the loss of his guidance. I pray his spirit will ever be with us and lead us to our Goal.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, said:—

"It is customary in this House to pay some tribute to the eminent departed, say some words of praise and condolence. I am not quite sure in my own mind if it is exactly fitting for me or for any others of this House to say much on this occasion, for I have sense of utter shame both as an individual and as the head of the Government of India that we should have failed to protect the greatest treasure that we possessed. It is our failure, as it has been our failure in the past many months to give protection to many an innocent man, woman and child; it may be that the burden and that task was too great for us or for any Government, nevertheless it is failure. And today the fact that this mighty person whom we honoured and loved beyond measure has gone because we could not give him adequate protection is shame for all of us. It is shame to me as an Indian that an Indian should have raised his nand against him, it is shame to me as a Hindu that a Hindu should have done this deed and done it to the greatest Indian of the day and the greatest Hindu of the age.

We praise people in well-chosen words and we have some kind of measure for greatness. How shall we praise him and how shall we measure him, because he was not of the common clay that all of us are made of? He came, lived a fairly long span of life and has passed away. No words of praise of ours in this House are needed, for he has had greater praise in his life than any living man in his history. And during these two or three days since his death he has had the homage of the world; what can we add to that? How can we praise him ?-How can we who have been the children of his, and perhaps more inti-mately children of his spirit than the children of his body, for we have all been in some greater or smaller measure the children of his spirit, unworthy as we were?

A glory has departed and the sun that warmed and brightened our lives has set and we shiver in the cold and dark. Yet, he would not have us feel this way. After all, that glory that we saw for all these years, that man with the divine fire, changed us also and such as we are, we have been moulded by him during these years; and out of that divine fire many of us also took a small spark which strengthened and made us work to some extent on the lines that he fashioned. And so if we praise hin our words seem rather small and if we praise him to some extent we praise oursélves. Great men and eminent men have monuments in bronze and marble set up for them, but this man of divine fire managed



Mahatma Gaudhi receiving subscriptions for his Harijan Fund on his way from Poona to Bombay after his release in 1945

in his life time to become enmeshed in milions and milions of hearts so that all of us became somewhat of the stuff that he was made of, though to an intinitely lesser degree. He spread out over India not in palaces only or in select places or in assembles but in every hamlet and hut of the lowly and those who suffer. He lives in the nearts of millions and he will live for immemornal ages.

What then can we say about him except to feel humble on this occasion? To praise him we are not worthy-to praise him whom we could not follow adequately and sufficiently. It is almost doing him an injustice just to pass him by with words when he demanded work and labour and sacrifice from us: in a large measure he made this country during the last 30 years or more attain to heights of sacrifice which in that particular domain have never been equalled elsewhere. He succeeded in that. Yet ultimately things happened which no doubt made him suffer tremendously though his tender face never lost the smile and he never spoke a harsh word to anyone. Yes, he must have sufferedsuffered for the failing of this generation whom he had trained, suffered because we went away from the path that he had shown us. And ultimately the hand of a child of his-for he after all is as much a child of his as any other Indian—a hand of that child has struck him down.

#### The Living Flame

Long ages afterwards history will judge of this period that we have passed through. It will judge of the successes and the failures—we are too near it to be proper judges and to understand what has happened and what has not happened. All we know is that there was a glory and that it is no more; all we know is that for the moment there is darkness, not so dark certainly because when we look into our hearts we still find the living flame which he lighted there. And if those living flames exist, there will not be darkness in this land and we shall be able, with our effort, praying him and following his path, to illumine this land again, small as we are, but still with the fire that he installed into us. He was perhaps the greatest symbol of India of the past, and may I say, of India of the future that we could have had.

#### Sense of Frustration

We stand on this perilous edge of the present between that past and the future to be and we face all manner of perils and the greatest peril is sometimes the lack of faith which comes to us, the sense of frustration that comes to us, the sinking of the heart and of the spirit that comes to us when we see ideals go overboard, when we see the great things that we talked about somehow pass into empty words and life taking a different course. Yet, I do believe that perhaps this period will pass soon enough.

Great as this man of God was in his life, he has been great in his death and I have not a shadow of a doubt that by his death he has served the great cause as he served it throughout his life. We mourn him, we shall always mourn him, because we are human and cannot forget our valued master. But I know that



Mahatma Gandhi with Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Mountbatten

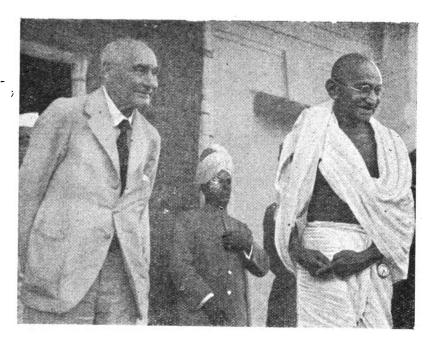
he would not like us to mourn him. No tears came to his eyes when his dearest and closest went away—only a firm resolve to persevere, to serve the great cause that he had chosen. So he would chide us if we merely mourn. This is a poor way of doing homage to him. The only way is to express our determination, to pledge ourselves anew, to conduct ourselves so and to dedicate ourselve to the great task which he undertook and which he accomplished to such a large extent. So we have to work, we have to labour, we have to sacrifice and thus prove, to some extent at least, worthy followers of his.

#### No Isolated Act

It is clear, as you said, Sir, that this happening, this tragedy, is not merely the isolated act of a mad man. This comes out of a certain atmosphere of violence and hatred that has prevailed in this country for many months and years and more especially in the past few months. That atmosphere envelopes us and surrounds us and if we are to serve the cause he put before us we have to face this atmosphere, to combat it, to struggle against it and root out the evil of hatred and violence.

So far as this Government is concerned, I trust they will spare no means, spare no effort to tackle it, because if we do do not do that, if we, in our weakness or for any other reason that we may consider adequate, do not take effective means to stop this violence, to stop this spreading of hatred by word of mouth or writing or act, then indeed we are not worthy of being in this Government; we are not certainly worthy of being his followers and we are not worthy of even saying words of praise for this great soul who has departed, so that on this occasion or any other when we think of this great master who has gone, let us always think of him in terms of work and labour and sacrifice, in terms of fighting evil wherever we see it, in terms of holding to the truth as he put it before us, and if we do so, however, unworthy we may be, we shall at least have done our duty and paid proper homage to his spirit.

He has gone, and all over India there is a feeling of having been lett desolate and forlorn. All of us sense that feeling, and I do not know when we shall be able to get rid of it, and yet together with that feeling there is also a feeling



Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Pethick Lawrence

of proud thanksgiving that it has been given to us of this generation to be associated with this mighty person. In ages to come, centuries, and may be milleniums after us, people will think of this generation when this man of God treaded and will think of us who, however small, could also follow his path and probably tread on that holy ground where his feet had been. Let us be worthy of him. Let us always be so.

#### TRIBUTES BY NON-OFFICIAL **MEMBERS**

Sved Mohammed Saadulla, speaking on behalf of the Muslims of the Indian Dominion and of the Muslim non-official members, associated himself with what had been said of the great personage who guided the destinies of India in an anofficial capacity. He said: "I want to speak on the side of which he was an earnest exponent, the side of love, the side of non-violence, the side of toleration. No greater tribute can be given by a Muslim when he says that a non-Muslim preached all the creeds—not only he preached but also practised—all the tenets and injunctions of Islam.". The fact that Mahatma Gandhi in his prayer meetings used to have recitations from the Quran clearly demonstrated the breadth of his outlook, the negation of narrowness in his mind and his sincere endeavour to bring into one whole the different religiously minded people of this sub-continent of India.

#### Magic of His Word

Rev. Jerome D'Souza said that the whole land would bless Mahatma Gandhi because the life that surged through this nation was the life given by him. "Let me say one word for my own people. the Christian people. In the national movement of this land for many reasons. into which it is not necessary to enter now, they were sometimes a little hesitant, they were doubting. By this personality, by the magic of his word, he brought all of us into this movement

and today we stand with our brethren. We stand with all the rest of the country for the dignity of our new found freedom and in the determination to work for its prosperity. If I may say so, his words, his example, his doctrine of nonviolence, the words of the Sermon on the Mount, keep on ringing in our ears and he has turned the attention of our countrymen to the sweet figure of Jesus Christ and by this means brought us near to the masses and them nearer to us".

#### Greatest Socialist

Shri M. R. Masani, speaking on behalf of Parsis said that just as the smallest shild in a family felt most orphaned, by the loss of the father, it would be only in the course of things that the smallest of the groups and the minorities that made up this country should feel the most orphaned. "But I would rather speak today on behalf of a generation to which I belong, a generation of Indians of all kinds and races and religions. It was a generation that entered life as

repels against Gandhiji and his ideals.... Two decades have passed since then and as the years have rolled by, more and more of us have become aware that it was not Gandhiji who was out of date but it was us who have failed to realize the way in which he sensed the needs of our century.... We have realised that he was ages ahead of his time and we have bowed before him as the greatest socialist of us all, as a better revolutionary than any one else of our time".

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir in the course of his speech eulogised the services of Mahatma Gandhi to the Sikh community and to other minorities. On behalf of the Sikh community he wanted to repeat that Gandhiji was their real benefactor and friend. He loved the Sikhs more than he loved any one else. Recently in his prayer speeches he often referred to the Sikhs. When the news of his assessination reached Amritar, the Sikhs brought offerings from the Golden Temple and the whole community was in tears at the loss.

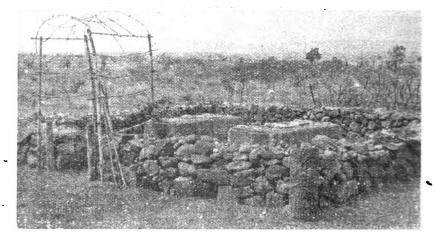
Shrimeti Hansa Mehta said, that it was with the deepest sorrow that she rose to associate herself with the feelings expressed by the previous speakers. "For us the women in particular his loss is irreparable for he was our friend and our champion. Without him we feel so orphaned".

#### The Angle-Indian Representative

Mr. F. R. Anthony said that Mahatma Gandhi's influence was so unique, the reverence in which he was held so widespread that he knew of many persons who perhaps had never met him and who belong to communities which were not included among his political followers but who nevertheless wept bitterly when they received the tragic news. "In India specially during the past few months, his powerful voice has been a source of strength and of comfort particularly to the minority communities. Bitter communal tension, imminent fratrioidal strife resolved and relaxed almost miraculously at the touch of his towering moral influence.

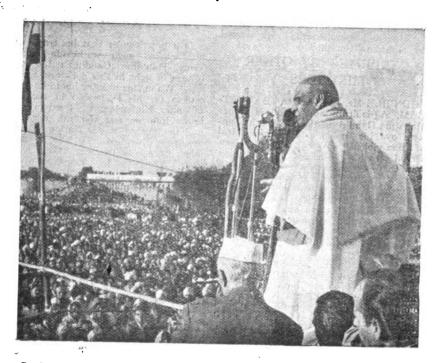
Shri K. Hanumanthaiya said he thought he should speak on behalf of the States' people, who are one-fifth of the people of India, but if he were to speak

(Continued on Page 440)



The memorials to Kasturbs and Sjt. Mahadev Desai in the Aga Khan's Palece, Peen

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patei addressing a mammoth meeting which met to pay homage to the departed Father of the Nation at Ramilia Grounds on February 2

## INDIA'S HOMAGE TO FATHER OF THE NATION

H. E. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India:

THE death of Mahatma Gandhi came with the shock of a personal bereavement to millions of people in every part of the civilised world. Not only those who worked with him throughout his Life, or who, like myrelf, had known him for a comparatively short time, but people who never met him, who never saw him or even met him, who never saw him or even read one word of his published works, felt as if they had lost a friend.

"Dear Friend". That is how he would begin his letters to me; and how I used to reply, because it was so obviously the right way to address him. And that is how I, and my family, will always think of him.

I met Gandhiji for the first time in March of last year; for my first act on arriving in India was to write to him and suggest that we should meet at the earliest possible moment-and at our first meeting, we decided that the best way we could help one another to deal with the tremendous problems ahead, was to maintain constant personal contact. The last time he came to see me was a month ago, a few minutes after the prayer meeting at which he had announced that he would fast unto death unless communal harmony was restored. The last time I saw him in life was when my wife and I went to visit him on the fourth day of his fast. During the ten months we had known one another, our meetings had never been formal interviews; they were talks between two friends—and we had been able to establish a degree of confidence and understanding which will remain a treasured memory.

Gandhiji, the man of peace, the apostle of Ahinsa, died by violence, as a martyr in the struggle against fanaticism—that deadly disease that has threatened to jeopardise India's newfound freedom. He saw that this cancer must be rooted out before India could embark on the great task of nation-building which lies ahead.

Our great Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, has set us the high aim of a secular, democratic state, in which all can lead useful creative lives; and in which a genuinely progressive society can be developed, based on social and economic justice; and the best tribute that we can pay to Gandhiji's memory is to turn our hearts, and our minds, and our hands, to building such a society upon the foundations of freedom that he so firmly laid during his lifetime. Gandhiji will have rendered his last and greatest service of all to the people he loved so well, if the tragic manner of his death has shooked and spurred us into sinking all differences and joining in a sustained, united effort—beginning here and now. Only in this way can his ideal be realised, and India enter into her full inheritance.

## THAT LIGHT WILL STILL BE SEEN

Pandit Nehru; Prime Minister a India:

Friends and comrades, the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere. I do not know what to tell you and how to say it. Our beloved

leaders. Bapu as we called him, the Father of the Nation, is no more. Per haps I am wrong to say that. Nevertheless, we will not see him again as we have seen him for these many years. We will not run to him for advice and seek solace from him and that is a terrible blow not to me only but to the millions and millions in this country and it is a little difficult to soften the blow by any advice that I or anyone else can give you.

The light has gone out, I said, and yet I was wrong. For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illumined this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years and a thousand years later, that light will still be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give and the world will see it and it will give and the world will see it and it will give and the world will see it and it will give that light represented something more than the immediate present. It represented the living truth, the eternal truths, reminding us of the right path drawing us from error, taking this ancient country to freedom.

All this has happened when there was so much more for him to do. We could never think that he was unnecessary or that he had done his task. But now, particularly, when we are faced with so many difficulties, his not being with us is a blow most terrible to bear.

#### Root out this Poison

A mad man has put an end to his life for I can only call him mad who did it, and yet there has been enough of poison spread in this country during the past years and months and this poison has had effect on people's minds. We must face this poison. We must root out this poison and we must face all the perils that encompass us and face them not madly or badly but rather in the way that our beloved teacher taught us to face them. The first thing to remember now is that no one of us dare misbehave because we are angry. We have to behave like strong and determined people, determined to face all the perils that surround us, determined to carry out the mandate that our great leader has given us, remembering always that if, as I believe, his spirit looks upon us and sees us nothing would displease his soul so much as to see that we have indulged in any small behaviour or any violence.

So we must not do that. But that does not mean that we should be weak but rather that we should in streng'h and in unity, face all the troubles that are in front of us. We must hold together and all our petty troubles and difficulties and conflicts must be ended in the face of this great disaster.

A great disaster is a symbol to us to remember all the big things of life and forget the small things of which we have thought too much. In his death, he has reminded us of the big things of life, that living truth, and if we remember that, then it will be well with India

While we pray, the greatest prayer that we can offer is to take a plodge to

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dedicate ourselves to the truth and to the cause for which this great coutryman of ours lived and for which he has died. That is the best prayer that we can offer him and his memory. That is the best prayer that we can offer to India and ourselves. Jai Hind.

#### THAT SUPPORT IS NOW GONE

Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India.

"My heart is full of grief and sorrow. I do not know what to say to you. What happened is a matter of grief and shame".

I went to see Mahatmaji at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and was with him for an hour. At 5, he took out his watch and told me that it was time for his prayer and as he walked towards the prayer ground, I left Birla Houre for my place. As soon as I arrived at my house, I was given the ghastly news.

Going back to Birla Hosue immediately, I saw him after the tragedy. His face still had the same calm and serene expression. Already kindness and forgiveness was written on his face.

Sardar Patel pointed out that of late Gandhiji had been distatisfied with the state of affairs in the country. His fast, which he undertook recently, had been the result of that. How good it would have been if he had laid down his life during that fast! But he had work to do and he survived it. A bomb was thrown on him by a misquided youth the other day and he escaped that also, but today his life could not be spared for us."

#### Grief Not Anger

The occasion today, Sardar Patel continued, was for grief and not anger. Anger was sure to make them forget the great things which Gandhiji had been teaching all his life.

"We did not take his advice during his life and let it not be said that we did not follow him even after his death. That will be a great blot on our name".

Whatever they felt, they must not forget that now was the task for them. They must stand firmly and solidly without any division in their ranks. The burden which of late India, had been called upon to bear was a tremendous one. It would have broken their backs if they had not had the support of that great man. The support was now gone.

But Gandhiji will still be with us always because his teachings and noble ideals will always be before us. Today at 4 p.m. his body will turn into ashes but his soul will be with us for all times to come because it is eternal", Sardar Patel

What could not be achieved during his life time may, Sardar Patel hoped, be fulfilled now. This ghastly tragedy might startle the conscience of the young men of India and make them alive to their duty. "Do not lose heart. Stand together and complete the work started by Mahatma Gandhi".

### TRIBUTES BY OTHER MINISTERS

HON'BLE Mr. JAIRAMDAS DAULAT-RAM, Agriculture and Food Minister: Mahatma Gandhi held out before humanity's eye his noble and inspiring ideal of non-violent society, wherein man served man, wherein public opinion was the only democratic corrective of wrong, wherein true political and economic freedom was enjoyed by the weakest and the lowliest, man's energy was conserved for the task of progressive moral evolution, wherein man endeavoured to re-shape himself completely from brute to man.

"Mahatma Gandhi is one of those Prophets who dealt with man as a whole, who wanted to serve humanity in its manifold activity. That is why we found him fighting untruth and evil in the political no less than in social life".

#### His Life an Open Book

HON'BLE MR. N. V. GADGIL, Minister for Works, Mines and Power: Gandhiji is gone and yet it is difficult to believe that he is not with us and amidst us. He has been the guide, the friend and the philosopher of this generation. There are thousands and thousands of men and women whose lives have been not only influenced but shaped by him. It was his inspiration that brought into national service people who osherwise would have lived and died in the lap of luxury.

The history of this country during the last 40 years is the history of Gandhiji's life. The Congress that fought for India's freedom was the instrument of his activities. It is now for the Congressmen to carry forward the glorious traditions of service and sacrifice that he has created. His life was an open book. He practised what he preached. His message has been often misunderstood and misinterpreted but it has all the same done enduring good to this country.

There is no other way to secure peace in this world except the way Gandhiji has shown not only to this country but to the whole world. He has gone but his philosophy will survive. His sayings will be psalms and his actions will look miracles in future years to come.

#### Our Master Craftsman

HON'BLE SARDAR BALDEV SINGH, Defence Minister: Mahatma Gandhi, our Guide, the "Bapu" of millions is no more. We have been orphaned. He who lit the light, the light of our freedom, some 30 years ago and led us finally to freedom has left us while we yet needed him to complete and consolidate his inimitable handicraft. We have lost our Master Craftsman. He who made the cause of the downtrodden and the outcaste his own and brought them new hope and cheer, has gone from our midst.

Our General in the war against social injustice is no more.

Is it any wonder that his tragic death ha evoked such worldwide interest? Truly Mahtama Gandhiji's life was a beacon of light in this dark and troubled age. We in this country hold him in high esteem for his leadership in the battle of our Motherland's freedom. know him as our General, our Guide and the Father of our Nation. And we are fully justified. To the world at large, he was a Teacher, a Seer, a Prophet. He gave to mankind a lesson which was as unique as it was sublime. He proved in a practical way that brute might can be conquered without being brutish-that true might is not of sinews but of spirit. In a world torn asunder by wars, hatred, suspicions and fear Gandhiji came with his message of love for fellowmen. To him true conquest was not the conquest of the battle-field but the conquest of self.

#### Most Stunning Blow

HON'BLE DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE, Minister of Industry & Supply: "The light that illumined our Motherland, indeed the world smidst darkness has suddenly gone out. The passing away of Mahatema Gandhi is the most stunning blow that could fall on India.

"He is one of those whose influence never dies and indeed thints more and more with the pessage of time. The shot of the assassin not only vitally pierced through his mortal body tut has grievously atruck the very heart of Hinduism and India which could survive only if people resolutely decide to make the pursuit of such methods impossible.

"We, on our part, must face the grave crisis in a spirit of calmness and daunt-lessness, sustained, by the same unfinching faith for which our beloved leader lived and died. The evils that seek to destroy the very life bleed of our nation at the infancy of its freedem must be firmly uprooted. All progressive elements in the country, irrespective of political and other differences, must rally into a great common front and work hand in hand to save the country from being thrown into an abyes of chaos and disorder."

#### A Father to us all

HON'BLE RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR, Health Minister: "In the twinkling of an eye our greatest and most beloved leader, our friend, philosopher and guide was taken from us. More than a leader, he was a father to us all. Not for nothing did we call him Bapu. And we are today orphane".

"It is impossible to estimate his loss at thir critical juncture in our history. I am sure that we shall miss his wise counsel more and more as the days pass. He has led us faultlessly to our goal of political independence. He was the one thing that stood between us and disaster, for lawkssness and disorder and hate and violence can lead nowhere else.

"He has won the martyr's crown. His soul is at rest, but he had to offer the supreme sacrifice for us".

HON'BLE Mr. JAGJIVAN RAM. Labour Minister: "The toiling masses of India, whether in the fields or factories the "Daridranaryans" were nearest and dearest to the heart of Mahatmaji, the Maker of Modern India, and Father of of the Indian Nation. It was he who first raised the banner of revolt against tyranny, exploitation and class superiority, and held the torch of hope to the repressed and oppressed masses of the country. Hindus must be extremely grateful to Gandhiji for having prevented us from going astray at a time when it was so easy to yield to passion and so difficult to practise restraint. But Mahatmaji's emphasis on the virtues of Hinduism cannot prejudice proper appreciation of the universality of the religion that he preached. The highest of religious tolerance and understanding are nowhere reflected so effectively as in the life of Mahatma Gandhi himself. In a world torn by hatred, jealousy and mistrust Mahatma Gandhi's preaching was in the nature of a revolt against the process of moral degradation and the debasement of humanity. The most striking feature of his character was the complete accord between his precept and practice, for he would not expect others to do what he could not do himself.

HON'BLE MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD, Education Minister: The death of Mahatma Gandhi has benumbed my brain. While Gandhiji had completed his last journey we had, as a result of it, embarked on a new journey.

Mahatma Gandhi had carried on his frail shoulders a great deal of the burden of humanity.

#### The Great Revolutionary

HER EXCELLENCY Mrs. SAROJINI NAIDU, Governor of United Provinces: The voice of the world in many languages has already spoken and proved that Mahatma Gandhi was a world figure loved and worshipped by all those who have a sense of ideals of righteousness, right-doing and peace.

He was the Kingliest of all Kings....

far greater than all warriors who led armies t battle was this little man, the bravest, the most tried friend of all. Delhi has become the centre and the sanctuary of the great revolutionary who emancipated his enslaved country from foreign bondage and gave to it its freedom and its flag.

HIS EXCELLENCY Mr. C. RAJ-GOPALACHARI, Governor of Bangal; "We have been robbed of our greatest possession by a senseless lunatic. May God help India in this hour of her greatest distress. May all hatred, all suspicion end with this sacrifice of our dearest leader. He would then live in us, and through us. On the other hand if we did not follow the law as taught by him and let the law die with the teacher, we would fall, and we would indeed have become accomplices to the murderer".

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ARCHI-BALD NYE, Governor of Madras: "Thir country has been singularly fortunate in having had a world figure and a man of such character to lead them, Mahatma Gandhi has been preaching a doctrine of moderation and toleration and of love for one's fellow-beings. Although he himself has passed away, his reputation is standing, his prestige, and above all, his example will live for all times".

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR MAHARAJ SINGH, Governor of Bombay: Gandhiji has lived and died for others and for the noble cause of peace and harmony among men. All that we can and must do is to try to emulate, to the best of our humble capacity, his wonderful example of love and sacrifice. This is what he would wish us to do.

The quality in the Mahtama which most impressed itself on my mind was his intense humanity. He was interested in the whole world and had a truly international outlook. Caste, creed and race meant nothing to him. His vision was far wider.

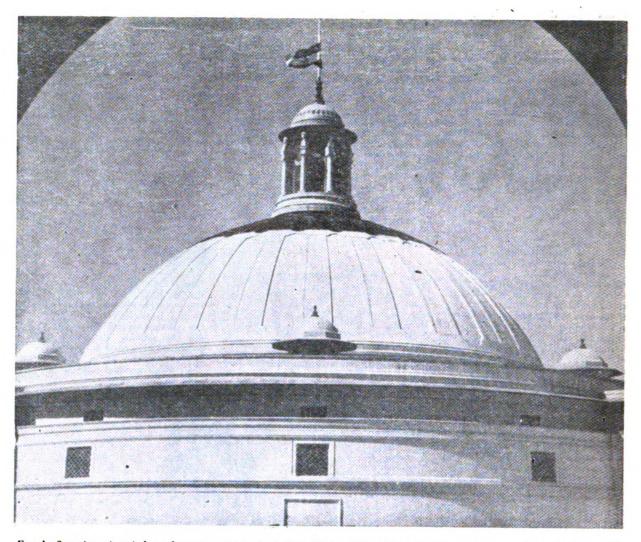
He died as he lived with a hatred of violence and communalism in any shape or form and with a profound belief in our common humanity

#### Spiritualised Politics

HIS EXCELLENCY Pr. KAILAS NATH KATJU, Governor of Oris:a: He was the soul of the national movement in India for nearly 30 years and was the active guide of the Congress through out this period. He was a great social reformer. He worked for the emancipation of women. He strove for the uplift and liberation of the Harijans. He was untouchable an ong the untouchables



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad addressing the condolence meeting held at Ramlila Grounds on February 2



For the first time since independence was attained, India's National Flag flew at half-mast in homage to the departed leader

He launched a campaign against illiter acy by his unique system of basic education.

He spiritualised politics. What was supposed to be good for the individual, he contended, was also good and practicable and worthy of pursuit for nations. He stood like a rock when the seas of violence in the world ran high, and it is this aspect which will find as time goes by increasing response throughout the western world. Humanity at large again seems to stand on the brink of a cata-trophe and the healing message of Gandhiji is like a balm to the troubled soul of man.

MR. M. S. ANEY, Governor of Bihar and SRI KRISHNA SINHA, Premier of Bihar: "Mahatma Gandhi is dead, but Mahatma Gandhi will never die in our heart. In this great calami'y that has overtaken us we can do no less than what he could have wished us to do.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CHANDULAL TRIVEDI, Governor of East Punjab: "The greatest homage we can pay to Ghandhiji is to practise in our daily life the ideals for which he lived, laboured and died".

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR AKBAR HYDAR1, Governor of Assam in a message to Mr. Devdas Ghandhi said:

"We are all benumbed with you on the death of your father who is also the father of our country and helper of the helpless. May his example and supreme sacrifice continue to inspire and guide us."

## TRIBUTES BY PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

PANDIT G. B. PANT, U. P. Premier: Mahatma Gandhi was the Messiah of this age. At a time when India was bound with limitations of all kinds, the Mahatma put new life into her and oreated for her once again a place of honour in the world... Mahatma Gandhi's soul would still be our guide and the people of India would never forget what he had taught them.

MR. NISAR AHMED SHERWANI, Minister of Agriculture, U. P.: Any person who has some place for truth in his heart could not have failed to notice that Bapuji lost his life in fighting against the poison spread by communal-

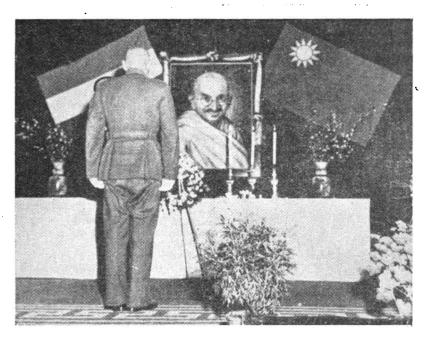
ists and their politics. He lost his life in trying to save millions of Muslims in India from total annihilation.

DR. B. C. ROY, Premier of West Bengal: What a stunning news has reached us! The Prince of Non-violence meets with a violent death at the hands of an assassin! Who can fathom the void that has been created? Who can estimate our loss? And yet let us, out of respect and reverence for the dear departed maintain our self-control and show to the world that we are true disciples of this apostle of humanity.

Mr. RAMASWAMI REDDIAR. Premier of Madras: The nation is sunk deep in sorrow. The greatest man of the age has been cruelly murdered in the very land of his birth for the freedom for which he has by his dedication worked all his life.

Mr. B. G. KHER, Premier of Bombay: He gave freedom to India and was struggling to give it good government. Gandhiji was the conscience of humanity and man often tries to stifle his conscience. It is the duty of those whom he has left behind and who valued his advice to complete the task which he

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948



President Chiang-kai-shek bows before a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at a Memorial Service held at Nacking on March 5

left unfinished.

Mr. MORARJI DESAI, Home Minister of the Bombay Government: The best national memorial to the Father of the Nation would be to follow the paths of peace, truth and non-violence shown by him.

PANDIT R. S. SHUKLA, Premier of the Central Provinces and Berar: The greatest tragedy that could have overtaken the country has occurred.

Dr. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA, Premier of East Punjab: India has lost its father and we are orphans for the rest of our life. The blow that has fallen upon us is truly terrifying. Bapu is no more. Gandhiji is dead but Gandhism shall live for ever.

Our country was becoming demoralized. To protect this country God sent us a prophet in Mahatma Gandhi. By his unique sacrifice he raised the country to great heights.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH, Home Minister, East Punjab: Mahatmaji's presence was a great solace to the country at the present critical time. India and the world have been deprived of the greatest moral force and we are really very unfortunate that Mahatmaji should have left us when we needed him most.

Dr. SYED MAHMUD, Development and Transport Minister, Bihar: Gandhiji is dead only to live for ever in the hearts of his people, in fact in the hearts of the world. His murder has brought eternal shame to our country.

MR. GOPINATH BARDOLOI, Premier of Assam: Posterity will recognize Mahatmaji as one of the greatest teachers of humanity in the same way as people look to Jessu Christ.

Dr. RAJENDRA PRASAD, President Constituent Assembly: His great deeds and the unparalleled beautitude of his personality are enough to make his memory imperishable for all times to come and there does not seem to be any necessity of memorials; but man has to do something to give satisfaction to himself. It has therefore been suggested that all the constructive work which he so much championed in his life should be carried on with the fullest possible energy and devotion. It was through this constructive programme that Gandhiji's doctrine of love and nonviolence blossomed; and only by carrying forward this programme can we keep his great teachings alive.

Gandhiji had put all the force of his noble personality against this ignoble campaign of hate. What he could not bring about during his lifetime, it is our duty to achieve after his martyrdom. Can we ever dream that Gandhiji was bringing harm to the Hindus or to their religion? Was it ever possible that this liberator of the Hindu Community and emancipator of the low and down-trodden could even think of doing so. But men with narrow minds and limited vision who do not understand the core of Hindu Dharma thought it otherwise and the present calamity is a direct result of such an outlook.

What every Indian needs most is earnest self-introspection and self-reform on which Gandhiji laid so mush emphasis. If India is to live, grow and prosper, then she shall have to go on the path of truth and non-violence blazed by Gandhiji. It is the same path which brought us to the temple of freedom, but surayya (good government) is yet to be attained.

## RECORDS OF GANDHIJI'S SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

Mesers Columbia Records of India have presented to the National Archives of India two new copies of their records of Mahatma Gandhi's Spiritual Message.

It will be recalled that the Inlian Historical Records Commission has recently submitted a proposal to the Government of India for the acquisition of the letters and other records of Mahatma Gandhi for preservation in National Archives Repository.

May Gandhiji's supreme sacrifice evoke a higher response in us all! This is my sincere prayer and herein alone lies our country's redemption.

MRIN. RAGHAVAN, India's Counsul-General in batavia: The death of no other man had produced such profound grief throughout the world. India mourns and the world mourns with her, that the prophet of an Age is no more. A star that had illumined the firmament has set; but the soft effulgence of its rays, the light it has east on the world, will remain with us for ever.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

The Government of India have spent Rs. 11,58,000 on account of scholarships to scheduled caste students since these scholarships were started in 1944-45. This information was given by the Hon'ble Maulans Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, in reply to a question by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh in the Dominion Parliament on March 16.

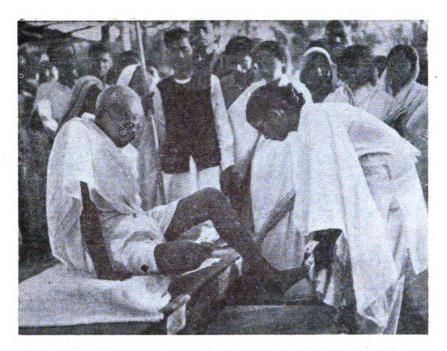
Maulana Azad added that the annual allotment for scheduled caste scholarships is Rs. 3,00,000. In the first two years 1944-45 and 1945-46, the whole amount was not utilized, but in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 the expenditure incurred was much above the annual allotment. The expenditure incurred in 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 4,03.000 and in 1947-48 Rs. 4,65,000 had been spent so far.

Regarding the unspent balances, Maulana Azad said these are carried forward to the following year and made available for scholarships for that year. The total expenditure incurred up to date was Rs. 11,58,000.

In answer to supplementary questions, the Education Minister stated that the scheme had been sanctioned for five years. At the end of this period, the situation will be reviewed and if necessary the scope of the scheme will be extended

In reply to another question by Dr. Deshmukh, Maulana Azad stated that the Government of India had provided a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the award of scholarships to students belonging to backward tribes (aboriginals and hill tribes) during the financial year 1948 4v.





Mahatma Gandhi walked bare-footed during his tour of Noakhali in February 1947. Here, Miss Manu Gandhi is washing the feet of Mahatma Gandhi after a day's walk

## TRIBUTES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

THE news of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi shocked the entire world and people of all nationalities felt a sense of personal loss. Kings and commoners vied with each other in paying homage to the departed soul and messages of sympathy poured from all quarters of the world to India.

Following are extracts from tributes received from heads of States and international organisations etc.

ABYSSINIA—Emperor Hail Selassie: It is with the deepest sorrow that we have heard of the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi. Not only India but the whole world will mourn the passing of a great man and a moral leader for all humanity.

AFGHANISTAN—The Prime Minister: We were shocked to learn the and news of the tragic and inhuman assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the peace-loving, the greatest patriotic and the most beloved leader of the people of India.

ARGENTINA—Dr. Jose Arce: Mr. Gandhi was without doubt one of the great leader of his time. He proved by his life and preaching the force and power of the Spirit.

## AMONG THE GREATEST FIGURES

AUSTRALIA—The Prime Minister: The Government and people of Australia have learned with horror and deep regret of the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi who will be remembered long in Australia as a man who worked for the

good of humanity and the ways of peace. We extend to the Government and to the people of India our deepest sympathy.

LT.-GEN. SIR IVEN MACKEY, Australian High Commissioner in India: We Australians who have been in India during the recent vivid years of Mahatma Gandhiji's life count ourselves fortunate to have had the privilege of meeting and talking with a man who even now and more so by future generations, will be numbered among the greatest figures of the world history. The gentle courtesy with which he received me and my fellows, the simple warm humanity immediately recognizable as characteristic of the man, will be among the most vivid and cherished memories of the time I have spent in your great country.

If there is any consolation to be found at this sorrowful time—and as men and women with an ideal to preserve and a nation to build, you must find consolation—I think it is that Mahatma Gandhi was spared long enough for his message of peace to be repeated from his own lips over and over again. That message must be so deeply implanted, it seems to me, in the hearts of the Indian people, that this great man surely cannot have lived and died in vain.

BRAZIL—The Minister of Foreign Affairs: The Brazilian Government associate with the Government and people of India on their irreparable loss by the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### HE WAS A SYMBOL

Dr. Oswald Aranha, President during the last session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Gandhi was more than a leader. He was a symbol.

SENATOR JOSE ALMEIDA, President of the National Democratic Union: Nobody could think that this idealistic man who did create a whole spirit preaching against violence should have such a tragic end.

BURMA—President of the Union of Burma: I am shocked beyond words by news of Mahatma Gandhi's death. One of the greatest figures of the world has been laid low by the hand of an assassin. Kindly convey my profound sympathy to people of India on their tragic and irreparable loss.

The Prime Minister, Thakin Nu: Mahatma Gandhi's death is regarded here as a loss also to the Burmese nation and today is therefore a day of mourning for Burma also. Burma tenders to India at this supreme moment of our common grief her utmost sympathy at the irreparable loss of the great Indian saint and leader.

The Foreign Minister, U. TIN TUT: All Burma mourns with India the loss of a great Indian hero and saint.

U. WIN, Burmese Ambassador to India: The world has lost its greatest man in history—the living personification of love and truth.

#### PARLIAMENT'S TRIBUTE

(Continued from Page 434)

from any particular angle in paying a tribute to this great man it would be an act of discourtesy. He would not therefore speak on behalf of any particular section of India or any community. "Great as Gandhiji was over and above every community, every class and every country, I would lift up my hand as every Hindu does when he prays to the Great God Surya that his soul may rest in peace".

#### A Man of the Spirit

Acharya J. B. Kripalani said he fondly thought that "in the history of Hindu religion there never had been an occasion when we had not allowed the man of God to live the fullest span of his life but today it is our shane and degradation and for the first time in our history that a Hindu's hand has been raised against a man of the Spirit. We know that he has achieved immortality and that there was nothing he could add to that he had done". Continuing Acharya Kripalani said, "Let us all today, make a resolve that though we have not followed him faithfully in life we shall follow him faithfully in death and shall complete the task that he kept before us".

Shri H. J. Khandekar, speaking in Hindustani, associated hin seif with the sentiments expressed by other members of the House.

CANADA—Mr. MACKENZIE KING, Prime Minister: It is particularly shocking that a life so selflessly devoted to the avoidance of violence should have been brought to its close by an act of violence. It is to be hoped that the principles of non-violence for which Gandhi stood will gain renewed strength as a result of his assassination.

CEYLON—The Governor-General:
The Prime Minister and I join in sending you the following message: The people and Government of Ceylon were shocked to hear the tragic news of Mahatma Gandhi's death. We deeply mourn the irreparable loss to India and the world.

The Prime Minister, MR. D. S. SENANAYAKE: By the untimely death of Mahatma Gandhi the world has lost a leader most needed at this hour. I have no doubt his message will live and inspire future generations in the realization of peace and goodwill among mankind

CHILE—The Chilean President, GABRIEL GONZALEZ VIDEAL: If all political crimes are condemnable, this case is even more tragic as he was the leader of the massa who wielded kindness as arms. His death is a loss for the spirit of the world which will be irreparable if the seed of his doctrine is not rooted in million of hearts. I think the best homage we could render to his memory is the condemnation of violence of any kind.

#### A WORLD TRAGEDY

CHINA—GENERALISSIMO and MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK; We are stunned and deeply grieved at Mr. Gandhi's a sassination. It is indeed a heartbreaking world tragedy that the gentle, saintly crusador of peace through non-violence should fall victim of violence. To you, to his family, to Congress Party and Indian people, the Chinese people and we send heartfelt sympathy.

Premier CHANGCHUN: Not only India but all mankind has lost one of its greatest leaders. In your boundless sorrow, please accept my profound sympathy, and now that his death will be an eternal inspiration to all fellow Asians to whom his life will for ever be a source of pride.

Foreign Minister R. WANG SHIH CHIEH: In his passing away India has lost an inspiring leader and the world a great teacher of peace.

DR. CHIA-LUEN, Chinese Ambassador to India: Gandhiji's assasination is a gross crime not only against India, but against humanity as a whole. Gandhiji is dead. He lives for ever.

LIN YU-TANG, the Chinese author and philosopher: Gandhiji was the only modern saint and prophet, which his country produced. Only in a country like India or Asia could a man achieve tremendous political power on the strength of his spiritual stature.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—The Acting President: The Czechoslovakia Government wishes to express its deep sympathy



Mahatma Gandhi talking to an old Muslim during his walking tour of Noakhali

and understanding at the untimely death of Mahatma Gandhi. The people of Czechoslovakia are sharing your mourning and sorrow.

CUBA—Counsul for Cuba, Bombay: The President of Cuba has requested me to convey to your Excellency on behalf of the people his sincere sympathy and deepest regret on the irreparable loss which you and the people of India have suffered.

DENMARK—The Danish Premier, HANS HEDTOFT; The fact that Mr. Gandhi in his advanced age has been killed immediately after putting his life into the battle for peace in India will, by all the civilized world over, be taken as proof of the brutality the last war has created in people's minds.

#### GREAT SPIRITUAL LEADER

EGYPT—KING FAROUK: Mahatma Gandhi's principle of pacifism and the triumph of his patriotic and humanitarian ideals will for ever remain a sublime example of abnegation and heroism. The East has lost a patriot and the world and humanity one of their greatest figures.

NOKRASHY PASHA, Prime Minister: The people of Egypt and myself deeply deplore the sad loss of the great spiritual leader of India whose lofty and humanitarian ideals augured a new era of peace and progress for India and the world at large. He was one of the greatest men the world has ever seen, for he always worked towards uplifting the lot of his people.

AZZAM PASHA, Secretary-General of the Arab League: This is the worst crime that could possibly have been perpetrated again t humanity. The world has lost a great man.

FINLAND—The Prime Minister: Please accept the expression of deep sympathy of the Finish people at the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi.

FRANCE—Premier SCHUMAN: In the person of Mahatma Gandhi, the Assembly honours a friend of France, a patriot and above all a thinker whose example we hope will show the world that love is stronger than hate.

M. GEORGE BIDAULT, French Foreign Minister: The world has heard today one of the saddest tidings of our time. He who only a few days ago showed that goodwill and renunciation would conquer hate and ambition, has left us, struck down by a mad man. Not only his own people will mourn him, but all those who believe in the possibility of brotherly understanding. Mr. Gandhi gave the example of an obstinate, an absolute search for love of mankind, whatever their race or religion. France stands tonight at the bier of this great men, fallen victim to the viclence against which he always fought. May his secrifice orown his life work.

#### HIS MEMORY IMMORTAL

M. C. F. BARON, Governor of French India: For us it is one of the greatest catastrophes that could happen to the world we live in. Gandhiji belongs to all men of heart and hope. It is as if a great light had been extinguished but Gandhiji's memory is immortal and living India incarnates his message.

GAUTEMALA—Minister of Foreign Affairs: Offer our sincere condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Gautemala on the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest man of the times.

GREECE—M. TSALDARS, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs: With deepest sorrow I have learnt of the untimely death of Mahatma Gandhi. His lose is as great for mankind as it is for India. The Greek people have always appreciated and Gandhiji's greatness.

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HAWAII—H. R. H. the High Chief SAMU LA. K. AMALU Prince of Keoua and Hawaii: The Princess and I are deeply shocked over the tragedy that has befallen India with the tragic death of Mr. Gandhi. Pleare express to the people of India our profound sorrow at their loss.

HOLLAND—DR. BEEL, Prime Minister: No personal sacrifice had been too great for the Mahatma's devotion to the welfare of his follow-men.

INDONESIA—President SOEKARNO: The tragic news of Gandhiji's death has shocked and grieved us profoundly. It is not only an irreparable loss to India but to the whole of mankind.

Vice-President, Mr. MOHAMMED HATTA: He was the messenger of peace and freedom and we mourn his loss as our own loss.

Dr. SOEDARSONO, Representative of the Republic of Indonesia in India: One of the greatest leaders the world ever had as well as a great person has been lost. His far-seeing wisdom and peacetoving mind made him a source of courage not only for the Indian people but for all people in need of guidance.

Dr. VAN MOOK: The whole world has become poorer. Dr. Van Mook added that he believed Mahatma Gandhi's influence would outlive all the violence and animosity of mankind blinded by war.

#### EMBODIMENT OF PEACE

IRAN—HIS EXCELLENCY HAKIMI, Prime Minister: It is with profound affliction that I learn of the assassination of Mahtama Gandhi, national leader and father of Indian liberty which has struck the nation so cruelly. This great man, who was the embodiment of freedom and peace, was admired not only by the Indian people but by all freedom-loving nations, who share this loss. It is my earnest desire that the ideal of this great man of universal peace shall be realised.

IRAQ—The Regent of Iraq: Gandhi was the greatest leader of all peace lovers in the world. Gandhi's death is a loss not only to India but to humanity and the civilised world. My deep sympathy to India.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: On behalf of the Iraq Government I offer to you and to the Indian people our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences for this tragic and universal loss. Gandhi has not died: his teachings will live for ever. I always regard Gandhiji's teach ings as the only way to lead the world to peace and security.

IRELAND—President of Ireland: The people of Ireland in union with lovers of liberty in all lands mourn the loss of one whose noble self-searificing life in the service of his country was an inspiration to all. May it please God to grant to India and to the whole world that charity and brotherhood and peace for which he so very earnestly prayed and worked.

EAMON DE VALERA, Premier: The loss is not India's alone. The world has lost a great leader whose influence will long survive his death. In spite of this grievous loss we hope that India will not cease to go forward undiscouraged to the attainment of the ideals for which Gandhi strove.

ITALY—POPE PIUS XII: Gandhi was a great man who was the spiritual leader of millions of Indians and who had always struggled for peace.

COUNT SFORZA, Italian Foreign Minister: All Italy is with you in the deep sorrow of your loss which is loss for the whole of mankind.

JAPAN—EMPEROR HIROHITO: This is an event of great sorrow.

#### LIVED AHEAD OF THE TIMES

GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in Japan: Nothing more revolting has occurred in the history of the modern world than the senseless assassination of the venerable man. He had come through time and the circumstances of his oft-repeated ideologies to be regarded as the very symbol and hypothesis of peace. That he should die by violence is one of those bitter anachronisms that seems to refute all logio.

In the evolution of civilization, if it is to survive, all men cannot fail eventually to adopt his belief that the process of mass application of force to resolve contentious is use is fundamentally not only wrong but contains within itself the germs of self-destruction.

Gandhiji, however, was one of those prophets who lived far ahead of the times.

TETSU KATAYAMA, the Japanese Prime Minister: I had always had the deepest respect for Mahatma Gandhi's lifelong devotion to the cause of Indian independence and freedom as well as world peace. It was especially tragic that so great a pacifist had fallen a victim to brute force and violence. The Prime Minister said he firmly believed that the will of the great Indian leader would be realised by the Indian people.

LEBANON—President of the Lebanese Republic: The loss of Mahtama Gandhi will be felt by the entire humanity which has lost in his person the most noble figure of modern history.

LUXEMBOURG—Minister of Foreign Affairs: Profoundly shocked by the news of the odious crime against Mahatma Gandhi. I wish to convey on this sad occasion to the Government of India the profound sympathy of the people and the Government of Luxembourg. May the message of pcace and liberty for which the Mahatma lived and died remain among the nations of the world.

#### SYMBOL OF LIBERTY

MOROCCO—Secretary General AHMED BALAFREJ, Rabat (Morocco): The people of Morocco have learnt with consternation of the tragic et d of the

great Mahatma, symbol of liberty of all oppressed peoples and apostle of concord and human fraternity.

NEPAL—MAHARAJA OF NEPAL: Myself, my brothers and the people of Nepal greatly shocked to hear of the assassination of Mahatmaji. We pray to Almighty nama to grant peace to his sacred departed soul. Our heartfelt condolence to Your Excellency, your Government and Mahatmaji's bereaved family.

NEW ZEALAND—Mr. P. FRAZAR, Prime Minister: I desire to convey to you and through you to all the people of India a message of profound and heartfelt sympathy from the Government and peoples of New Zealand in the loss of your beloved compatriot and leader. The whole world mourns the passing of one of the greatest figures of our times and deplorer with horror and detestation the senseless and tragic manner of his death. I feel sure that his undying spirit and his devotion to the ideals of peace and brotherhood will live on for ever. We pray as he would have done that peace and brotherhood will be his everlasting memorial in the hearts of the people of India.

NORWAY--The Minister of Foreign Affairs: Deeply moved by the horrible and senseless crime which has bereft India of her great son Mahatma Gandhi. The memory of the Mahatma and of his inspired lifelong work for peace and brotherhood amongst men will always live in Norway.

PAKISTAN—Governor-General, QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH: Whatever our political differences he was one of the greatest men produced by the Hindu community and a leader who commanded their universal confidence and respect. I wish to express my deep sorrow and sincerely sympathise with the great Hindu community and his family in their bereavement of this momentous historic and critical juncture so soon after the birth of freedom for Hindustan and Pakistan. The loss to the Dominion of India is irreparable.

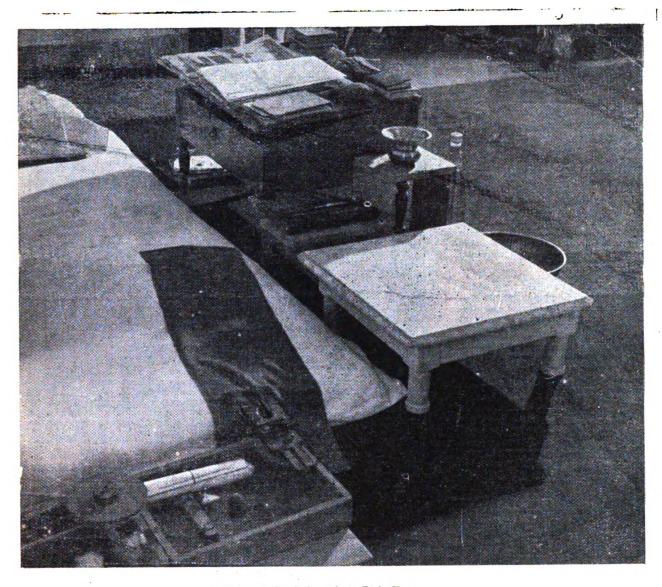
The Governor of Sind, SHEIKH GHULAM HUSSAIN HIDAYATUULAH: Shocked to hear of great tragedy of Mahatma's assassination. Deepest condolence and sympathies.

#### AN IRREPARABLE LOSS

Mr. LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, Prime Minister of Pakistan: On behalf of my colleagues and myself I send you, your colleagues and to the people of India our deepest sympathy over the tragic death of Gandhiji. His datardly assassination must be condemned unreservedly by everybody. His removal from the stage of Indian politics at this juncture is an irreparable loss. His great efforts for the restoration of communal harmony will be remembered with gratitude by all lovers of peace and goodwill. We earnestly hope that his efforts for communal harmony which he had foremost in his heart just before his tragic death will be crowned with success.

KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN, Premier of East Bangal: I am shocked to hear the

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Mahatma Gandhi's study in Birla House

news. The greatest tragedy is that when Mahatma Gandhi was most needed he has been taken away from us. India has lost one of her greatest sons and history will record it as one of the blackest orimes committed.

MR. CHUNDRIGAR, Minister for Commerce in the Pakistan Government: Mahatma Gandhi was one of those personalities who have contributed materially in changing the course of modern history. He was gifted with the unique power of mobilizing public opinion on any question. He created political consciousness in the sub-continent of India in a remarkable and unprecedented manner.

His influence on India could have been immediately useful in improving the relations between the two Dominions. His loss at this juncture is irreparable.

MR. FIROZ KHAN NOON: The news of Mahatma Gandhi's demise has come as a great shock to me. I hope that it will not mean that the forces of lawlessness which have played such have in this unfortunate land are getting the upper hand. I sincerely pray and hope that

although the apostle of peace is no more with us, his spirit will continue to permeate the country and those Hindus who loved Gandhiji will see that the freedom which he secured for India is not lost to the forces of militant Fascism.

#### WORLD MUCH THE POORER

SIR ZAFRULLA KHAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan: That the dastardly hand of an assassin should have brought to a close a life dedicated to the service of India and humanity; particularly at a moment when India stood in so sore a need of its healing ministrations, is a calamity of the highest magnitude. Not only India, but the world, is today much the poorer on account of of his irreparable loss.

KHAN ABDUL QAIYUM KHAN, Premier of N.-W. F. P.: He was one of the greatest figures in the world today. He was fighting most valiantly for peace between Hindus and Muslims, in fact between the two nations, and fell a martyr to that great cause. Humanity has lost a man, dynamic in personality and one of the greatest of men.

MR. GHULAM MOHAMMAD, Finance Minister of Pakistan: The news of Gandhiji's assassination has stunned every lover of peace. That a great man who preached non-violence should die a violent death is highly tragic. During the last few months Gandhiji was devoting his entire attention to the cause of communal unity and understanding. Let us hope and pray that his tragic death will not weal en the hands of forces that are working for communal harmony and peace.

SARDAR ABDUR RAB NISHTAR, Communications Minister, Pakistan Government: Gandhiji was one of the greatest men of the world and had a really great influence on the establishment of peace. The loss that India, in fact the world, has suffered by his death is difficult to make up.

MR. GHAZANFAR ALI KHAN, Pakistan's Refugee Minister: Mahatma Gandhi will go down in history not only as one of the greatest champions of freedom and apostle of peace in the world but also as a most ardent friend of the

weak and the injured. Mahatma Gandhi gave his life for a noble cause which was dearest to his heart after the achievement of independence, namely, the protection of the Muslim minority in India. Muslims in India today are the worst sufferers by his passing away.

Mr. J. N. MANDAL, Minister of Law and Labour, Pakistan Government: It appeared to be incredible that there could be such a hellish devil in human form on earth who could assassinate such a great man of the world at a time when he delicated his life for the cause of humanity.

#### **GUARDIAN OF HUMANITY**

PALESTINE—President of the General Council of the Vadelumi Jewish community: The entire Jewish community in Palesine mourns with the peoples of India the untimely death of Mahatma Gandhi, the world's noble guardian of humanity and universal righteousness.

PHILIPPINES—President of the Philippines: The Philippine people are showed and grieved to hear of the dastardly assissination of India's immortal son and acknowledged aronitect of her freedom, Mahatma Gandhi. In this hour of your personal and national becavement I convey to Your Excellency and to the Indian people the deepest sympathies of my people and my own for this irreparable.

POLAND—Foreign Minister, Poland: Please accept our most sincere condolences on the ossasion of the death of Mahatma Gandhi whose high virtues acquired during the fight for democracy and against tyranny have been recognized by the entire world.

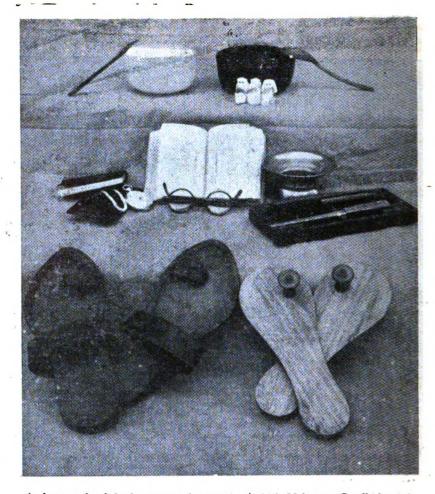
PORTUGAL—The President: In my own name and in the name of the Portguese nation please accept our profound sympathies on the tragic death of Mahatma Ganhdi.

The Prime Minister: Grieved by the sad news of the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi, a great figure of the world, I wish to express to you and to the Government of your Presidency together with the sympathy of the Portugese Government the sincerest and deepest condolences for the great loss India has just suffered.

SAN MARINO—Minister of Foreign Affairs: The Government and the people of San Marino offer their condolences on the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi whose memory will live.

SEYCHELLES—The Governor of Seycholles: The people and the Government of Seychelles share the universal sorrow arising from the tragic and irraparable loss in the passing of the Mahatma and send you, Pandit Nehru and the people of India their deep sympathy.

SOMALILAND (British)—SULTAN ABDILLAHI SULTAN DERIA HARGEISA, British Somaliland: The Somali Nation submit their homage to Mahatmaji. Your message heard with deepest feelings and will be followed with ail earnestness.



A photograph of the few personal possessions which Mahatma Gandhi has left to the world. Gandhji's "chappals" wooden sandals, watch, spectacles, bowls and spoons appear in the picture along with his favourite book of songs and the figurine of the three monkeys whom he used to call his 'Gurus'. The nacheys symbolise the injunctions to speak no evil, to see no evil and to hear no evil

SOUTH AFRICA—FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS, Premier: I have heard of the assassination of Gandhi with the deepest grief, which I am sure will be shared all over the world. Gandhi was one of the great men of my time and my acquaintance with him over a period of more than 30 years has only deepened my high respect for him, however much we differed in our views and methods.

A prince among men has passed away and we grieve with India in her irreparable loss. May this tragedy at last purge the soul of India of all communal passion and bring to her suffering people the peace for which Gandhi was prepared to give his life as he has finally given it.

Gandhi has left behind him a name almost unequalled in the world today. He is an outstanding leader of men.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA—Prime Minister: On behalf of myself and my colleagues I send our condolences on the great loss sustained by you and your people with the tragic passing of great Gandhi.

SUDAN—The Governor-General: The Sudan has been profoundly shocked by the news of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Please accept and convey to the Government of India the sincere condolences of the Government and people of the Sudan in their grievous loss.

SYRIA—The President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Syria: The death of this greatest patriot has aroused our people's consternation.

SWITZERLAND—The President of the the Swiss Confederation: Mahatma Gandhi exceptionally personified the Prince of Peace and whose loss affects all humanity.

Mr. EDWARD PHELAN, Director-General, International Labour Office, Geneva: Most shocked at the news of the tragedy which has overtaken India. Please accept heartfelt sympathy in the irreparable loss India has suffered in the death of the Mahatma.

TIBET—The Dalai Lama: I am extremely sorry to hear the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi, the great apostle of



Miss Manu Gandhi (left) holding the Burmese hat given to Mahatma Gandhi by Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Burma, and Mrs. Abha Gandhi (right) holding the peasant hat presented to Gandhiji at Noakhali

peace. I have prayed to God for his soul and I wish you to accept my heartfelt sympathy to India.

REGENT OF TIBET: I am extremely sorry to hear of the tragic death of Mahatma Candhi who lived and died for peace. I pray to God for the soul of Gandhi and I am holding special religious service. I wish to express my sincere sympathy and condolence. Hope you will continue to fulfil his noble cause for world peace.

TURKEY—The President of the Council: Mahatma Gandni's loss is a misfortune which hits the entire humanity.

President of the Grand National Assembly. Ankara, Turkey: The Grand National Assembly during its meeting held an February 3 came to know with greatest sorrow of the death of the great leader, Gandhi, victim of a horrible crime. On behalf of the Grand National Assembly and on my own behalf I request you. Mr. President, to accept and convey to the Constituent Assembly, the expression of our profound sympathy, in assuring you at the same time of the active share that we are partaking in the profound sorrow which has befallen your country.

UGANDA—The Governor: On my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and the people of Uganda I convey to Your Excellency profound sympethy in the tragic and untimely death of Mahatma Gandhi.

UNITED KINGDOM—His Majesty the King: The Queen and I are deeply shocked by the news of the death of Mr. Gandhi. Will you please convey to the people of India our sincere sympathy in irreparable loss which they, and indeed mankind, have suffered.

Prime Minister, Mr. ATTLEE: "I hasten on behaf of the United Kingdom Government to express to you and to your colleagues our profound distress on the tragedy. The loss of his unique personality will be received with sorrow not only in this country but in all parts of the world. We all of us here are deeply grieved at the passing of this great servant of humanity".

Statement from 10, Downing St: The tragic news of Mahatma Gandhi's death has come to H. M. G. as a profound shock. No man has played a greater part in his country's history. Throughout his long life he strove for peace and condemned the resort to violence. His loss will be mourned by countless thousan's in all walks of life in every country of the world. His moral and spiritual leadership have been an inspiring example in a distracted and troubled age and Britain will share India's great grief at Lis calamity.

Mr. HERBERT MORRISON. Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council: "This is terrible news and a tragic end to the life of a great and remarkable man".

LORD LISTOWEL, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India: "I feel deep sympathy with the peoples of India in the tragic loss of the greatest spiritual force in the world today. Mahatma Gandhi has been the outstanding figure in the struggle for peace in the present generation. His loss will be felt everywhere.

Mr. BEVIN, Foreign Minister: "Words fail adequately to express what we all feel for the loss India and the whole world has sustained in this terrible event.

That India may find the peace for which he strove is our earnest hope".

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, Chancellor of the Exchequer: "The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi is a tragedy of the deepest intensity for India and the world. He had exercised a most powerful influence for peace in the tense situation which has ruled since the coming of independence, and the loss of that strong and calming personality in these critical times will be deplored by all who seek for a peaceful solution of the world's difficulties.

"To his friends the loss will be even greater. His faith in non-violence was expressed not only in words but in his actions and in the self-sacrifice which he showed throughout his life.

"There has been no greater spiritual leader in the world in our time. His loss will mean a setback and discouragement for those who, like him, believe above all in the spiritual values".

Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I am shocked at this wicked crime.

LORD HALIFAX, former Viceroy of India: "The news of Mr. Gandhi's murder is the news of a great tragecy to India and to the cause for which at any time he was willing to give his life.

"No one has tried to serve India with greater devotion, and his triends in India and elsewhere will only hope that the lesson and effect of his tragic death may be to bring all his countrymen to understand and practise the principles that he so constantly and faithfully preached.

"I suppose there can be few men in all history who, by personal character and example, have been able so deeply to influence the thought of their generations".

Mr. L. S. AMERY, former Secretary of State for India: "All Englishmen, without difference of party, will have deeply regretted the news. It is tragic to think that he who all his life preached communal unity to Indians should himself have fallen a victim to the frenzy of communal passion.

His death comes at the close of a great chapter in world history. In the mind of India at least he will always be identified with the opening of the new chapter which, however troubled at the outset, we should all hope will develop in peace, concord and prosperity for India.

#### BELOVED TEACHER OF INDIA

LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE, former Secretary of State for India. "It is a great shock to learn of the cruel assassination of my intimate friend, Gandhiji, beloved teacher of India. I know that there is one wish that he would have had above all else. That is that his death should not be revenged or made the occasion for further bloodshed and violence, but should lead to reconciliation among all the peoples in the great sub-continent of Asia".

LORD WAVELL, former Viceroy of India: "Mr. Gandhi's death will mean

irreparable loss to the unity of India. I never imagined he would go out like that. He, an old man, seemed to indicate that he would live a long time. He never seemed to be protected in any way.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: "It is dangerous to be good, Gandhi was never afraid to say and do the right thing".

Mr. A. C. B. SYMON, Acting High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India: "Mahatma Gandhi belonged exclusively to no one nation, creed or community. At his prayer meetings and in his devotion, he used texts from Hindu, Muslim. Christian and other scriptures—all of which to him were different readings of the one great truth. It was the message of love and tolerance which he showed to be the essence of all the great religions that formed the basis of his world-wide influence and which will endure to the future benefit of the world.

"His only cause was the defence of the non-privileged and his only weapon truth and non-violence. In the confusion through which the world is now passing, we are sadly in need of such forthrightness and sanity and we are all poorer for the loss of this great yet humble man.

U. S. S. R.—M. ANDREI GROMYKO, the Soviet Delegate: "As one of the outstanding leaders of India, Mr. Gandhi has certainly left a deep mark on the history of India. "The name of Mr. Gandhi will always be linked with the truggle which the Indian people led over such a long period for their national liberation".

M. VASSILY TARASENKO (Ukraine) said: "Mr. Gandhi convinced his followers that internal strife was not in the interests of the people, but in the interests of those who wanted to maintain the domination of India.

"It is my hope and conviction that the death of Mr. Gandhi will not halt the work of the Indian people in its struggle for a stable Government and the building up of their sovereignty".

#### GIANT AMONG MEN

U. S. A.—President TRUMAN: "Gandhi was a great Indian nationalist but at the same time he was a leader of international stature. As a teacher and eader, his influence made itself felt not only in India but everywhere in the world, and his death brings great sorrow to all peace-loving people. Another giant among men has fallen in the cause of brotherhood and peace. I know that the people of Asia will be inspired by his tragic death to strive with increased determination for that for which the Mahatma has now given his life".

ALBERT EINSTEIN, the noted Physicist: "Everyone concerned in the better future of mankind must be deeply moved by the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi. He died as the victim of his own principle, the principle of non-violence. He died because in times of disorder and general irritation in his country, he refused armed protection for himself. It was his unshakable belief that the use

of force is an evil in itrelf, that therefore it must be avoided by those who are striving for supreme justice to this belief. With this belief in his heart and mind, he has led a great nation on to its liberation.

"He has demonstrated that a powerful human following can be assembled not only through the cunning game of the usual political manoeuvres and trickaries, but through the cogent example of a morally superior conduct of life.

"The admiration for Mahatma Gandhi in all countries of the world reets on recognition, mostly sub-conscious recognition, of the fact that in our time of utter moral decadence, he was the only statesman to stand for a higher level of human relationship in the political sphere. This level we must, with all our forces, attempt to reach. We must learn the difficult lesson that an endurable future of humanity will be possible only if also in international relations decisions are based on law and justice and no one self-righteous power, as they have been up to now".

PEARL BUCK: The death of Gandhiji by violence struck a blow not only to India's rising prestige in the west but to the whole cause of freedom of people. Today the enemies of this cause rejoice while others mourn the passing of one of the greatest men of human history.

Dr. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, Minister, Community Church, New York: Gandhiji was the greatest Indian since Gautama Buddha and the greatest man the world has seen since Jesus Christ.

#### A GREAT HUMAN SPIRIT

Dr. HENRY GRADY, U. S. Ambassador in India: "The whole world is grieved over the death of Mahatma Gandhi, who was a world figure and who made a rich contribution to the spiritual life of men everywhere.

"The world is a better world for his having lived, but the greatness of this extraordinary man will not die with him. The spirit of Mahatma Candhi will live and grow and his influence will increase with the years. Those things he lived for, those doctrines of man's innate goodness, and those precepts of brotherly love which he taught and lived for and for which he gave his life will be a source of increasing inspiration to the people not only of his own country, but of the whole world. A great human spirit lives on though his body has returned to dust. Just as the evil of men persists in its influences on humanity, so the goodness of men equally persists.

ZANZIBAR—British President, Zanzibar: On behalf of His Highness and His Highness's Government I convey my sincerest sympathies to you and to the people of India in the death of Mahatma Gandhi.

SALVATION ARMY—General ALBERT ORSBORN, International leader of the Salvation Army: "The Salvation Army throughout the world expresses its deep sympathy with your

self and India in your inexpressible loss of one of the world's greatest men, Mahatma Gandhi, honoured by all creeds and races. I pray divine meroy may overrule wickedness of murderers so that the interest of peace may everywhere be strengthened".

#### MOST NOBLE IDEALS

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION M. VAN LANGENHOVE, President of the Security Council, soid: "Mr. Gandhi set to the world a great example of absolute devotion to the most noble ideals. The far-reaching effect of his life and teaching will continue despite his death. All those in his country as well as in the rest of the world who remain faithful to his memory will go on spreading his ideals of non-violence and understanding on which the U. N. is founded".

Mr. BYRON PRICE, the Acting Secretary of the United Nations: "The tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi is an irretrievable loss to mankind particularly at a time when the world is in such need of spiritual leadership to surmount the grave problems besetting the peoples. He was a man of peace and as such exemplified the highest principles of the United Nations. We mourn his passing and hope his sacrifice may serve to further the lofty ideals to which he dedicated his life. Please convey to your Government and people of India our deep sympathy".

JULIAN HUXLEY, Director-General of UNESCO: "Please permit mo to convey my personal profound sympathy with you and the people of India at the tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi. He will survive as an immortal symbol of understanding between men in the world torn with misunderstanding".

#### FRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

(Continued from Page 415)

members react to attempts being made to improve them, but I react strongly against it. If anybody is going to sermonize me, well, I am not going to listen to that sermon. I think that is the general public psychological reaction too much sermonizing, too much attempt to benefit, too much urge to be good, does not yield in good results.

One must approach differently. If you want to educate, you must do it in an amusing way, entertaining way, in a light way, sometimes in a heavy way too if you like, just as you cannot train a child by simply dozing him with heavy stuff all the time. You just ruin his life if you do that. So you must treat better. I suggest these are matters for experts to consider. The fact that we have to increase our rural propaganda broadcasts has tempted you to do it. So I think it would be desirable for members of separate committees to consider them and coordinate their activities and advise the Ministry, and thus gradually we might approve.

I am sorry I have not dealt with many of the matters raised, but I have suggested the way that should be followed in order to deal with them.



The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru speaking on the historic occasion of the launching of 'Jala Usha', India's first home-built modern naval vessel, at Vizagapatam on March 14

### FIRST INDIA-MADE STEAMER LAUNCHED

## Pandit Nehru's Address At Ceremony

OW we must go back to our mother of sea and send our ships fear-lessly. Let that sea be a symbol for us for future. Let us send the ship of State, that is India, into the sea with a stout heart and in this way not only develop India but enhance her stature and co-operate with other nations and venture with a stout heart more and more in future", said the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, launching the ship "Jalausha" at Vizagapatam on March 14.

#### Pandit Nehru said:

"In launching this ship all manner of thoughts come to us, specially on such an occasion when the first Indian ship of this size that has been built and launched after centuries. Inevitably one thinks of the ages when ship-building was the premier industry in India. Somehow, we come to appreciate the past ages and the Middle ages which have done much good and much ill to our country and which have formed part of our history. In doing so one thinks partly of shipbuilding but more so for the sake of country itself. Somehow, the launching of a ship brings to mind the analogy of the ship of State which was also launched a few months back in India and which has gone through stormy weather. We have survived and are surviving the storms but we have plenty of storms to face in India. Indeed all over the world more storms are continuing and there are many shead. But I think we have shown that we are strong enough and are resolved to face them. As I was atching this good ship "Jalausha" launched into the sea I thought the ship of State entering the sea.

#### Not an Isolated People

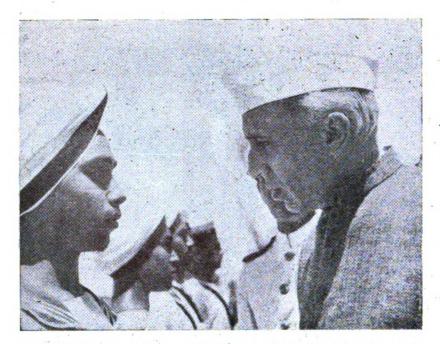
"India is an old country and I have always thought of India as the offspring of mountains and seas, the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean embracing her on two sides, and so I have always thought of India not as an isolated country from the rest of the world but a country eminently suited for closest and widest intercourse with other countries of the world. Unfortunately in recent years—200 years, more specially during the last 150 years—it is becoming isolated both by mountains and by seas. All our contacts with western countries of the world, chiefly England, have been only through sea. But other contacts were ended and cut off. We lost touch with the Highland of Central Asia and eastern and western Asia and we lost our sea contacts also in the earlier age. Indian History tells us of greater enter-prises across the seas and across mountains and we were not an isolated people in those days. We looked forward as we ventured in seas and took mettle and culture of India to far off countries.

Narrow-mindedness was unheard of in those days. But with the passage of time we have developed a sort of narrow-

mindedness in the name of religion. What kind of religion is it that prevents men from meeting men? In the name of religion it has suggested a sin to under-take a sea voyage. What kind of religion is it that prevents man from going to his mother and trusting his mother? If one is not to trust his mother, father, and brother how can one live and progress.
We have had enough of this religion
and narrow mindedness in outlook. We
grow afraid of sea, our mother. If we grow afraid of our mother and distrust her, wherein can we rest ourselves and take shelter in times of danger? Now we must go back to our mother of sea and send our ships fearlessly. Let that see be a symbol for us for future. Let us send the ship of State, that is India, into the sea with a stout heart and in this way not only develop India but enhance her stature and co-operate with other nations and venture with a stout heart more and more in future.

Isolation means, in future, death and ruin of the country. To every great country, however big, isolation means standing apart from the world. It means getting behind in progress of the world. We are not looking forward to go and interfere with the lives of other countries. We seek no Dominion over others. We seek friendship of all and co-operation of all. At the same time we brook no interference from outside. So it is in this spirit I have launched this ship and let this sprit of adventure, mercantile or naval enterprise be carried on.

In this port of Vizagapatam we are not only building up this shipbuilding industry but it is also an important Naval base. It being the most import-



Pandit Nehru talking to an Indian Naval Cadet during his inspection of the Naval Cadets at Vizagapatam

ant port on the Eastern Coast of India I should like the Naval Base to develop and I should like our young men, bright youngmen, to join the Navy. Personally I would like to join the Navy myself had I been young. If there is anything I am more attracted to than the Navy it is the Air. But unfortunately life has dealt with me very badly and I am in office desk which I nate most. I understand fishermen from Orissa are applying to join the Navy. I welcome these applications but before they can be recruited they will have to acquire some required standards. It is therefore our duty to facilitate their attaining the standards that are required.

In your speech, Mr. Chairman, there is a strange and rather astounding phrase used; that is about harmonious relations between the Government and the Indus try. Is Industry a rival of our Government? Government will help Industry in every way. If Industry does not function efficiently the Government interferes and takes it over. Government is going to encourage industry. Industry will become one hundred per cent. Government if it does not function efficiently. Shipping will not suffer and will go on at all costs and at every cost. How it is going on is another matter. Rest assured, the Government is intimately interested in encouraging the industry. We are beholden to the Scindia Company for the enterprise it has snown in the past. Enterprise will always be encouraged. It has waged ceaseless struggle against foreign vested interests. Inevitably this vital enterprise must come more and more under the control of the State. After all, people who build ships-from the top men sitting in your office to workmen who actually do the job—do not really matter. Whatever happens, take it from me, the technical personnel and managerial personnel who con-tribute to making of magnificent things will not be undergoing any change.

They remain the same. It is only that somewhere at the top certain changes controlling matters of policy and profits will come about. I am glad to learn that in your dockyard there prevails a feeling of amity and comradeship between employers and employees and you are following the principle of industrial truce that we have laid down some time ago. I think one of the most important things for us to realise today is that industrial warfare injures and weakens nation, at any time, of course, but more especially today, when we have just

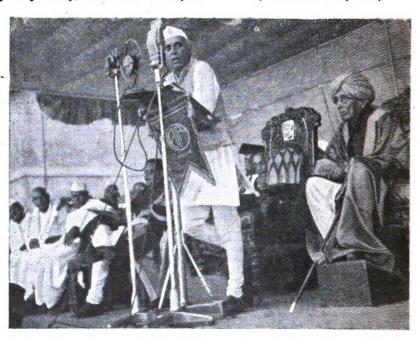
sunched our ship of the State. If the crew of the ship starts non-co-operation how will the ship start its voyage.

I have a feeling that things are not well in Madras Presidency. Not here of course but in some other places. Without going into merits and demerits of this uneasiness I want to tell you that that kind of thing cannot be tolerated. It will be up to the Madras Government and the Government of India, so far as they are concerned, to prevent this strife. I have been watching from a distance that some strikes are organised just for the sake of strike without even resulting in any good to the worker. This sort of strike merely for the sake of strife without any good being done to anybody cannot be tolerated. There is a spirit of violence abroad. That too cannot be tolerated. We are a democratic country and we want to give the largest measure of freedom of opinion, of action and of expression to each group even though we may differ from them. Freedom does not mean violence or instigation to violence. If there is instigation to violence, as there is in this Presidency, it will have to be dealt with seriously. We are living in critical times not only in this country but in the world. None knows what the morrow will bring. At times swift action, wherever necessary, will have to be taken to keep the stup of State moving even though the waters may be stormy. All the world over things are getting rougher and rougher. Therefore, we cannot entangle ourselves into the world difficulties and problems. Yet we cannot escape them either. We have to look at things in proper perspective.

#### Industrial Peace Vital

We have to keep an effective eye on the maintenance of peace in the country. If we lead a disciplined life and solve our own problems, industrial and others,

(Continued on Page 449)



Pandit Nehru addressing the special Convocation of the Andhra University held on March 14, to accord a welcome to the Prime Minister on the occasion of his visit to Vizagapatam. The Maharaia of Jeypore, Pro-Chancellor of the University appears on the right

# Leaders Of Nation Hail REBIRTH OF INDIA'S SHIPBUILDING Launching Of Jalausha INDUSTRY

Greetings, good wishes, congratulations and predictions of a great future were expressed in the numerous messages which were received at Vizagapatam on March 14, on the occasion of the launching of "Jala-Usha".

The President of the Indian National Congress, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who had laid in 1941 the foundation stone for the shipyard at "Gandhigram" has written on the present occasion, "I need hardly add how happy I am to see the first 8000-tonner built in India being launched".

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister of Industry and Supply, who had visited the Shipyard on Jan. 1, 1948, has now wished success for the ceremony, which "opens a new phase in our industrial enterprise". The Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh has wired, "I am deeply interested in the development of our merchant Navy and you have my best wishes for the occasion". "Your contribution will go down in history as a great achievement in India's marine enterprise", writes the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, and the Hon'ble Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar has expressed the hope "that Jala-usha will be a forerunner of a series of similar ships".

Similar messages have been received from the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Hon'ble Shri R.K. Shan mukham Chetty, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai and the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Numerous messages have also been received from he Ministers of the Provinces. To cite one of them, the Hon'ble Shri B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay writes:—"I hope "Jala Usha" will be a precursor of many more mighty steamers which will be the pride of the country".

#### Message from Pakistan

The Hon'ble Mr. I. I. Chundrigar has sent the following message:

"Let me, however, congratulate you on building a steamer of this tonnage for the first time in the Indian sub-continent and let me wish you success in your programme of shipbuilding".

Of the many messages received from leaders of Indian industry one from Sir M. Visvesvarayya is typical. In his letter to Scindia Company he says: "It was under your leadership that the Aircraft factory in Bangalore was constructed. You are building an Automobile industry in Bombay and the first ship under your direction has been successfully built in Vizag. The Indian public have reason to thank you and congratulate you on the great strides you and your associates have made in promoting Indian transport services. With every good wish for the success of the launching ceremouy".

The office of the Federal Public Service Commission has moved down to Council House, New Delhi, says a Press Communique. All communications intended for the Commission should hereafter be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Council House, New Delhi.

N March 14, 1948, India's Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, launched "s.s. Jalausha", the first steamer made in India by Indian labour and with the aid of Indian finance. This event will be long remembered as inaugurating the revival of a great industry in India, an industry which, in all its glory of achievement, had once fully symbolised her civilisation.

The event will make a landmark in free India's history also for another important reason, for hitherto the country's struggle for freedom and her people's struggle for acquiring sufficient shipping strength had run a parallel course. When after nearly 20 years of plucky fight against foreign interests, the Scindia Company signalised their enduring stability by erecting their new office building "Scindia House" in Bombay, they celebrated its opening in December 1938 as a national event.

Then Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who performed the opening ceremony, declared, "It was 20 years ago that India launched the vessel of independence and it was about the same time on 5th April, 1919, that the Scindia Company elso first launched its first steamer on the high waters. It was in this very April of 1919 that India began its striggle against the Rowlatt Act on the principles of truth and non-violence".

In a message sent on the occasion, Shri C. Rajagopalachari the significant relation between the nation's freedom fight and the struggle of Indian shipping. He added, "I may claim that this struggle started at Tuticorin with Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company for which the late Shri V. O. Chidambaran Pillai suffered. That Company broke on account of political complications".

#### Overwhelming Odds

If Indian shipping had thus to go through a process of overwhelming odds, the story of ship-building in India remained for long one of complete obstruction. But Indian enterprise won through unremitting endeavour, when in 1941 a beginning was made with the

### PT. NEHRU'S SPEECH (Continued from Page 448)

I hope industry will prosper. Industry will have above all to seek and solve its own problems certainly with the help of the Government. I hope the workers too will realise if there is ever a time of strike, certainly this is not the time for it. There are too many perils and dangers ahead. The weapon of strike is a precious and valuable one and it should not be used haphazardly. We must evolve proper and sane alternatives to strike to govern industrial relations if we are to progress as a nation. Any system that depends on periodical conflicts is not sane or reasonable. So I congratulate you again on this venture. May this ship that we have launched today be the beginning of many other ships, big and small, and may they carry the message of India to all corners of the world".

establishment of a site for ship-building at Vizagapatam. The site was called Gandhigram, where the foundation-stone for the ship-yard was laid in June 1941 by Dr. Rajenrda Prasad. This occasion was also treated by India's leaders as a national event, Mahatma Gandhi himself sending the Company the following message; "May your enterpise be successful and may it be beneficial to the whole country". Sardar Patel and his colleagues of the Congress Working Committee were then in jail, but from there they conveyed their blessings, to which Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who was present at the ceremony, added her own "hearty blessings to the ships that would be built in the yard, to all merchandise that would go, to all the passengers that would go, to all the vessels and most of all, to the ambassadors who will carry to the end of the earth the message of the great Mahatma."

#### Growth of Gandhigram

Vizagapatam was chosen for the location of the shipyard for several definite reasons. Already the important Port of Andhra-Desha, a natural harbour, it offered 55 acres of virgin land with 30 feet deep water frontage and suitable tidal range for launching large ships practically during any season of the year. The relative proximity of steel work and the availability of 150-300 acres of land for laying out a small town on modern town-planning principles for workers and their families were among the factors which prompted the experts and the Company to select the present site of the ship-building yard.

Though the foundation stone of Vizagapatam Yard was laid in 1941 the progress of work was interrupted in 1942 owing to enemy air-raids, and the staff, machinery and equipment had to be shifted to Bombay. The construction of the Yard at Vizagapatam was resumed in 1943; but, owing to the war, the progress of work was severely retarded.

By 1947, however, the work had progressed to a stage, when the shipyard consisted of two Shipways or berths for building the ships together with other necessary capital and technical equipment. The total amount invested in the Yard comes to about Rs. 4 crores. At present the Yard has a building capacity of two 8 to 10 thousand tonners per year; and a scheme for expansion of the existing lay-out into a eight-berth Yard, it is understood, is under consideration. In order to construct ships with component parts manufactured in India as far as possible, plans are also being prepared to build marine engines in the Shipyard.

#### Shipyard's Capacity

The Shipyard can build ocean-going vessels with a maximum length of 550-ft. and a maximum carrying capacity of 12,000-tons cargo. The yard comprises several pucca-built workshops, such as hull shops, machine shops, a carpenter's shop, joiner's shop, blacksmith's shop, foundry, power-house, a 1,000-ft. long fitting-out jetty, storage places, etc.



In the hull shope all steel materials are fabricated for erection of the new ships. The shops are equipped with heavy machinery like one-man punching machines, shaping, plate bending and shearing machines, etc. and also electric overhead travelling cranes. The 1,000-ft. fitting-out wharf or the jetty is used for installing propelling and other machinery as well as electrical equipment in the ship, after she is launched from the berth and towed to the jetty. The jetty is being fitted with travelling derrick cranes and a 100-ton Hammertravelling head crane for lifting heavy machinery, the jetty can simultaneously accommodate two or three large ocean-going vessels. Sufficient storage spaces are provided for different materials viz., timber, steel and general stores, a railway siding has been planned to run right into the yard to facilitate transport of materials. Overlooking the entire yard, situated on a hill within the yard premises, are the main administrative offices, including an up-to-date and well-equipped Drawing Office.

The Yard employs at present over 3,000 workers, more than half of whom are skilled or semi-skilled in the various engineering trades. Several experts in shipbuilding who have visited the Yard, have spoken appreciatively of the quality of workmanship at Vizagapatam. With efficient supervision and with the setting up of special trade-training schemes, the Indian workers will acquire proper technique in ship construction in next 3 to 5 years. The ships are built under the supervision of the Lloyd's Surveyor and they will be placed in the highest class, viz., ÷100—Al at Lloyds.

#### Technical Experts

As shipbuilding is a highly specialised industry, the Scindia Company engaged from the very beginning 7 European technical experts with considerable experience in British shipyards. In addition, the Company has engaged several Indian technicians with previous experience in engineering workshops besides Bevin Boys and Degree and Diploma holders in Engineering, engaged for training in various sections. Thus, over 50 technicians are under training for supervisory work. The Company has also a scheme under which it has sent 10 tried Indian technicians to the U. K. for higher training in Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering in British Shipyards and intends to send 10 more men as those now in the U. K. return to India.

The s. s. "Jalausha" is a single-screw cargo steamer having a deadweight capacity of 8000-tons on a draft of 25 ft. The vessel's dimensions are overall length 415 ft., moulded breadth 52 ft. and moulded depth 30'-6". The vessel is propelled by a single screw triple expansion reciprocating engine developing 2,600 horse power. The steam for the motive power will be supplied by three coal-fired single-ended Scotch boilers. The vessel is designed for a trial speed of 11½ knots and is expected to maintain a speed of 10½ knots in service. The accommodation for the Officers and crew and 12 passengers is being arranged in accordance with the latest convention adopted at the International Maritime Conference at Seattle.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad while laying the foundation stone of the ship-yard in 1941 had said, "Today we may not be able

to give you anything more than our sympathy and moral support and even consolation in your disappointment. but there is always a tomorrow, and the brighter tomorrow for a nation can never fail to rise". And seven years after, on January 1, 1948, i.e., four months and half after India's achievement of political freedom, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister of Industry and Supply, visiting Gandhigram declared, "I can give you this assurance that in the next few weeks, it will be possible for the Government of India to enunciate its main industrial policy and also to determine, in order of priority, the items of work that have to be taken in hand as soon as possible and, obviously, building of aeroplanes and ships will occupy a very prominent place".

The Scindia and its associated companies have at present 22 big and 18 small ships. They lost during the last war 7 big and 4 small ships due to enemy action. These organisations had built in the United Kingdom 8 big and ten small ships between 1927 and 1938 and one big ship in 1946. Their tonnage now on order in the United Kingdom consists of 6 big and 2 small ships which will cost over Rs. 54 crores; two of these viz., s. s. Jalazad and s. s. Jalsawahar were launched in September, 1947. Of the two 8,000-tonners whose construction has been undertaken at the Company's Yard at Vizagapatam, the first, viz., "s. s. Jalausha" was launched on March 14 and the second, six months thereafter.

In 1949, the Company expects to launch 3 similar ships, from 1950 onwards, the Company hopes to build every year five or more 8,000-10,000-tonners at the Vizagapatam Yard.

The tonnage on the Indian register today is in the neighbourhood of 3 lakhs. The target set by the Government and the country is 20 lakhs of tons for carrying India's entire coastal trade and for substantial carriage of overseas import and export trades in Indian bottoms.

According to the data submitted by the Government of India's Ministry of Industry and Supply to the Industries Conference there are six firms in India capable of undertaking new construction, three in Calcutta, two in Bombay and one at Vizagapatm. The target set for construction in the first instance is 10,000 gross tons per annum, which is their present productive capacity. This would, however, be followed by a second phase of development from 1950, when it is expected to build 50,000 gross tons per year. For this phase at least 50 building berths would be required, out of which provision for 8 berths would appear to have already been made by Scindia Company. The note of the Ministry of Industry and Supply adds that it will be necessary to construct three more shipyards in order to lay out the other building berths.

It is in the context of these facts that the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee gave his assurance to shipbuilding industry in India. The Prime Minister's visit to Gandhigram to launch "Jalausha" was a further token of the Government's interest. Pandit Nehru inaugurated a national activity which may result in realising one of his earlier dreams. For exactly ten years ago, he had said wistfully, "We have been in the past a great maritime nation, and even today we have the talents, the trained men and the resources to build up great shipping services. The Scindia Company has been a pioneer in this field and in spite of opposition and obstruction, has made good. It has deserved its success. But this is only the beginning. I am impatient to see Indian ships carrying the flag of India across distant seas to far away countries".

Ten years have passed since this statement was made, but with the nation's success in the freedom struggle there are ample signs to show that Pandit Nehru's hopes are bearing fulfilment. His launching of Jalausha on March 14 was the first step taken towards that end.

### WOOD TO RELIEVE STEEL SHORTAGE

An informal conference of the representatives of the Ministries of Industry and Supply, Defence, Railways, Communications, Transport and the Power Board was held in New Delhi on March 4. under the chairmanship of Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary, to discuss the possibility of replacing, to some extent, steel by treated timber. Others who attended the meeting included Mr. A.P.F. Hamilton, Inspector General of Forests and Dr. S. Kamesam who has done extensive work on treating timber.

The chairman suggested that the test possible use of the country's resources should be made so that there could be a saving in the consumption of steel which was in extremely short supply. As against India's annual demands of 2,000,000 tons of steel, the availability it is understood is not more than 1,000,000 tons.

Dr. Kamesam explained that if wood was treated properly, it could last for a number of years and he instanced the case of 12,000 miles of transmission lines in Mysore and Travancore, which were

carried by wooden posts.

As a result of the discussions held there was general agreement on the following points:—Certain Government Departments and other users of steel could use treated timber. Further details of the requirements particularly of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Power Board would be made available shortly; a joint technical committee should be set up to examine the whole problem and in particular the question of the availability of timbers for which the Forest authorities of the Central Government would collect the necessary material. On the basis of this it would be decided where the treating plants could be established.

It was also agreed that a public corporation should be given the management of the plants; the share capital of which would be subscribed by the Central, Provincial Governments and the public, and that the Central Government would arrange for technical supervision.

Experts are of the view, that if the scheme is implemented, it would revolutionise the working of Indian forests.

### INADEOUACY OF NATIONAL WEALTH

### Dr. Mookerjee's Appeal For Maximum Production

LL our hopes and aspirations will be shattered to pieces if we are not prepared to observe complete industrial peace and concentrate all our energies in producing to the maximum of our capacity. This alone will pave the way for effecting a planned development of India's economic resources", said the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, broadcasting in the "PRODUCE OR PERISH" series from All India Radio, Delhi, on March 7.

Following is the full text of the broadcast:

"India today is engaged in a race against time. The prize is the consolidation of the freedom that has been gained. And the only way in which we can win this prize is for all to agree to work for the common good and to devote our energies for the promotion of peace and harmony in the country. Then only will come that unity and strength which will sustain an ancient Nation in the trials that it has to face in the hour of resurrection. Indeed the trials we are facing are very sombre and they have darkened to a tragic gloom with the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. This marks the very culmination of our troubles and to add to them, we are in the midst of an economic crisis affecting the welfare of the common man. There is, therefore, no room for complacency, this is not the time to think of sectional good as against the common good of us

How to achieve this common good? It may be done by redressing the evils that arise from the inadequacy of things that make life worth living and by the provision of social services that protect citizens from disease and bring enlightenment to their homes. The struggle for freedom has ceased to be. But the freedom that has come must be maintained and enriched. There looms ahead the much greater struggle on the home front against our old enemieshunger, poverty, ignorance and disease and their attendant host of social evils.

#### Food Problem

First in importance is food. It has been estimated that even to maintain our present low standard of nutrition, we require at least two million tons of cereals in addition to what we produce. This food we have been importing from abroad at an abnormally high price, costing us annually more than 100 crores of rupees It is a shame that a country where 75 per cent of the people are engaged in agriculture, cannot produce food sufficient for its needs. And the margin to be covered is not large. Only ten per cent increase in production will do. It is well known how the problem can . be solved. It consists in adopting improved methods of cultivation, in providing facilities for timely cultivation, a not comprehensive and inexhaustible, in encouraging collective farming and in bringing marginal waste lands under

cultivation. I do not propose to refer to long-range projects of irrigation and manufacture of synthetic fertilizers which have been taken in hand by Government.

Leaving these aside, our immediate problem is the development of a largescale organisation which would stimulate each village community to constructive patriotic effort for averting the food crisis. For such an organisation, we must be able to draw upon the devoted enthusiesm of the conscious minority who formed the spearhead of our political str ggle and who believed in sacrificing everything they had for human betterment in this lead.

#### Industrial Situation

In the field of industrial production, the situation is equally grave. Our factories, under the stimulus of the war, reached peak production in 1944 and 1945. Ever since the end of the war, this production has continuously declined. This has resulted in considerable installed capacity lying idle, and throwing people out of employment. Indeed we are now facing an industrial crisis of a type we have never seen before. Modern industry operates on many fronts, but they are so intimately linked together that slowing down in one front affects progress in all others. I visited the coal fields recently and found that coal was accumulating at pit's head mainly because of insufficiency of transport. For want of coal a large number of important industries were dwindling away. Again at Viza-gapatam, I was told of the possibility of the skilled workers in the ship-building yard being thrown out of employment if the full requirements of steel plates were not received in time. These are only typical examples. But they illustrate the point of view that the pattern of modern industries is so interwoven that you cannot touch one chord without affecting another.

#### Cost of Living

Side by side with this state of affairs, there has been a continuous rise in the cost of living in terms of the rupee. The reason is that the gar between spendable income and the dwindling volume of goods is be oming greater every day. The currency in circulation has been practically stabilised. But if the goods available for distribution continually decline, prices are bound to show progressive increase. This results in severe discontent of workers who demand an enhancement in wages and salaries. But this is a vicious circle which in the end benefits none. The only way to break this circle is to make goods more plentiful by utilising to the fullest extent our machinery for production. This requires a sustained and planned effort on the part of Covernment, management and labour.

Our basic resources, though certainly are sufficient to make India an industrially advanced country under a pro-

perly devised economic system. Though the figures of production achieved in various fields look impressive, advertised as they were under the pressure of war. time publicity, they still remain, generally speaking, a modest affair, when compared to corresponding figures of production in more advanced countries. Further, in more advanced countries. Further, India's production in every case falls considerably short of normal consumption, which is itself very low compared to levels in other countries. Though the pace of industrialisation seemed fairly quick during the war, it has received a disastrous setback since the cessation of hostilities, the present position being that unless special efforts are put forth in every sector of industry and in industry as a whole, production may quickly collapse.

#### Shortages in Products

It is this critical and precarious phase of our economy which requires immediate attention. So fer we have been able only to diagnose the malady. is due both to certain external causes, which we can remove if we want to. We want capital goods and certain essential raw materials from abroad, which are either themselves in world shortage or need exchange resources in excess of what are available at the moment. Privations arising from these, however, affect mainly our long-term planning, and they may be gradually overcome through a period of a few years. Meanwhile, the internal causes which contribute to the industrial decline have to be overcome.

Everyone knows these causes. They may be mentioned as shortage in certain essentials produced in the country, such as steel, cement, paper, which again are due largely to difficulties in transport and the consequent failure of basic raw materials, particularly coal, to move to production centres. Connected with this problem and also standing by itself as a major social phenomenon of postwar India is the problem of labour anrest. Curiously enough, this unrest is itself the result of low production and the consequent famine in goods necessary for human satisfaction. This unrest has found political expression through strikes and propaganda, but its remedy lies not in political agitation but in ensuring more production. In any case instead of going round and round the vicious circle of argument as to which is the cause, labour troub e or low production, it is wiser to begin the remedy from the proluction end. For there will not be any grave labour problem, if we produce enough; but the gravest consequences will ensure if we fail to produce enough much longer. The slogan, "Produce or longer. The slogan, "Produce or Perish" has, therefore, the most direct significance to the workers themselves.

#### **Employers and Labour**

The Industries conference held in Delhi in the middle of December was fully representative of Government, management and labour. It unanimously recorded the view that there must be complete industrial peace in the country during the present period of transition and all interests must work whole-heartedly for increasing India's pro-duction. The resolution can only be implemented if both labour and manage. ment play their part in a spirit of true patriotism. Labour movement in India

must not be made the play-thing of politics. Inspite of differences in political opinion and outlook all groups must avoid the perilous path of strikes and go-slow processes which are not only ruinous to the country's interests but to the cause of the workers themselves.

Fmployers in their turn must usher in a new era of friendliness, trust and co-operation so that both labour and management may consider themselves as partners in the great task of increasing national wealth and prosperity. Today whoever interferes with increased pro duction, be he a manager or worker, capitalist, official or labour leader, he is guilty of grave betrayal of his country's periods of its history. Our objectives in production must be clearly outlined so that every one may feel that he is working not merely for his personal gain but for the services of the common man. No Government can do anything which perpetuate the present low standard of living of the workers and the masses. There must be a fair distribution of goods, utilities and other wealth so as to maximise the happiness and efficiency of the people. Let us not forget that increased production in essential directions alone can make the nation's defences proof against external challenge.

Today let us not fight with each other on the besis of mere "isms". Let us learn how to work together in national emergencies inspite of differences of opinion on economic or political matters. No Government can and will a low exploitation of one section of the people by another nor will public opinion tolerate accumulation of wealth in the hands of a fortunate few to the detriment of the welfare of the millions. These are vital problems which are bound to be adjusted in accordance with the will of the people.

#### Industrial Peace

Put all our hopes and aspirations will be shattered to pieces if we are not prepared to observe complete industrial peace and concentrate all our energies in producing to the maximum of our capacity. This alone will pave the way for effecting a planned development of India's economic resources. Let us all converge towards one and for promotion of those elements of human value and relation between man and man, the absence of which causes all kinds of social trouble, be it in industry or political affairs. Let us remember that the greatest menace to democracy today is inadequacy of national wealth That menace confronts us in India on the morrow of our freedom and it can only be averted if every Indian does his duty inspired by the feeling as if the future of his motherland depends on his right action and outlook. will be the fittest memorial to Gandhiji, the father of our nation.

Let every Indian produce with the fear that he may otherwise perish, let him produce with the hope that he thereby clears the path towards the goal of true freedom. This is our hour of destiny. If we full, the bright dawn which is ushering after nearly two centuries of political bondage, so full of hope for millions of men, will grow dark again. Let us realise he perithat confronts us and declare unequivocally that we shall not fail.

## VEGETABLE DRUG RESOURCES-A NEW THEODOLITE GONIOMETER

### Important Researches

MPORTANT researches have been made into the vast possibilities of drug resources available from Kashmir and Jammu. These territories represent a wide range of altitudinal and climatic variations. The maximum temperature goes upto 120° F. in shade in the foot hills of Jammu with an altitude of 900 ft. whereas in Kashmir, where the height above sea level ranges from 5,000 to 15,000 ft. or more, the maximum temperature does not rise above 100°F. With this wide range of climatic conditions the range of medicinal plants growing in Jammu and Kashmir is very wide indeed, and it would be difficult to find another area with such a variety of plants.

A little more than half of the plants used in the British Pharmacopaia grow there in a state of nature or are cultivated. The State has made efforts in recent years in the cultivation of drug plants, and under the leadership of Col. Sir Ram Nath Chopra the drug resources are being systematically investigated, in the State Drug Research Laboratory.

A description of about 40 medicinal plants with their distribution is given in a recent issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research. Analytical data are provided for comparison with the standards laid down in British Fharmacopæia.

The more important plants among them are :—A conitum Chasu anthum, (vern. Mohri, Banbalang), Arten isia brevifolia, Atropa acuminata (vern. jallalubar Angur shefa, Jall-ka-phal) Cal hirum Luteum (vern. Suranjan), Carum carui (vern. Zira), Digitalis purpurea (Foxglove). Datura stramonium (vrn. Dhatura), Dryopteris odontoloma and D. marginata, Digitalis lanata, Dryopteris fillixi as (vern. Kunji), Ephedra geradiana (ver. Asmania, Azmani-booti), Hyos ymus niger (vern. Bazar-bang, Ajwain, Khorasani), Juniper Conmunis, J. Oxycednis, J. marcopoda, Lavendula officinalis, Mentha piperata (vern. poodina), Papaver somniferum (Poste, Afuin), Podophyllum emodi, Rheum emodi (vern. Rewand chini) Urginea indiva (vern. Jangli Pyaz) and Valerium wallichi (Mushakbala).

The lesser important plants number about 16 and are found in Jammu and Kashmir either in a state of nature or in cultivated form. They can be commercially exploited to meet any demand. Plants which may be acclimatised and cultivated easily in Jammu and Kashmir are, Gassis angustifolia, Glycerhiza glabra (vern. Malathi), Arachis hypogea, Anethum graveolens, Ipecac, Cinchona and Strophanthis.

The Andhra Scientific Instruments Co., Masulipatam, has designed a new theodolite goniometer of a universal type of crystals at all possible orientations. An outline of the general features and the use of the instrument is given in another article appearing in the Journal.

The main features of the instrument are (1) two circular scales, one in the horizontal and the other in vertical plane; (2) the crystal-holder, (3) the Collinator with illuminating arrangement, and (4) the telescope with a combination objective enabling its use as a low-power microscope as well. The system is mounted on a rigid cast iron base providing with levelling screws for the adjustment of the scales exactly horizontal and the other vertical. The instrument is a self-contained unit provided with a low tension transformer feeding the illuminating system directly on the 220 volt A. C. mains. The instrument will be a valuable aid to X-ray specialists and crystallographers.

Design and development of scientific instruments by manufacturing firms are common in Western countries. Such activities are just beginning in this country, and private manufacturers by undertaking research and design of new instruments and improving the existing ones can greatly help progress of research, industry and instruction in educational institutions.

The other articles of interest in the Journal are recovery of wax from sugar factory press cake, and vitamin a content of shark liver oils.

#### INDO-PAKISTAN COTTON TEXTILE AGREEMENT

Negotiations which were proceeding between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, on the subject of making cotton textiles available to Pakistan as against cotton from Pakistan, have been finalised, and an agreement has been reached between the two Governments for the period ending Aug. 31, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on March 13.

Under the agreement India will make available 12 bales of cloth and yarn against every 20 bales of cotton received from Pakistan, both cotton textiles and cotton being subject to customs duties in the two Dominions. The Government of India have also agreed to make an ad hoc allotment of 25,000 bales of cloth to Pakistan against cotton already received in the Indian Dominion. The agreement comes into force immediately.

The trade will now proceed with purchases of cotton in Pakistan. The Pakistan Government have agreed to issue permits freely for export of the cotton so purchased to India.

Released officers of the Royal Indian Naval Reserve and Royal Indian Naval Volunteer Reserve who wish to be considered for the grant of a short Service Commission in the Executive, Engineering or Flectrical branches of the Royal Indian Navy may now apply forthwith to the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, Naval Headquarters, New Delbi

## SHORTER HOURS AND PERIODIC RESTS FOR

### RAILWAYMEN: ADJUDICATOR'S AWARD

SUPPORTING reduced hours of work for railway servants, Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha has recommended in his adjudication award proposals which would entail the engagement of about 79,000 more men by the Indian railways and an additional recurring expenditure of Rs. 6½ crores per annum.

He has also favoured a weekly rest of at least a full night and a full day for all 'continuous' and 'intermittent', workers and a fortnightly rest of 24 hours for other staff.

His other recommendations liberalise the existing leave rules for inferior and daily-rated staff and suggest the provision of satisfactory leave reserves.

Mr. Rajadhyaksha was appointed by Government of India in 1946, to adjudicate in the dispute between nine Government Railways (viz., N. W., E. I., B. N., B. A., G. I. P., B. B. C. I., O. T. M. S. M., and S. I.) and their workmen. The dispute was in respect of hours of work, periodic rests, leave reserves and leave rules and holiday concessions to daily-rated and inferior staff. The award of the adjudicator was submitted to the Government in May, 1947, and as such, covers all the State Railways that existed in undivided India.

The Report emphasizes that all categories of railway workers, including loco and traffic running staff such as engine crew, guards and brakesmen, should be brought within the scope of the hours of Employment Regulations and should be re-classified. These Regulations, which apply to railwaymen other than those who are governed by the Factories Act or the Mines Act, implement the I. L. O. Conventions of 1919 and 1921. They provide a 60-hour week, rest periods and overtime allowances for 'continuous' workers and an 84-hour week with no statutory rest for essentially 'intermittent' workers. Owing to the nature of their work, certain classes are excluded from the benefits conferred by the Regulations.

#### Re-Classification of Workers

The adjudicator has suggested the re-classification of railway servants into 'intensive', 'continuous', 'essentially intermittent' and 'excluded' categories instead of the present three categories. The intensive class will include section controllers, staff employed in line-clear work, yard staff, signallers on heavy circuits and wireless operators. Any railway servant employed continuously without a respite of at least six hours will be included in the 'continuous' class. Such of the staff whose work includes periods of inaction aggregating six hours or more will be classified as 'essentially intermittent'. The 'excluded' categories are to be limited to supervisory staff, health and medical services, persons employed in a confidential capacity, saloon attendants, etc.

In the matter of classification, the Report has stressed that the Chief Labour Commissioner should be the

fina authority to whom appeals should lie over the decisions of the Administrations. It is also recommended that the Chief Labour Commissioner's organisation should be strengthened and that each Railway Administration should have a separate organisation to supervise the application of the Regulations.

#### Hours of Work

The Report lays down that 'intensive' should be employed on four shitts of 6 hours each, 'continuous' workers three shitts of 8 hours each and 'essentially intermittent' staff on two shifts of 12 hours each. The statutory limits suggested are 45 hours per week for 'intensive' staff, 54 hours per week for 'continuous' workers and 75 hours per week for 'continuous' workers and 75 hours per week for 'essentially intermittent' workers. No limit is prescribed for the 'excluded' class but the Report cautions that "this should not absolve the administrations of the responsibility on humanitarian grounds, of seeing that unreasonable conditions are not imposed. It is suggested that the hours of work in respect of running staff should be calculated from their signing on to signing off.

A rest of at least 30 consecutive hours in a week, which will automatically include a full night and a full day, is recommended for all 'intensive' and 'continuous' workers. A 24-hour period, including a full night, is suggested as weekly rest for 'essentially intermittent' workers. For 'excluded' inferior staff, a period of 48 consecutive hours in a month or 24 consecutive hours in a fortnight is recommended as the minimum rest. The keport has suggested the employment of special staff by the Railways for the provision of this relief.

#### "Geneva A. S. Ms."

Under the present rules, a weekly rest of 24 consecutive hours is prescribed for 'continuous' workers. According to the Report, this entails great hardship on certain staff such as Assistant Station Masters who are obliged to work once or twice a week for 12 hours at the stretch (popularly known as a long 'on') and to have only a short 'ofi' e.g. from 4 p.m. to 12 p.m. or 12 noon to 8 p.m.

The Report says that "the administrations have generally been able to provide 24 consecutive hours' rest to continuous' staff employed in a continuous process in the shape of long 'ons' and short 'offs' otherwise called 'double duty'. This is a clumsy device which robs the concession of its grace and value". This system is said to be very unpopular with the staff and the Adjudicator discourages it as "repugnant to any commonsense conception of weekly rest". It is pointed out that for some time this evil was eliminated at certain stations where the work was heavy by the appointment of relieving staff known as "Geneva A.S. Ms."

As regards running staff, the Report

has recommended that their duty should not exceed 10 hours at a stretch. Periodic rests for them should consist of four periods of not less than 22 hours each in a month. Such rest should always include a night in bed and be given at headquarters. As far as possible, they should have such rest once in every ten days. It is further suggested that the Railway Board should issue instructions against continual night duty by running staff for more than six nights consecutively and against keeping the running staff away from headquarters from more than three or four days at a stretch.

#### Leave Rules and Reserves

The Report has suggested that in respect of railway servants who will be classified as Class IV, in accordance with the Pay Commission's recom-mendations, leave on full pay should be allowed to be accumulated up to four months in the case of those with over 20 years service, up to three months, in the case of those with 10 to 20 years of service and two months, in the case of others. Twenty days leave on half pay should be admissible per year to staff with over 20 years service and 15 days, for other staff. Casual leave should be admissible up to 15 days in a year. In the case of workshop staff, 15 days paid holidays should be allowed in lieu of casual leave. These re-commendations are designed to narrow down the gap between Class III and Class IV services in the matter of leave rules. The leave concessions admissible to persons in Class IV services after 20 years of service will be the same as those in Class III services.

Among the methods and principles suggested by the adjudicator for the general guidance of administrations with a view to placing leave reserves on a satisfactory basis are the following:—

For categories of staff for whom suitable substitutes are readily available. a lump-sum grant should be placed at the disposal of the District Officer with power to appoint substitutes wherever necessary within that amount. For categories for whom it is not possible to find substitutes, adequate leave reserve based on the leave usually taken by the staff should be provided. In other cases a reserve should be provided on the basis of the minimum leave requirements. For exceptionally unhealthy areas, a suitable addition varying from 3 to 5 per cent of the working strength should be made to the reserve. For purposes other than leave, a specified reserve calculated on the basis of an estimate of the actual requirements, should be provided except in the case of categories for whom substitutes are available.

Mr. Rajadhyaksha was assisted by the two assessors in his enquiry which lasted nearly a year. He held in all 101 sittings and examined 249 witnesses at Bombay, Lahore, Gorakhpur, Calcutta, Nagpur, Madras, Trichinopoly and Delhi. During his tour he visited railway stations, workshops, sheds and offices in order to acquire first-hand information on the nature and conditions of work performed by railwaymen.

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## RAILWAY PRIORITY CONTROL

A Bill seeking to extend for another year the life of the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947, was introduced in the Dominion Parliament on March 11, by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport

Railway Priority Control is exercised under the Act which came into force on March 25 last and is due to expire on March 25, 1948.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill reads:

So long as the present shortage of certain essential commodities renders necessary the movement of such commodities by rail without delay and in preference to less important movements and so long as the railways are not in a position to handle all the traffic offerings, some form of priority control is considered to be essential. In the absence of an express legal provision, such preferential treatment may be challenged as a contravention of section 42A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. The Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947, expires on March 25, 1948 and it is necessary to extend its life for another year.

The Act, as it stands, applies only to the movement of commodities shown in the Schedule which now comprises 99 items. The Schedule has been restricted to 18 really essential items, but power has been taken to render assistance to items not included in the Schedule so as to meet all eventualities. Sponsoring would be subject to wagon quotas and the number of authorities empowered to sponsor the transport of goods has been reduced, taking away the power of Provincial and State Governments to delegate.

## **APPLICATION OF RAILWAYS ACT TO ACCEDING STATES**

A Bill further to Amend the Indian Railways Act of 1890 seeking to extend the proprio vigore application of the Act to all acceding States was introduced in the Dominion Parliament on March 11 by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, the provisions of the Railways Act were, so far, not directly applicable to Indian States, but uniformity of law on Railways was secured by the Crown Representative applying the said provisions to the railway lands lying in Indian States, jurisdiction over which had been ceded.

With the setting up of the Dominion of India, jurisdiction previously exercised by the Crown Representative was retroceded but by the Instrument of Accession, the acceding States have acceded to the Dominion in respect of the "Railways" entry in the Federal Legislative List of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted in its application to the Dominion of India. The Dominion Legislature is accordingly competent to legislate for the States on this subject.

(Continued in next Col.)

## NO DIVERSION OF JUTE EXPORT BUSINESS FROM CALCUTTA

THE attention of the Government of India has been drawn to criticisms which have recently appeared in the Press or been made elsewhere regarding the jute export control system introduced in January by Government, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 10.

Under the new schemes applicants possessing tirm contracts with overseas buyers were allotted pro rata provisional quotas on conditions that within 15 days they would have letters of credit opened in their names by the original buyers and that failure to do so would involve not only cancellation of the provisional quotas but also deprivation of jute export licences in future. As a further safeguard, these provisional quota slips have been declared to be non-negotiable instruments. These safeguards are necessary to prevent trafficking in quotas which was the main drawback when a similar system was in operation before 1947.

The present system was introduced as the 1947 system, under which 90 per cent. of the jute export business was reserved for established shippers and 10 per cent was thrown open to new-comers, had resulted, according to the information of the Government of India and representations made to them by the West Bengal Government, in concentration of export business in the hands of non-Indians.

There is no truth in the statement that business has been diverted from Calcutta to other places. Statistics available reveal that, taking for various destinations, quotas allotted to Calcutta firms range from 70 per cent. to 100 per cent., only the balance being allotted to non-Calcutta firms an ongst whom there are some established shippers who were doing this business even before. There has been some transfer of business from non-Indians, to Indians but that was one of the objects of the new scheme. The exact percentage of business gone to established shippers is being ascertained and the information will be released within a day or two.

#### Allocation of Quotas

There has been some misunderstanding as regards allocation of quotas for the dollar areas for the entire six months January June, although applications had been invited for the January-February

(Continued from Previous Col. )

The object of this Bill is to extend the propriorizore application of the Railways Act to all acceding States. Clause 2 extends the Act to the whole of India, that is, to all the Provinces and acceding States. The other clauses place the Governments of the acceding States in the same position as the Provincial Governments in regard to minor railways situated wholly within a State and in regard to certain ancillary provisions of the Act.

period. This had to be done in order to strengthen our foreign exchange position. To remedy the grievance of those who had not applied on the ground that applications had been invited for the January-February period, instructions have already been issued to invite applications for the remaining four months and to grant additional quotas where it is proved that him contracts existed with genuine overseas buyers.

The period given to the holders of the provisional quota slips to have letters of credit opened has just expired, and those who are unable to produce letters of credit are now being weeded out and the quantities thus released are being re-allotted to established shippers and exporters on production of proof of their having entered into firm contracts before the introduction of the present scheme.

In this way business men who are not genuine will be eliminated, whereas those who are in a position to do business will have been given a foothold and the concentration of the export business in the hands of a few shippers will have been diluted.

Shipments of jute goods have begun, and taking the January-June period, it is expected that there will be no tall in the export of our jute goods or recession in our toreign exchange position. Government are watching the situation closely and will modify the scheme as required by the circumstances. The control will be retained to long as necessity for it is felt in view of the disparity in the world demand for jute goods and their supply, as also in view of our need to direct supplies to areas from where we have to produre our food or build up our dollar position, bearing in mind the need for ensuring that countries which take our jute goods guarantee that they will not be re-exported to countries where we do not wish them to go.

Government wish to make it clear that the new scheme was introduced after consulting leading jute interests in Calcutta and accertaining their reactions. Government have no intention of relaxing the jute export control to long as the necessity for control is felt in the interests of national economy.

#### **CONTROL OVER EXPORT**

Control over the export of jute and jute goods was imposed during the war. In view of world shortage and in order to ensure that the essential needs of recipient countries were met, the Government of India, in consultation with the Combined Raw Materials Board in Washington, allowed exports from 1943 on the basis of destinational quotas. It was a system of "first come, first served", with certain "ceilings" for particular countries.

This system did not please traders generally, for it was held to give preference to those firms which could secure more freight from shipping companies.

A new procedure was adopted in June,

1946, under which applications were invited bi-monthly from intending exporters, to be accompanied by evidence of sale abroad and availability of freight. Licences were issued according to the quantities applied for and the quantities available for distribution on a provata basis. This system placed no restriction on an applicant's eligibility, the only qualification necessary for recurring a quota being his ability to do business.

#### "New Comer" Principle

Last year, however, the Minister of Commerce in the Interim Government, Mr. Chundrigar, introduced the "established shipper", and "new-comer" principle. It was decided that 90 per cent. of the quotas should be reserved for established shippers and allotment made to them on the basis of the percentage share of their exports in a year selected by each. The 10 per cent. balance of the quotas was reserved for new-comers.

This system was strongly resented by the trade, which felt that the established shippers' principle favoured only a few firms and helped to perpetuate a sort of monopolistic hold on the export business. The new-comers' reservation was also criticised. One view was that the percentage reserved for them was inadequate. Others felt that it would be difficult for the licensing authorities in Delhi to judge the genuineness of applications merely from orders produced by applicants,

Conversations were, therefore, held with various sections of the trade, and in the beginning of this year the Government decided that for the current half-year export quotas should be distributed only among parties in a position to produce bona fide evidence of having concluded firm contracts, with importers abroad. It was felt that in the existing circumstances the new system would be fair to all sections of the trade, the intention being to approximate as far as possible to conditions which prevailed before the imposition of control.

Under any system of control malpractices, including black-marketing in quotas, are possible. While it is felt that business men themselves can remedy such undesirable practices, the Government are endeavouring to check such abuses as far as possible. For instances, firms which obtain quotas under the pro rata scheme have been told the quotas are provisional and will be confirmed only if within 15 days letters of credit are produced from the buyers from whom orders were produced at the time that the applications were made.

Moreover, if an applicant produces a bogus contract, suitable action will be taken against him. The provisional quota slipe have further been declared non-negotiable documents to as to prevent persons trafficking in them.

#### ( Continued from Col. 3 )

Government would be prepared to consider sympathetically hard cases in which firms had entered into firm contracts for sale but had not received adequate quotas under the present provate system.

Among those present was the Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Finance Minister, West Bengal Government.

## 1946, under which applications were jute Export LICENSING SCHEME invited bi-monthly from intending export-

STATEMENT on the Government of India's present jute export liceusing scheme was made on March 3 by the Minister for Commerce, in reply to a short notice question. The question and the Minister's answer are given below:

QUESTION (By Shri Kurshed Lal):

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a new system of jute licensing has been adopted in 1948?
- (b) If so, what is the nature of the Scheme?
- (c) What are the special reasons for adopting this scheme?
- (d) Why is it necessary to continue the quota system for jute?
- (e) Has the attention of Covernment been drawn to the agitation against this system and the continuance of the quota arrangements?

REPLY.

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (l) Quotas of raw jute and jute goods are allotted by Government for export to various destinations. These quotas are announced to the trade through a notice issued by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta and applications are invited by that efficer by a particular date from intending exporters with definite evidence of having concluded contracts with overseas buyers. There is no restriction in regard to the eligibility of an applicant and thus any trader who has contracted with an overseas buyer for sale of jute or jute goods is eligible to apply. Provisional quata alips are then issued to these applicants on a strictly pro rata basis. The quota holders are then required to produce before the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, within 15 days of the receipt of the quota evidence of the foreign importers having opened letters of credit in their favour. The quotes are not confirmed unless this evidence is produced. The Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, has also been instructed to ensure that the Letters of Credit are
- (i) from the same parties who placed the orders originally and
  - (ii) in their own names.

This should ensure that quota-holders are bona fide applicants and do not sell their quotas to other parties.

(c) The licensing procedure which was followed in 1947 was based on the established shippers principle. According to this principle, 90 per cent of the quotas were reserved for established shippers and allotments were made on the basis of the percentage share of their exports in the year selected by them. They were given the option of selecting any basic year in the 10 years ending the 25th June 1946 in the case of raw jute and the 31st December 1946 in the case of jute goods. The balance, viz., 10 per cent of the quota, was reserved for new compers

for which applications were invited by the Chief Controller of Exports, New Dolhi.

This system came in for much adverse criticism as introducing an entirely new feature into the jute trade which had not existed even in the war years and as favouring mostly non-Indian firms, since Indian firms in large numbers had actually started doing substantial tusiness only in 1946 and in the beginning of 1947.

#### "New Comers" Scheme

As regards the "new ormors" scheme since allotments were made on the basis of the orders produced by them in their applications to the Chief Controller of Exports and not on their ability to dousiness, a very large number of undervable persons got licences, which they openly advertised for sale.

When the question of allotting quotas for the half year 26th: Fecenther 1947 to 25th June 1948, came up for consideration, it was decided, after very careful consideration and after discussing the matter with the various interests concerned, to abandon the established shippers scheme and to revert to the pro rate scheme as explained in reply to (b) above.

- (d) It is necessary to continue the quote system for jute goods for the following reasons:
- (1) The quantum of goods available for export is far from sufficient to meet the world demand; (2) We have to maintain directional trade to the hard currency areas; (\*) Jute goods are to be prevented from going to South Africa; and (4) Large quantities are necessary to be earmarked for export to various countries e.g., Arcentine in return for toodstuffs.
  - (e) Yes, Sir.

## POLICY OF JUTE EXPORT CONTROL

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. Bhables, then Minister for Commerce, received on March I a deputation of interests connected with the export of jute goods and explained to them the principles underlying the present policy of jute export central, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March I.

The deputation, which urged that jute export control be removed, stated that the supply position now was such as to justify such a step. The Minister, after giving them a patient hearing, asked the deputation to submit for Government's consideration a scheme to suit the present circumstances, bearing in mind two principal objectives—namely, direction of goods to centres from where we have to obtain foreign exchange and from where we have to procure our food requirements. The need to prevent the flow of jute goods to countries where we do not wish them to go was also placed before the deputation.

Mr. Bhabha gave an assurance that (Continued in Col. 1)

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## DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD COMMUNICATIONS

## Dr. John Matthai's Statement In Parliament

EXTENSION of road communications in India, development of ports and amendment of the Port Trusts Act to provide adequate representation for Indian business interests as in Port Trusts were among the subjects dealt with by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister of Transport in his reply to the debate on the demand for grant under the head 'Ministry of Transport' in the Deminion Parliament on March 13. The Hon'ble Minister said:

Sir, there are two main problems regarding transport which have been raised in the course of the discussion. The first is the question of Port Trusts. There are three points, I think which have been raised with regard to the directions in which the composition or the constitution of the major Port Trusts of the country should be reorganised.

First of all, there is the question of nomination of members of the Port Trust by the Government—the Central and Provincial Governments. Secondly, the question was raised about the existence of representation for communal organisations. The third is the question of providing larger representation for Indian interests. Well, these three are matters which have been agitated, I think, in public for quite a number of years. It is perfectly true, as my Hon'ble friend Mr. Sidhwa pointed out, that the Port Trusts in the major ports in the form in which they exist today are much older than he or I. They are, therefore, rather out of touch with the existing facts in the country's political and economic set-up.

What I want to say today is this. In response to the request made to me by the Mover and by Mr. Sidhwa, it is my intention to introduce in the course of the present session a Bill for the amendment of the Port Trusts Act regarding the composition of the Port Trusts. The two points with which we are most urgently concerned are first of all the question of providing adequate representation for Indian business interests and the second is the question of eliminating the representation of organisations which are professedly communal organisations. These two are matters which, in principle, have been accepted by Government and the House will see that in the Bill which I shall introduce later in the session we propose to embody these two principles.

#### A Fundamental Distinction

As regards the question of nomination of members by Government, i.e., the Central and Provincial Governments, that is a question which in my opinion raises difficulties of a rather peculiar character. The main point is this. Very often comparison is made between a Port Trust and a Municipal Corporation. The Chairman of a Municipal Corporation is an elected functionary and the point often made, "Why don't we have an

elected Chairman or our Port Trust? If necessary, give him the assistance of an Executive Officer." It is a point that I have given some thought to and my own idea—it is not a matter which I have placed before the Government for their consideration—but my own personal reaction to the problem is this.

There is a fundamental distinction between a Municipal Corporation and a Port Trust in one of the major ports of the country, because these major ports deal with transport problems which have an intimate bearing on national transport arrangements, and it is therefore very important, particularly in times of emergency, that Government should have sufficient control over these Port Trusts in the matter of its external co-ordination with other forms of transport in urgent situations arising in the country. The Port Trusts and Municipal Corporations stand on a different footing and therefore I propose for the moment, to introduce no provision in the Bill which I am placing before the House in the course of the session as regards this particular point about nomination by Government. But as regards the other two points, I hope the provisions in the Bill will satisfy the House.

#### **Minor Ports**

Then, I think the Hon'ble Mover asked me why we are not taking steps for raising some of the minor ports in the country to the status of major ports. That question was again gone into in some detail by the Ports Technical Committee which was appointed two or three years ago and a thorough and wellconceived Report was issued by them. Arising out of the recommendations of that Committee, as the House is aware, we have set up a Special Committee now to enquire into the question of opening major ports on the West Coast of Indiaone along the Kathiawar-Cutch coast and the other along the coast from Marmugao to Cochin. That Committee is now sitting and I hope to have its recommendations in the course of a few weeks and Government will proceed to take action on them.

Before I get on to the other subject, namely, the question of roads—incidently, I think Mr. Sidhwa mentioned the question of the G.N.I.T. of Delhi...

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI (Madras: General)—May I, Sir, before the Minister proceeds to the other subject, ask if the Government have any policy as regards the expansion of the major ports under the charge of the Government of India? If the Hon'ble Minister will briefly state if he has got any policy, I shall be very much obliged.

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: Policy with regard to the expansion of the existing major ports? Yes. I think there are various proposals regarding Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and some extension is already under construction. There are important proposals now under consideration for extending the facilities offered by these ports.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: 1 hope the Government will not ignore the protest that has been made by vested interests in regard to the proposed expansion of Madras port?

THE HON'BLE DR.JOHN MATTHAI: Well, the matter as the Hon'ble Member knows better than I do, is under discussion between the Madras Port Trust and the Madras Government,—certain details arising in regard to the extension of the Madras port. But I am in agreement with the suggestion which my Hon'ble friend has made. It is very important in view of the commitments that are likely to be made on transport in coming years in the country that Government should keep in view the importance of extending the facilities offered by the major ports.

With regard to the G.N.I.T., the position is this. Speaking for the Transport Ministry, we have come to the conclusion that Government should acquire the whole of the G.N.I.T., but I cannot today make any final announcement because the proposal is shortly to go up before the Standing Finance Committee, and if we are able to secure their agreement, we shall go forward and have the details finalized. As far as I am concerned, I have come to the conclusion that the best solution of the problem is to acquire the whole of the G.N.I.T. by the Government.

#### National Highways

Then, with regard to the question of roads, a great deal has been said about the importance of extending road communications in the country with which I need not say I am in complete agreement. There are two limiting factors; first of all there is the question of the financial assistance that we can provide from the Centre for the development of roads in the province and secondly in the immediate future there is the question of finding the necessary materials. The House knows that as far as the Central Government are concerned, they have now assumed complete responsibility for the maintenance of the National Highways of the country. The pre-partition figure for the total mileage that we took over as National Highways is semewhere of the order of 18,000 miles, that is to say, the Central Government is completely responsible for the maintenance of these National Highways and also for their development.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: What is the present mileage?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: I am giving the pre-partition figure which is 1,000 but I have not got the exact figures for the Dominion of India.

As regards assistance for roads in the Provinces as the Hon'ble Member knows, there is a (entral Road and from which allocations are made in favour of provinces and there are also grants provided for the development of roads under the general development schemes which the Central Government is financing, so that I think, consistently with the financial resources now available to Government, Government are making good their undertaking that road communications should be developed as fully as possible.

INDIAN INFORMATION, APRIL 15, 1948

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Reference has been made to the question of the bad state of repair in which a large part of our road system is at present. I can only speak for the National Highways; I do admit that the National Highways are not at present in that state of repair in which I would like them to be. The point to remember is we took over responsibility for the National Highways only since April 1, 1947. Till then the maintenance of these highways was the responsi-bility of the Provincial Government. After April 1 on account of the constitutional uncertainty, we were not in a position to provide all the funds required for the developmen or the maintenance of National Highways in that state of repair in which we think they ought to be. What we did was, in view of the uncertainty during the transition period-until things were more or less finalized, to advance about 25 percent, of the amount that we had allotted previously for the maintenance of National Highways. Now, we have been able to restore more or less the grant that we had originally intended and I hope it will be possible to secure a better level of maintenance for these National Highways.

It must be remembered that the system under which we are working is that we provide all the finances required for the maintenance of National Highways, but the actual agency through which we are working is the P. W. D. of the Provincial Government; we exercise a certain amount of control but the agency is theirs. The Central Government have not got the agency for carrying out the maintenance work required in respect of these Highways, but the question of maintaining them in a state of adequate repair is something, the importance of which I am fully aware.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, raised the question of roads which have been damaged during the war; that raises rather a difficult problem. I will tell the House straightaway what the policy is that we are following in regard to that. Since we have accepted responsibility for the maintenance of National Highways, that is to say, a very large part of the road system for which the Provinces were responsible now have been taken over by us. we feel it is a fair proposition that while we would make ourselves responsible for repairing the damage caused by war in respect of National Highways, Pro-vincial Governments should be responsible for repairing the damage caused by war, in respect of provincial road communications. That is the general principle on which we are proceeding. There is one matter which causes us a certain amount of difficulty there.

#### Two Problems

It may be urged that in the matter of repairing war damage there are two problems that may arise. There is the problem of restoration and there is the problem also of reconstruction and development. As far as the mere problem of restoration is concerned, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that Provinces must be responsible for repairing damage caused in respect of provincial roads. As far as the question of development or reconstruction is concerned there is a certain element of boubt; but suppose I accepted the

principle that where a war-demaged road stood in need not merely of restoration but of development or reconstruction, that on that account the Centre should accept responsibility as a matter of administration, you would be up against the question of determining what is exactly restoration and what is exactly development and reconstruction. It is a thin line that divides the two. For the present, therefore, the only thing that I can say on that subject is that the Provincial Governments must accept responsibility for the time being in respect of their roads and we accept responsibility in respect of National Highways.

My Hon'ble friend Mr. Sharma referred to the important part which roads might play in the matter of transporting commodities. As regards 'gur' he said if only we had an adequate system of read communications and motor transport for these roads we should be in a better position. I am rather doubtful about it. Even if you had first-class roads and even if you had the necessary motorvehicles, you would still be up against the question of petrol. That is a very difficult question at present and as far as I can see and judging the world situation at present, in respect of petrol, it looks to me that our position is not going to be easy. So long as the petrol position is very acute, it seems to me rather doubtful if in the next few years we could make any extensive use of road transport for the movement of commodities. In certain provinces recently on account of the difficulties that were experienced in respect of coal, road transport was attempted; they were up against the difficulty of finding sufficient quantity of petrol; they were also up against the difficulty of meeting the increased costs due to the high price of petrol as motive power. In view of these difficulties, I am rather doubtful about the possibility of supplementing to any large extent rail transport in the country by means of road transport. That I think, Sir, covers more or less the points that have been raised.

#### Strategic Roads

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: (Madras: General) May I ask if the Hon'ble Minister has any information to give the House in regard to the building of strategic roads on our forntiers?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: Certain important strategic roads on the frontiers are matters which are now under discussion between us and the Defence Department and whenever a suggestion is made with regard to the construction of a strategic road, we give it the first priority so that the matter may be pushed through quickly.

SHRI ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not referred to the question of damage to municiapl roads. In those towns where the Military were stationed they used trucks very freely and roads were heavily damaged in places, for instance, like Gauhati and Shillong; and the municipalities were unable to repair them. What about these roads?

THE HON'BLE PB. JOHN MATTHAI: I am glad the Hon'ble Member raised that point, because this question of municipal roads presents certain difficulties from the point of view of the

Central Government. The principle that I suggested was that in regard to wardamaged roads we accept responsibility for National Highways and the provincial Government responsibility for provincial roads. But so far as National Highways that pass through municipal areas are concerned, the policy that we are following at present is this. The approaches to a city up to a specific outer ring are the responsibility of the Central Government that is to say, there is no National Highway as such that ever passes through a large town or an urban centre; they do not pass through municipal areas.

There are various difficulties with regard to that. Supposing we accepted the principle that we should be responsible for a National Highway passing through a municipal area, the work that we do in respect not merely of development but also of maintenance might in a number of cases conflict with the city improvement schemes of the municipal area; it is much better that an outside authority keeps out.

There is another difficulty and that is this. When it comes to constructing roads in municipal areas the Central Government is faced with the extra cost of acquiring land in built-up areas which is going to place upon the Central Government a rather indefinite amount of financial responsibility. Therefore as far as the connection of municipalities with the National Highway scheme is concerned, the Central Government accepts no responsibility; we are not concerned with municipal areas. It necessarily follows that local bodies with the assistance of the provincial Government should be responsible for the damage that has occurred to roads in municipal areas.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: Sir, I wanted to know the supply position in regard to road materials like tar macadam, road rollers, etc, What is the position?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: The position is still difficult.

### IMPROVEMENT IN COAL MOVEMENT

The steady improvement in coal loading during the last few months has been maintained in February, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railways Board) on March 11. Statistics for this month reveal that 1,750,000 tons of coal were lifted by railways from the Bengal and Bihar pitheads alone for the consuming areas, the average loading per day amounting to 2,686 wagons. This would have touched 2,790 wagons if the figure for February 11 were left out of account as work was almost at a standstill on this day which was observed as a day of mourning for Mahatma Gandhi's death by a large number of labourers.

The aggregate figure for movement of coal for the whole of India was nearly 2,200,000 tons. The daily average for all-India loading was 3,408 wagons per day excluding coal loading in Assem, registering an improvement of 139 wagons a day over the figure for the preceding month. This does not take into account the large number of wagons—about 140 per day—which were offered by the railways but could not be utilised by the collieries.

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## JUNAGADH ISSUE IN SECURITY COUNCIL

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## STORY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

to get the impression that by giving these figures I am asking the Security Council to base any conclusions it might arrive at on the Junagadh issue on the heaviness of this vote for India. India is bound by the undertaking it has already given and is prepared to hold a plebiscite again under suitable auspices if a required by the Security Council" said Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, Leader of the Indian Delegation, in the course of his speech in the Security Council on March 8, on the Junagadh issue.

Following is the text of Mr. Ayyangar's speech:—

I found that on the last occasion on which this subject was discussed, the representative of India, Mr. Vellodi, traversed fairly fully and clearly the points made in respect of this matter by the representative of Pakistan in his speech to the Security Council on February 18. There is very little for me to add to what Mr. Vellodi said on February 26 in regard to the substance of most of the points raised in this connection on behalf of Pakistan.

However, a few observations were made by the representative of Pakistan on the speech that Mr. Vellodi made to the Security Council on February 26. It will be my endeavour today to clarify some of the points that were referred to in those observations and to make one or two further points on behalf of India, so that the Security Council may have a fuller presentation of India's case before it begins to discuss the merits of this issue.

#### Offer of Fresh Plebiscite

I wish to refer first to one small point which the representative of Pakistan made at the outset of his concluding speech on that occasion. It referred to the holding of the plebiscite in Junagadh towards the end of the third week of February. This had been the subject of some exchange of remarks between the representative of Pakistan and Mr. Vellodi on February 18 and also on February 26.

What the representative of Pakistan said with regard to the suggestion he made to me with respect to this question was perfectly correct. At an informal consultation between the two delegations, with the then President in the chair, he asked that I should communicate with my Government to get this plebiscite rost. Lonel pending consideration of this matter by the Security Council. I told him straightaway that it was a reasonable request and that I myself would communicate with my Government on that matter.

I did so almost immediately after this conversation. I suggested to my Government that the plabinite be postponed if possible. They, the Government of India, explored the possibility of complying with this request, but came to the conclusion that arrangements for holding the plebiscite had advanced so far that if the taking of it was suspended, it might produce an amount of administrative upset and inconvenience to a large number of voters and staff employed on the taking of this plebiscite which, if possible, deserved to be avoided. They, therefore, came to the conclusion that while the plebiscite might go forward as planned, if we here came to the conclusion that the plebiscite need not be accepted but another plebiscite be taken on the same issue under auspices and under circumstances and conditions which we may decide on, they would themselves have no objection to the taking of such a fresh plebiscite.

This information was communicated to the representative of Pakistan by Mr. Vellodi, and in the debate on February 18 the representative of Pakistan reforred to this matter and left it there. He acknowledged that the reply of the Government of India had been communicated to him. He left it there.

On that particular occasion the fact was quite apparent that the plebiscite would go on and the undertaking given by the Government of India was only that if the Security Council cam, to the conclusion here that a fresh plebiscite should be taken, the Government of India would arrange for such a fresh plebiscite.

On that occasion the representative of Pakistan did not raise any question of the Government of India's action amounting to anything like discourtesy or want of sufficient consideration either to the Security Council or to the delegation of Pakistan. As a matter of fact en the day that the representative of India referred to this matter, February 18, I had reached India. And if I had received the impression that there was any grievance on this score or any charge against India on this score, I could, and would certainly, have taken steps if not to prevent the taking of the poll, at least to see that the votes were not counted and the results declared until the matter was decided here. But having read what the representative of Pakistan did say on February 18, the impression left on my mind, and on the minds of my colleagues in the Government of India, was that no dissatisfaction was felt at what the Government of India had undertaken to do and, therefore, the votes that were recorded were counted and the results declared;

What I wish to assure the Security Council today is that there was never at any time in the minds of the representatives of the Government of India any idea of running counter to whatever the Security Council may have thought assumely in that connection, nor was it

the object of the Government of India to flout any decision or recommendations that the Security Council might make in this connection.

#### Mäjöřity Vötěd For India

Why is it that no grievance was mentioned on February 18 but the grievance was mentioned on February 26? It is difficult for me to understand the position because the only thing that intervened was the taking of the plebiscite. But that was not a new fact. The taking of the plebiscite was there in the offing when the speech on February 18 was made. The real thing that intervened was the declaration of the results of this voting.

I think, if I may make the suggestion, that the extent of the voting which was disclosed by the counting of the votes and the declaration of the results came perhaps as a surprise. I know that the representative of Pakistan had conceded and was prepared for a fairly large majority in favour of India at such a plebiscite, but perhaps he was not prepared for the actual figures disclosed. I may proceed to give some facts and figures which might intensify the grievance that Pakistan might feel in this connection.

At this particular plebiscite which was taken, the number of voters on the roll was 200,569, of whom there were 21,696 Muslims and 178,963 non-Muslims. The number of voters who polled was 190,870, of whom the number for India was 190,779 and the number for Pakistan was 91. The number of those who did not vote or go to the polls was 9, 99. Even if all these 9,699 who did not vote and the 91 who voted for Pakistan were Muslims, it was to be recognized that 11,907 Muslims recorded their votes at this plebiscite and as many as 11,861 of them voted for India.

I do not want the Security Council to get the impression that by giving these figures I am asking the Security Council to base any conclusions it might arrive at on the Junagadh issue on the heaviness of this vote for India. India is bound by the undertaking it has already given and is prepared to hold a plebiscite again under suitable auspices if so required by the Security Council.

India is not anxious that this overwhelming vote in favour of India should influence the decision of the Security Council. India is content to leave it at the point which the representative of Pakistan himself gave expression to in his speech before the Security Council on February 26. He said as follows:—

"True, Mr. Vellodi stated, that he thinks the result will not be different if a resh plebiscite is taken, knowing the character of the population.

That may be so. That very well probably is so. We do not insist upon these conditions because we are convinced that the result in Junagadh would be different".

The admission that is made in the sentences which I have quoted is all

that 1 should request the Security Council to take note of in connection with coming to a decision on the question of whether a new plebiscite should be taken and, if so, under what conditions. That is a small point which was referred to by the representative of Pakistan on February 26.

The second of the points to which he referred on that occasion related to the alleged statement by Mr. Vellodi that the small area of Manavadar has acceded to India. I find no such statement by Mr. Vellodi appears in the record, and I gather from Mr. Vellodi that he did not make any such statement.

#### Transfer of Administration

The representative of Pakistan then referred to a statement by Mr. Vellodi about the presence of Shah Nawaz Bhutto, the Dewan, in Junagadh, and his flight to Karachi. A mistake was made in this particular matter, I regret, on account of inadequate information at the disposal of Mr. Vellodi at the time this mistake was made. I apologize to the Security Council for the mistake.

At the same time, I should invite the attention of the Security Council to the fact that this mistake makes no difference as to the argument he advanced on that occasion or as to the points in that connection, whether the Dewan on November 8 and on the previous days was in Junagadh or Karachi makes no difference to the main points which Mr. Vellodi did make.

These points roughly are, first, that the Dewan fully realised the futility of resisting the will of the people of the State; secondly, that he sent Major Harvey Jones to meet Mr. Samaldas Gandhi, head of the Provisional Government, which was advancing on the territory of Junagadh; and, thirdly that the Dewan sent the letter to the Rezional Commissioner of Rajkot through Major Harvey Jones on November 8, 1947, in accordance with the advice of the Nawab and his Council of Ministers and in conformity with the wishes of popular leaders.

These were the three main points that he made. All this happened when the Dewan was actually in Junagadh, but he was in constant communication with his Ruler, who was at Karachi, and there are indications that there were channels of communication between Shah Nawaz Bhutto and officers connected with the Government of Pakistan.

The fact is there is no doubt that the Nawab had abandoned the State towards the end of October, as stated by the representative of Pakistan himself, and that he had taken up residence in Karachi. The Dewan escaped from Junagadh on November 8 and he flew to Karachi after he had sent the letter to the Regional Commissioner at Rajkot requesting him to take over the administration of Junagadh. He reached Karachi the same day.

There was some point made of Mr. Vellodi's suggestion that the Pakistan Government was quite aware of all that was happening in connection with all these proceedings for transferring the

administration to the hands of the Agent of the Government of India at Rajkot. This awareness of the Pakistan Government of what was happening has to be inferred from circumstantial evidence, and there is a foir volume of such evidence which would justify such an inference.

It is suggested on the other side, however, that although Shah Nawaz Bhutte may have reached Karachi on the eighth, ne did not call at the Pakistan Foreign Office uptill the tenth. It is also suggested that Pakistan did not receive the telegram that the Dewan had addressed to the Pakistan Government on the eighth until after officers of the Indian Dominion had taken over the administration of Junagadh on the evening of the ninth.

I shall mention only these facts and leave it to the Security Council to make its own inferences as to whether what he said on the other side could demolish the position that actually the Nawab and his Dewan were in Karachi on the eighth and ninth. And a revolution had happened in Junagadh and yet, though the Nawab and the Dewan were present in Karachi, the Pakistan Government did not come to know of this transfer of administration until after it had received this telegram from the Dewan late on the evening of the ninth, that is, after the administration had been taken over by officers of the Indian Government.

I do not wish to make any definite statements as to whether they did know or did not know, but I would only make the suggestion that it is improbable that officers of the Pakistan Govornment who happened to be at Karachi did not come to know of this fact for such a long time, especially when the two chief administrative authorities connected with Junagadh were actually in Karachi.

#### Geographical Compulsions

I now turn to another statement that the representative of Pakistan made on February 26, 1947, which has reference to the question of limitations and conditions which Indian States were supposed to observe before they came to decision as to which of the two Dominions they would accode to. The representative of Pakistan stated the following:—

"Mr. Vellodi said that it was understood that the choice would be made on the basis of certain principles, some of which he has outlined. But he has not chosen to explain between whom it was understood. He has quoted Lord Mountbatten. What he has quoted is Lord Mountbatten's opinion; if by understanding it was meant that it was an understanding between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League or it was an understanding between the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan, there was no such understanding at all at any time. That is the first point.

As regards the question of accession, that seems to me to deserve some clarification. I would only mention a few facts in this connection. On July 25, 19.7, the Viceroy of India, in his capacity as the Crown Representative, addressed a special full meeting of the Chamber of Princes. At this meeting he informed

the Rulers and their representatives of the policies of the future governments of both India and Pakistan. I wish to draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that this meeting was held about three weeks before August 15, 1947, the crucial date as regards transfer of power in India in the establishment of the two Dominions. He said that he informed the Rulers and their representa tives of the policies of the future Govern-ments of both India and Pakistan which he had worked out with them with regard to the formulation of Instruments of Accession and Standstill Agreements by and with the states. He made it clear to them that all States were theoretically free to link their future with whichever Dominion they wished or even to remain independent. He pointed out that separate State Departments have been set up for each future Dominion Government, but he added the following words: "When I say they are free to link up with either of the Dominions, may I point out there are certain geo-graphical compulsions which cannot be evaded". The Viceroy made his views on these geographical compulsions clear and towards the end of the meeting he proceeded to answer questions. In the answer that he then gave he hoped that both the future Government of India and Pakistan would take note and agree with the principle he had enunciated.

#### Will of the People

In the case of the Government of India this, of course, was openly done and the principle has been scrupulously followed. One instance may perhaps serve to illustrate this particular contention. The large State of Kalat, which has obvious geographical compulsions to accede to Pakistan, approached the Government of India for political relationship, but was refused. Cortain unofficial overture were made from another state, Bahawalpur, and they were similarly discouraged.

May I also draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that at conversations at high level between high personages on both sides, the leaders of future Pakistan have justified the impression that Pakistan also intended to recognize this principle and not to enter into competition with India in obtaining accessions. Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, who is now a member of the Government of Pakistan, was at the time a member of the Coalition Cabinet of United India and was in charge, at the time this particular speech was made by the Viceroy, of the States Department of the future Dominion Pakistan. He actually expressed his agreement with this principle in official records. In pursuance of this agreed policy, the offer of Kalat was turned down. Therefore, it is by no means unnatural that the leaders of India had assumed that this principle would be as scrupulously adhered to by Pakistan as by themselves. So much for this first point made by the representative of Pakistan.

The representative of Pakistan made a second point. In his speech he stated that the position of the Dominion of India itself throghout has been that accession is primarily a matter for the Ruler to decide. He went on to say that he

ventured to submit that he knew more about these matters from personal knowledge than the spokesman of India at that particular meeting could possibly know.

I wish to take advantage of this occasion to put before the Security Council a clear explanation of what the position of the Dominion of India has been, and is, in this connection.

No doubt, the Ruler as head of the State has to take action in respect of accession. When he and his people are in agreement as to the Dominion to which they should accede, he applies for accession to that Dominion. However, when he takes one view and his people take another view, the wishes of the people have to be ascertained. When so ascertained, the Ruler has to take action in accordance with the verdict of the people. That is our position.

I do not think that the representative of Pakistan suggests that in all cases, whatever the verdict of the people may be, the Ruler is the person. according to the position taken by the Dominion of India, who should take the decision in this connection. In fact, I make the claim that there has been no case within my knowledge where, in case of such conflict of view between the Ruler and his people. India has contended that the Ruler's view should prevail.

The representative of Pakistan then suggested that it was for the first time in respect of Junagadh that this claim of taking a plebiscite made by India. It may be that it was the first claim that was vis-a-vis Pakistan, but the case was also, I believe the first of its kind. The claim for ascertaining the verdict of the people through a plebiscite was made within six days after August 15, 1947.

#### Pakistan's Reaction

The representative of Pakistan proceeded to argue that when this claim was raised, Pakistan did not turn it down, since it raised a matter of principle.

He has used, if I may say so with respect, very careful language. It is perhaps not incorrect to say that Pakistan did not turn down this claim because it raised a matter of principle. But what we are more concerned with in regard to the Junagadh case is that when the claim was made, reiterated and pressed again and again on Pakistan, whether Pakistan at any stage before preceedings came before the Security Council in terms accepted the application of this principle to the Junagadh case.

In this case I should like to refer the Security Council to the history of the contention that India has been making throughout in reference to this particular case and the reactions of Pakistan to this suggestion.

As early as August 21, 1947, when India came to know that Junagadh proposed to accede to Pakistan, the Ministry of the Government of India concerned with this matter wrote to the High Commissioner for Pakistan in New Delhi and particularly stressed this claim.\* The letter stated:

"An important decision like this cannot surely be taken by its Ruler without regard to the wishes of its people. In these circumstances the Government of India would be greatful if vou could obtain an indication of the policy of the Pakistan Government in this matter."

This letter remained unanswered for number of days. On September 6, 1947, a fortnight after it was issued, a reminder was sent to the High Commissioner drawing his attention to the fact that no reply had been received. The High Commissioner wrote back on September 12, 1947, that he had not heard from his Government in Karachi and would communicate its decision as soon as he received it. No reply was actually received to this communication until Pakistan actually accepted accession for which application had been made nearly a month previously by the Nawab of Junagadh. That was the first occasion on which this matter was mentioned to Pakistan and that was before the accession was accepted and while the matter was still pending consideration of the Government of Pakistan.

The second occasion was in a telegram dated September 11, 1947, from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. In the course of this telegram, the Prime Minister of India said:

"The Dominion of India will be prepared to accept any democratic test in respect of accession of the Junagadh State to either of the two Dominions. They would accordingly be willing to abide by the verdict of its people in this matter ascertained under mutual supervision".

No reply was received to this telegram.

The third occasion was in a telegram dated September 21, 1947, sent from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. In the course of this telegram he said:

"As regards the accession of Junagadh to Pakistan, your attention is invited to our telegram addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and delivered personally at Government House, Karachi by Lord Ismay on September 12, explaining fully the Government of India's position regarding Junagadh."

The last sentence of this telegram was:

"The Government of India are however still prepared to accept the verdict of the people of Junagadh in the matter of accession, a plebiscite being carried out under the joint supervision of the Indian and Junagadh Governments".

The issue squarely raised in this telegram was evaded in the reply which was received from the Government of Pakistan in a telegram dated September 25, 1947. In Paragraph Five of this telegram it is said:

"Regarding your suggestion for a plebiscite this was a matter between the Ruler, the constituted authority the people of Junagadh"

The fourth occasion was in a telegram dated October 3, 1947, from the Government of India to the Government of Pakistan. One sentence of this telegram drew attention to this situation in the following words:

"This will relieve the present tension and enable us to proceed towards finding an amicable solution in consonance with the wishes of the people of the territories affected."

The reply to this is contained in a telegram dated October 5, 1947. In this telegram the issue of plebiscite was again evaded. Instead, it was said:

"This will, I hope, pave the way for a satisfactory and amicable settlement of the various outstanding questions relating to the conditions and circumstances in which plebiscites should be taken by any State or States at our next meeting."

The issue regarding Junagadh was not directly answered, but it was suggested that the circumstances and conditions under which a plebiscite may be taken in respect of any State or States might be a matter for discussion at a future meeting.

The fifth occasion was in a telegram from India, dated October 5. This is what this telegram said:

"The only basis on which friendly negotiations can start and be fruitful is reversion in Junagedh, Babariawad and Mangrol to the status quo preceding the accession of Junagedh to Pakistan The alternation to negotiations is a referendum or plebiscite by the people of Junagedh".

There is another telegram from India to Pakistan dated October 7, 1947 in which, perhaps, owing to inadequate apprehension of what Pakistan had been attempting to avoid answering, directly, it is said:

"We are glad that you are agreeable to our discussing the condition and circumstances under which a plebiscite or a referendum should be held to ascertain the wishes of the people. Once this is settled in Junagadh, it will be comparatively an easy matter to dispose of the subsidiary issues of Mongrol and Babariawad."

The reply from Pakistan is contained in the telegram dated October 23, 1947, In Paragraph Five of this telegram it is said:

"With regard to the question of plebiscite, the Prime Minister of Pakistan told you that he was going to discuss this matter with you at his next meeting. He is at present\_at Lahore."

The sixth occasion was a telegram from India dated November 10, 1947. That is, a day after the administration of Junagadh was taken over from the Dewan and Council of The Tollowing language in the following language in the gram, which was a supplied to the supplied to t

be by means of a referendum or plebis-

Pakistan's reply came the following day, and this is what it said:

"With regard to your suggestion of a conference between representatives of the two Dominions and the Nawab of Junagadh, you know fully well that we have always been prepared to discuss these and other matters arising out of problems of accession to either Dominion. It is obvious, however, that there is no point in having a conference when you have already occupied our territory by military force. The only conditions under which we can usefully attend the discussions would be immediate withdrawal of Indian troops, reinstatement of the Nawab's administration and restoration of normal conditions in and around the borders of Junagadh, including stoppage of the activities of the so-called Provisional Government."

The seventh and last occasion was in a telegram from India on November 17, 1947, to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who was then in Lahore, where the telegram was sent, and this language is contained in the fifth paragraph of the telegram:

"To stabilize the situation swiftly and promptly is, therefore, the essence of the Government of India's policy, and for this purpose we wish to settle the issue with the least possible delay by a plebiscite as already conveyed to you in my telegram dated November 10. This seems to us the only way in which this issue can be settled satisfactorily."

The reply to this telegram was received in a telegram dated November 22, 1947. in which the following sentence occurs:

"We cannot possibly recognize either your occupation of Junagadh or the plebiscite which you appear to contem-

#### Why Pakistan Hesitated

I have placed these facts before the Security Council to indicate how in a deliberate manner, I think, the Government of Pakistan avoided finally facing the issue of holding a plebiscite in Junagadh to ascertain the verdict of the people. It may be that the Government of Pakistan did not in so many words turn down the suggestion made by the Government of India. There is no indication, however, that the Government of Pakistan actually accepted the claim that India put forward.

As a matter of fact, even in the countercomplaint which was made to the Security Council on behalf of Pakistan against India, there is no mention of plebiscite so far as the Junagadh case is concerned. The first definite acceptance of the idea of plebiscite is contained in a speech by the representative of Pakistan on February 18. Even in this case, this acceptance was put in very guarded torms. This acceptance reads: "If then it is insisted", that is to say it is insisted", that is to say after the normal administration has certained by means of a plebiscite in point it is demonstrably so, politically and

the matter of accession, an unfettered plebiscite should be held."

If there is one thing which is clear above everything else in the Junagadh case, it is that the people of the State by an overwhelming majority-both of the leaders and of the rank and filewere in favour of accession to India, while the Ruler favoured accession to Pakistan and actually had that offer of this accepted by Pakistan. If the principle is conceded—as the representative of Pakistan has stated—that in the case of disputed accession of that sort the verdict of the people would be the final determinant in deciding the question of to which Dominion a State wants to acc de, this continued hesitation on the part of Pakistan to accept the obviously sound principle which India was trying to have Pakistan accept is perhaps understandable on account of its possible repercussion in other States in which Pakistan may be interested. For the hesitation in accepting this principle in the case of Junagadh, perhaps the State responsible was Hyderabad. The final acquiescence in the taking of a plebiscite for Junagadh was perhaps the inevitable consequence of the stand that Pakistan took in respect of Kashmir.

#### Indefensible Position

There was another somewhat extraordinary statement made by the representative of Pakistan. He observed that India wanted this principle accepted in the case of Junagadh, but not in the case of other Stat s. I submit with all due respect that this observation has no foundation and is wholly incorrect.

With regard to this question of Junagadh's accession, I desire to submit to the Security Council one very important consideration. The application for and acceptance of accession are both acts of political nature. The letter of the law cannot exclusively govern a political situation of that nature. The decision to accede to Pakistan taken on behalf of Junagadh is, I very respectfully submit, an altogether indefensible position. For this reason, I say, geographical, social, cultural and other compulsions are present. Junagadh is practically an island in an ocean of States which have acceded to India. Under such circumstances, it is politically a position which no reasonable person could have thought to be in the best interests of Junagadh State and its people.

#### A Political Decision

Both the Governments of Junagadh and Pakistan were warned against the taking of this decision by the people of this State and the Government of India. I do not desire to take up the time of the Security Council by reading more documents which prove this fact, but it is worthwhile to probe this matter a little further in order that the Security Council may obtain a view of this question which would be in accordance with the actual facts of the situation.

From a veral points of view, the been restored. "that the wishes of project of Junagadh's acceding to takistan the people of Junagadh should be as is fantastic. From the military standeconomically it would be such a liability to Pakistan that the idea has almost the appearance of an attempt to lead India into a trap. It has been said by some that the action of the Pakistan Government in this particular matter, with the assistance of the Nawab of Junagadh, was a device to tease the Government of India into taking precipitate and aggressive action, but I may mention for the benefit of the Security Council that in all the steps which the Government of India took in this connection, it was particularly careful to avoid doing anything as a result of which it might fall into a trap of this nature. I might say that so far as India is concerned, the Junagadh case is perhaps one about which it need have had no doubts concerning which side Junagadh would finally elect to join from the standpoint of Pakistan vis-a-vis India. The action that that Government took had perhaps nuisance value.

The fact remains that in deciding the question of accession in this particular case, the Security Council will not concentrate on the merely legalistic aspect of the matter. As I have contended, it was essentially a political decision and while certain things can be done from the strictly legal point of view, in transactions of States and Governments we have to take into account factors which should perhaps persuade one party or the other to take a decision which, though it might not be in accordance with the letter of the law, would still be in the best interests of all the parties con-

There was considerable delay between the decision by the Nawab as to accession and the acceptance of that accession by the Government of Pakistan. A whole month elapsed before the decision was aken. This delay and subsequent hesitation to implement the obligations which accession threw upon the Government of Pakistan perhaps justify suspicion that the Governor-General of Pakistan and his advisers were not easily convinced of the wisdom of accepting this decision and that they demurred for quite a long time, but finally gave way to the insistent appeals of the Nawab and the Dewan.

In a somewhat plaintive communication dated September 4, and addressed by Shah Nawaz Bhutto to Mr. Jinnah urging him to come to the help of Junagadh, the following appears:

"It is, therefore, important that Your Excellency should kindly extend your powerful protection to this premier State of Kathiawar.... His Highness's present health does not allow him to stand the strain of heavy worries. An open avowal of support from your end will enliven him and the Muslims of Kashmir who are watching the developments with great concern and interest. I myself am prepared to meet any situation which may arise, but my effort would count little in this sea of turmoil. Your Excellency's strong hand, which has organised and built the greatest Muslim State in the world, will, I am sure, not abandon Junagadh and its people to be devoured by wolves. Your Excellency's encouraging words at Delhi that Pakistan will not allow Junagadh to be stormed and tyrannized—and Veraval is not far from Karachi—still ring in my ears."

It was a week after that, or a little later, that the accession was accepted by Pakistan. I will leave that point there.

Another complaint was made by the representative of Pakistan concerning ill-treatment and lack of consideration shown to Muslim officers of the State after the administration was taken over by the Regional Commissioner, Rajkot. He said: "As soon as the Government of India took over the administration of Junagach; it put behind prison bars every Muslim officer of the State who was not able to escape in time, and if that is not so I ask Mr. Vellodi to supply the Security Council with a list of higher Muslim officials of the State who were eft at liberty after the Government of India's forces marched into the State."

I would convey to the representative of Pakistan the following facts in this connection. No officer was arrested at the time of taking over of the administration on November 9, 1947, by the Regional Commissioner or immediately afterwards. On November 25, Mr. Abrahani, Private Secretary to the Nawab was arrested for the offence of possession of unauthorized arms and ammunition. He has since been tried by court of law and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Another officer, an A.D.C. of the Nawab, was arrested some time later for a similar offence. No other arrests took place. There are in Junagadh even today Muslim officers occupying some of the higher posts.

#### United State of Kathiawar

The main demand made by Pakistan is that the administration of the State should now be restored to the Nawab. Let us face the facts. The Nawab abandoned this State for fear of his life and has not yet attempted to establish contacts again with his beloved people. The Downa also fled on November 8, after sending a letter to one of his colleagues, the Regional Commissioner, to take over the administration. The Council of Ministers has been dissolved and is no longer in existence. There is thus really no remnant of the old administration to be restored in Junagadh.

The Dewan said as early as April, 1947, that the Nawab was very keen about uniting the diff rent States of Kathiawar into a whole, each having its own autono nous administration but combining for common purposes. That Nawab has now broken away from Kathiawar.

Recently, as members of the Security Council may be aware, there has been a movement in India which has put a difficult face altogether in the area which was under the administration of Indian States in the past. Many States of small size unable to have a modern administration owing to their lack of

sufficient area and opportunity and lack of resources have combined among themselves or been incorporated in the provinces of India in order to attain a higher level of administration. That development has taken place in different parts of India. It has recently also taken place in Kathiawar. There a new State called the "United State of Kathiawar" has been brought into existence. It now goes by the name of Sourashtra. The whole of this area has now been brought together and, as members probably know, it is one area in India where we had the largest number of jurisdictions under what were regarded as Indian States; something like 449 of these have now been brought together under the United State of Kathiawar. The scheme for this Sourashtra State includes also the incorporation of Junagadh.

#### The Nawab

11.11.11

The people of Junagadh are keen about this development. If it has not actually been included in the Sourasl.tra State—this State came into existence only a few weeks ago—it is because of logalistic technicalities and the fact that the question of Junagadh was under debate in the Security Council.

When we are asked to restore the old state of things in Junagadh, we cannot blind ourselves to the realities of the political and constitutional developments which hav taken place in India during recent weeks and which even an area like the one included in the Junagadh State cannot escape.

If we look at this possible development, what is it that the Nawab, if he came back to the State with the consent of his people, can expect? The people from all accounts are sure to vote for incorporation in this new State of Sourashtra. The Nawab will then be only a person whose civil list will be fixed in the constitution of this State and whose only function will be to form a Council of Rulers who will elect a Presidium of five people. It is possible that if he is sufficiently popular among his brother rulers on this Council, he might be elected to be one of the Presidium; he might even be elected Rajpramukh or Upa Rajpramukh as it is called (Chief Prince or Vice-Chief Prince) of this new State. But these functionaries have no direct contact with the administration of this large area which has now been brought together after abo is ing-practically bringing to an end-something like 449 different political jurisdictions.

Therefore, I submit to the Security Council that for us to talk seriously now of restoring the administration of Junagadh to its erstwhile Ruler is to blind ourselves to the political realities of today in Kathiawar.

Junagadh has not yet been merged with Sourashtra, but the people are only waiting for an early opportunity to bring about this merger. The taking of a plebiscite even on the question of accession seems to some extent to be unreal in this political background. But I do not want the Security Council to gather fron my remarks that India wants to get away from the undertaking she has given already. It

accepts, and in fact insists, that the will of the people would prevail in all these mat ers, that is the will of the people of these areas. If it is decided here that another plebiscite should be taken under auspices which may be agreed on, then if the Security Council has no objection that plebiscite may be taken to decide not only the question of accession but also the question of restoration of the Nawab and incorporation of this State in the New Sourashtra State. We shall not raise the slightest objection to a plebiscite being taken for these purposes.

One essential fact is that we cannot bring back to Junagadh the absolutist rule that it had during the days of the erstwhile Ruler. We can only give to Junagadh an essentially democratic administration and it will find its proper place in this United State of Kathiawar which has been brought into existence. I wish that the Security Council will give deep consideration to these obvious political facts in connection with the present situation, facts which have developed after this matter was bought to the notice of the Security Council, and facts which relate not to Junagadh particularly but practically to the whole Indian States system.

#### Claim for Compensation

There was a minor point which the representative of Pakistan mentioned in his last speech and that related to the claim of compensation for people who had suffered at the hands of the military forces of the Dominion of India or of their officials. He demanded that these people who had suffered should be restored to their homes, that their property should be given back to them and that they should also be compensated for any losses that they may have suffered. The suggestion that any one has suffered at the hands of the military forces or the civil officers of India is wholly incorrect and without fourdation. If any person has voluntarily left his home and wishes to come back he will be given every protection and help. As a matter of fact, the Government of India has received during recent days communications, particularly from wealthy Muslim merchants of that area, to the effect that they are perfectly well protected and perfectly happy under the administration which is now func-tioning in that area. There is peace and order throughout the State. No question of compensation can, therefore, arise under such circumstances, except such claims as could be enforced in the regular courts of law. Such claims could be taken to the regular courts. If decrees against the Government are obtained, they will certainly be implemented.

## FAMILY ALLOTMENT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Families of military personnel who have changed their addresses and, in consequence have not received their family allotments should at once intimate their new addresses to the Regimental Centres of Record Offices from which they have hitherto been receiving their family allotments, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on March 5.

# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S STATES POLICY Shri N. V. Gadgil's Statement

REPLYING to the debate on a cut motion on the demand for the States Ministry in the Indian Parliament on March 15, the Hon'ble Shri N. V. Gadgil made the following statement on behalf of the Hon'ble Minister for States:

Of the small States there still remain four groups, namely,

- (1) 23 States of Malwa,
- (2) 32 Bundel khand States.
- (3) The East Punjab States, and
- (4) Gujarat States.

The Deputy Prime Minister has deputed the Secretary of the Ministry of States to visit the necessary areas to discuss with the Rulers and the people concerned the question of the future of these states and I have every hope that a satisfactory solution will be evolved by the end of this month. In fact as the Hon'ble Members have heard from the papers, the Union of Rewa and Bundelkhand States has already been achieved.

#### From 600 to 30

When all this has been accomplished, we shall have simplified very considerably indeed the problem of Indian States. We shall have reduced the States Units from more than 600 which existed before the 15th August, 1947, to about 30. There would still be left a number of smaller states who, according to our standards, would not be viable units. We hope the Rulers of these States and their people will also follow the example set by States elsewhere and will elect for merger or integration as might be suitable. There would, however, still remain a number of major States unaffected by this movement for merger or union. The States which have individual representation on the Constituent Assembly have been assured by the Government of India from time to time that they will be treated as separate viable units. In regard to them the Government of India's policy is clear and unequivocal. There is no desire on our part, in any way, to compel or coerce them into merger or integration. If they wish to remain as separate autonomous units, we would have no objection, but if Rulers and the people of any of these states desire to merge with the neighbouring province or form a Union with the neighbouring States on a voluntary basis, obviously the Government of India cannot say "No".

It is in this context that proposals for the formation of Malwa and Bundelkhand Units which would involve States like Gwalior, Indore and Rewa should be judged. It is clear however that in these states, which remain separate units, there would be continuous popular pressure for the grant of full responsible government. I hope the rulers of these states will appreciate the necessity of retaining the affection and goodwill of

their subjects by timely concessions, rather than futile resistance to popular demands.

I hope this clear enunciation of our policy regarding larger states will satisfy any misgiving that might have been created in the minds of Rulers of these states by the proposed inclusion of Gwalior and Indore in Malwa and the inclusion of Alwar in the recently created Matsya States, and of Rewa in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Union. I am sure they will realise that whatever I have stated indicates no change in the policy of the Government of India in regard to the major States and the specific inclusion of these states in our draft Constitution would convince them further of our bona fides. The corner stone of our policy in regard to them remains, as I have stated earlier, as their continued autonomous existence unless both the rulers and the people desire otherwise.

#### Hyderabad—"A Difficult Legacy"

I shall now turn to Hyderabad about which Honourable Members are naturally considerably exercised and apprehensive. Here again we inherited a most difficult legacy. Practically every vestige of political relationship with the Crown had been sought to be wiped out by the late Political Department before they left. The cantonments were returned, the airfields were given back, the return of the Residencies had been promised and the withdrawal of troops had been stipulated for. Indeed, in our view, relationship with Hyderabad started with much worse handicaps than with other States.

Nevertheless, the House will recall that when Sardar Patel made his statement in the House on the 29th November last, and announced that an agreement had been concluded with the Hyderabad State, he expressed the hope that agreement would bring Hyderabad closer to India, and that we could look forward to a relationship animated by cordiality and goodwill. The Government of India had at no time any doubt that linked, as Hyderabad is with India the creation of an organic unit between the two by the accession of the state on the three subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications, would prove of lasting benefit to both and that it was a natural and logical step for Hyderabad to take, if it decided to accede to the Dominion of India. We have not changed an inch in this position and have made abundantly plain during all our negotiations with the Hyderabad Delegations. In this respect, therefore, there is no change whatsoever in Government of India's attitude to other states and that relating to Hyderabad. We stand by the advice which we have throughout given to the Hyderabad Government, that it was in their interests to accede to the Indian Dominion and that as far as we know that was also consistent with the wishes of the people of Hyderabad.

Novertheless the position in Hyder-abad was complicated by factors of which the Government of India could not but take cognisance. His Exalted Highness the Nizam had his internal difficulties with which we thought that lapse of time might enable him to deal satisfactorily. We also felt that, situated as he is, it was for him a big decision to take and that given an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality it would be possible for him to come to the only right and proper decision, namely, accession to India. We also felt that the maintenance, for a limited period, of the status quo between us and His Exalted Highness the Nizam on the lines on which his relationship was regulated with the Crown Representative minus Paramountcy would promote this end.

We are, therefore, naturally disappointed to find that while we have spared no effort to make the agreement a success, on the part of the State, the Agreement has not been observed in the spirit in which it was intended to work. Breaches of the agreement have undoutedly occurred. One of them was taking place even while the negotiations were on. These breaches have enhanced distrust and suspicion which the internal situation in the State has undoubtedly engendered not only in the neighbouring provinces but all over India. Recently we have had discussions with the Hyderabad Delegations on the several points in dispute. I would not like, in any way to prejudice the discussions which are still going on and are to be resumed by the end of the month. The House, I hope, will therefore, bear with me if I do not enter into details.

But I can assure the House that the Government of India are determined if the Government of Hyderabad would also help us, to find a satisfactory and friendly solution to the many problems of major and minor importance affecting both of us. I am sure, in this we have the entire support of this House because I feel convinced that this House no less desires an amicable and peaceful solution if at all possible. We shall strain every nerve to achieve that peaceful solution; but at the same time I would be failing in my duty if I did not refer to two or three questions which, in our view, require more than a mere passing attention.

#### **Border Incidents**

First, there is the question of the border incidents. This is a most important issue because not only the peace and tranquillity of the whole of the Southern, Central and Western India hang on it, but also because these are symptomatic of the poisoned atmosphere that prevails and an evidence of the extent to which subversive activities inside the state are going on without apparently any check from the forces of law and order. When the Agreement was reached in November, we had hoped that we could look forward to an era or goodwill and cordiality and put these happenings back in the past. We are sorely disappointed, therefore, to find that not only border incidents have not been stopped, but they have continued to occur with even greater frequency, and have lately assumed more formidable proportions. This is a development

which we have viewed with great concern, because, as I have said, the whole future of the peace and tranquillity in the South may depend on the speed with which these border incidents are put down. We are, therefore, anxiously waiting for an indication from the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam that they intend to deal with the situation with resoulteness and determination. I am sure nothing will promote—not even perhaps the remedying of the breaches of agreement that have occurred—the feelings of amity and goodwill between the Hyderabad State and the Indian Dominion than the stoppage of these raids.

Within the relationship as determined by the Standstill Agreement between the Government of India and His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government, the Government of India are doing their utmost to secure this objective. The question was discussed at a recent meet-ing of the Prime Ministers concerned and suitable counter-measures have been settled. We have impressed upon the Hyderabad authorities the need for concerted action to put an end to this increasing source of difficulty. We fully realise that causes far deeper than those that can be controlled by administrative action might be responsible for these raids; but that would be no excuse for omission to act in the administrative sphere and I hope the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam will see that action is taken before an embitterment of relations which these raids undoubtedly produce reaches a more critical stage.

#### Razakars

Secondly we feel that it is time Hyderabad Government turned its attention very seriously to the internal forces which are not only undermining clandestinely as well as openly the established authority but are also spreading terror and fear in the local population. I refer, in particular, to the activities of the Ittehad-ul-Muslemeen and its volunteer organisation known as the Razakars. The blatant speeches openly preaching hatred and spreading communal poison of the worse kind, which the leader of these organisations has been making, apparently without any check from the local authorities are giving rise to misgiving about the bona fide of the State. The resultant oppression of the poor and defenceless Hindu population in the State is threatening the peace and tranquillity of the whole of the South. We would urge upon the Govern-ment of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to deal efficiently and effectively with ths threat to law and order in the state and to amity and goodwill between Hyderabad and its neighbours.

Lastly, we feel that viewing the position as we do, we cannot have conditions conducive to lasting and stable amity unless a permanent settlement can be reached. I should also like to make it clear that we should ourselves like in Hyderabad State a Government which enjoys the confidence of the people as a whole. After all, it is primarily the settlement of this much larger question which is bound to determine the rela-

(Continued in next Col.)

## EAST PUNJAB HILL STATES TO MERGE INTO INDIAN UNION

HE Rulers and the Chiefs of the East Punjab Hill States recently discussed with Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary to the Government of India, in the Ministry of States, the future of these States and as a result of these talks, Their Highnesses the Rulers of Chamba and Suket and the Chiefs of Baghal, Baghat, Bhajji, Beja, Sangri, Dhami, Kumarsain, Kuthar, Tharoch have signed on March 8 agreements ceding to the Dominion Government full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the governance of their States, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of States on March 8.

The decision on which these agreements are based involves a considerable measure of sacrifice on the part of the Rulers and the Chiefs concerned and in taking it they have been guided by their keen desire to premote the best interests of their people. The transfer of the territories of these States to the Deminion of India renders it possible for the Government of India to consolidate into a sizeable administrative Unit a large number of small States which are inherently incapable of surviving as separate viable Units.

Having regard to-

(a) the wishes of the Rulers and the Chiefs, which are generally shared by the people, that the territories of the Hill States should be consolidated into one Unit,

#### MR. GADGIL'S STATEMENT

(Continued from previous Col.)

tionship between Hyderabad state and its neighbours. To that extent, therefore, the permanent remedy for causes of friction is the attainment of responsible government by the people of Hyderabad, and the determination of the relationship between the Hyderabad State and the Indian Dominion in accordance with the popular wishes. We who believe in democratic institutions cannot obviously take a different view.

Therefore, before ending my statement I make an earnest appeal for a friendly settlement of this most difficult question, not on the basis of prejudices or preconceived notions, but on the basis of neighbourliness and concord between the people of India and the people of Hyderabad. I hope even now the voice of wisdom and statesmanship would prevail over fanaticism and communal bigotry, and the counsels of peace and friendship would overcome forces of hatred and disorder. The choice I need hardly say, lies with His Exalted Highness the Nizam. Let us hope he will make a wise choice and that our patience and forbearance which have withstood many provocations will at last have their just reward.

- (b) the cultural, social and other affinities of the people of these States, and
- (c) the desirability of making available to these areas man-power and wealth-power resources of a large administrative Unit so as to ensure a rapid development of their potential resources,

the Government of India have decided to unite and integrate these States into a Centrally-administered Unit.

It is the intention of the Government of India to provide, as soon as practicable and subject to the provisions of the Constitution of India, for the administration of this Unit, which will be known as the "Himachal Pradesh", through a Lieutenant-Governor with an Advisory Council, consisting of three Rulers of the East Punjab Hill States. and a local Legislature with such constitution, powers and functions as the Government of India may, from time to time, specify. These arrangements will enable the Government of India to take in hand effective measures for the development and advancement of the areas covered by the "Himachal Pradesh" and secure at the same time the association of the people of these areas with their governance.

The Rulers and the Chiefs concerned have been gualenteed their Civil list, personal property, rights, privileges, dignities, etc. The total areas that will come under the Central Administration under these arrangements, after the Rulers and the Chiefs of the remaining East Punjab Hill States have signed similar agreements, will cover about 11,000 Square miles, with a population of 10.4 millions and a revenue of about Rs. 1 crore.

It has been decided not to include the Tehri Garhwal State in this unit.

The Government of India will take over the administration of these States on April 15, 1948.

The Government of India have decided to lift the control over the distribution and prices of motor vehicles spare parts with effect from the March 1, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on Feb. 29. A notification, cancelling the Motor Vehicle Spare Parts Control Order, 1944, is published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued today, (March 1).

The Control Order was promulgated in April, 1944, under rule 81(2) of the Defence of India Rules and was later continued in force under section 17(2) of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. It controlled the distribution of 135 items as well as the prices of all spare parts.

As a result of periodic reviews, the number of items under distribution control was reduced to 64. The Government of India have now completely removed the control over motor vehicle spare parts.

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### Desist From Agitation: Sardar Patel's Appeal to States' People

IE following statement was issued by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Deputy Prime Minister of India on March 9 :-

- 1. A separate Press Note has been issued announcing the cession by the Rulers and the Chiefs of the East Punjab Hill States to the Dominion Government. full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for the governance of these States, which will be consolidated into a Centrally-Administered Unit. In the meantime, requests and suggestions of merger or integration have come from responsible authorities and bodies from other States, such as Bundelkhand, Gujarat and Central India States. To assist these States in the formulation of well-considered plans of integration and consolidation, I am deputing Mr. V.P. Menon, Secretary, of the States Ministry to visit Rewa and Nowgong and later, Bombay. Thereafter, we have to take up other States as well which are not in a position to continue as separate viable units.
- 2. The policy of democratization of the States and of the integration of such States as are not in a position to enjoy separate autonomous existence, which the States have been pursuing during recent months, has achieved remarkable results within a very short period. The Rulers of the States have shown commendable patriotism and public spirit in adjusting themselves to the changed conditions and there is no doubt that with their co-operation, which has been forthcoming in full measure, the objective that we set before ourselves, will be achieved even earlier than it could have been reasonably anticipated.

#### Peaceful Transfer of Power

- 3. I have no reason to believe that the Rulers of other States, where the implementation of this policy is under consideration, will be lacking in the spirit of public service and response to popular demands which members of their order have shown elsewhere. We are all fully alive to the urgency of solving these intricate and delicate problems and I can assure the general public in these States that we shall lose no time in reaching an amicable and satisfactory solution.
- I would, therefore, earnestly appeal to them that, while we are engaged in negotiating with those Rulers of the States in different regions an agreed constitutional set-up, they would desist from any agitation for responsible Government or for the merger of any State in larger Units for this would only hamper the efforts of the States Ministry and render more difficult the task of securing peaceful transfer of power to the people.
- 4. I am gratified to know that Sheikh Abdullah has already advised she Praja Mandals and other popular organizations to stop all agitation in the States. I strongly endorse this appeal and would ask the leaders of public opinion in the States not to sponsor any

political movement which would disturb peace in the States or embitter their relations with the Rulers, so that the important problems relating to the States may be settled in an atmosphere of peace and goodwill.

I trust the Rulers and their administrations will, on their part. fully appreciate the necessity of maintaining good relations with their people.

#### PROMOTION OF HINDI

A non-recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs and a recurring grant of about Rs. 40,000 a year were sanctioned for the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting on

Found in 1910, this Society's main object is to promote the spread of Hindi in Devnagri characters and to develop the language itself. It is also engaged in the production of high class Hindi

The Sammelan has its own building at Allahabad, but with the expansion of its activities more accommodation is needed in that city. Also, it is proposed to estab. lish a cultural centre at Delhi.

#### PAYMENT TO PASSAGE **BROKERS**

The Government of India have received complaints from passengers going overseas, alleging that certain passage brokers in Bombay extort money from them on the plea of obtaining from them yellow fever inoculation certificates, endorse-ment on passports, passages, etc., says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 6.

A passport and passage broker is prohibited from recovering any amount in excess of the scheduled charges for a passage ticket, passport, etc., where these are obtained by him for the passengers. Passage broker are licensed by the Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, for assisting emigrants. They are only entitled to a reasonable remuneration for their services. Taking into account all relevant factors, the Government of India have fixed a maximum charge for all services rendered of Rs. 30!- for an individual and Rs. 50/- if accompanied by a family.

Protectors of Emigrants are empowered to cancel the licences of passage brokers for misconduct. Any passage broker who makes extortionate charges from passengers will be liable to cancellation of his licence. All such cases may be brought to the notice of the Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, by aggrieved passengers.

## Responsible Government For Jodhpur: Maharaja's Proclamation

THE following Proclamation was issued by His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur in a Guzette Extraordinary published on March 3.

My beloved subjects.

In my last Proclamation I announced the formation of a Constitution making hody based on adult franchise and joint electorates with adequate reservation of seats for the minorities as also the setting up of a Committeee to frame tules for election to this Assembly. In that Proclamation I gave widest possible power to this Assembly to frame a Constitution which would ultimately be acceptable to all sections of my people.

It has been represented to me that this step in itself will not be a lequate to meet the needs of the situation. I have reconsidered the whole position in the light of representations made to me, and I am pleased to announce the following changes which, I lope, will bring contentment and satisfaction to my beloved subjects:

Firstly, I have decided to reconstruct my present Ministry and substitute in its place a Coalition Ministry representing all interests.

#### Council of Ministers

This Ministry which will constitute the Council of Ministers shall, for the present, consist of the Dewan, the Pradhan Mantri and three Mantries who will advise me in the gover ance of my State. It may be expanded at a later stage, if and when considered necessary.

I hereby appoint the following gentlemen to this Council:-

Dewan-Dewan Bahadur Thakur Madho Singh.

Pradhan Mantri .-Mr. Jai Narain Vyas.

Mantries .-

- 1. Thakur Bhern Singh of Khejarla.
- Chowdhary Nathurum.
   Mr. Barquatulla Khan.

This Council shall work on the basis of collective responsibility under the Government of Jodhpur Act of 1947. The Dewan will be the Fresident of the Council of Ministers.

The main task of this Council is to carry on the administration and take immediate steps to set up the Constitutionmaking body. When this body is formed it will re lace the present Legislative Assembly, and the present Council of Ministers will be reconstituted on the basis of elections to this Constitution to make the Council of Ministers completely responsible to this Assembly which will also act as a Legislature for my State.

The present Council of Ministers has carried its responsibilities under difficult conditions and I acknowledge their services and loyalty with great gratification.

It is my hope that the present arrangement will bring happiness and peace to my State and I request all my beloved subjects to co-operate wholeheartedly for the common weal of our beloved MARUDHARDESH.

## LAYING SOUND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION existing structure. I was not planning an economy to fulfil the ideology that would come into fruition after twenty

# Finance Minister's Reply to General Discussion On Budget

N the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on March 4 the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister for Finance, said in reply to the two-day general discussion on the Budget:

Madam Chairman, altogether 33 Honourable Members have taken part in this general discussion. After listening to these speeches I feel that I have no reason to complain about the general tone of the speeches or the criticisms that they levelled against my budget. Even though most honourable members congratulated me on the budget, I would expect them more to sympathise with me than to congratulate me. I do not know whether any Finance Minister in any country in the world has been faced, at the time of the presentation of his first budget, with the problems that confronted me when I started framing my budget proposals. I had to frame the budget proposals of a new born State, and unfortunately in the process of the birth, the State had to undergo a most painful amputation. A country which economically as one unit had functioned for ages had been cut asunder. That fundamental unity of the country had been broken and it was too soon to assess the more permanent results of the partition of India.

These two problems were great enough but within the first three months I was fared with a problem resulting from the migration of no less than 8 million people. In the Biblical exodus there was Moses who commanded the sea to make way that the children of Israel might reach the promised land. But the unfortunate children of India in their exodus had to wade literally through rivers of blood and through the valley of death. I had the legacy of a period of inflation and a series of deficit budgets extending over 8 years. Added to all this I had to face the problem of restoring confidence which was shattered by the contents of the last budget. As if these were not sufficient, I had to frame the budget of our country in the context of world conditions of so fluid and uncertain a nature that one cannot be sure of what awaits the morrow.

#### Contradictory Situations

Madam, it was in these difficult circumstances that I had to face the problem of framing the first budget of India, and in making my proposals, again I was faced with conflicting and contradictory situations. While there was the problem of the deficits to be covered, I had to face the problem of giving relief in taxation, and these two do not go together. While I had to fight the problem of inflation, I had at the same time so to control public expenditure as not to increase inflation but

result in more employment for our people. If Honourable Members will only look at this picture that faced us, I am sure they would agree with me that I am justified in expecting some measure of sympathy from the House. I think, Madam, it is evidence of that sympathy that even those Honourable Members who severely criticised some of my proposals thought it necessary to console me by starting their speech and ending their speech with some measure of congratulation.

My budget has been criticised from three points of view. There are those who say that I have not pleased the criticists nor have I helped the poor men. Some say they could not see any plan in my budget, and others go to the extent of saying that my budget does not reflect the spirit of the new times. The last criticism was, I think, summed up by one Honou rable Member who said that my budget is like the old wife in a new sari. Well, Madam, I consider that the greatest compliment paid to me. It is as one grows in years that one realises the value of an old wife; I have reached a stage in my life when I prefer the old wife to the new butterflies, and naturally I am very pleased when the old wife appears in a new sari (Laughter).

DR. B. PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA: Madam Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Is this all in order, all this reference to marriage and wives? (Laughter).

THE HONOURABLE SRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: Madam, since the Honourable the Lady Member proposed even a matrimonial tax and a birth tax, I think it is perfectly in order to refer to the relationship between a man and his wife.

#### Restoration of Confidence

Well in framing my budget proposals it was never my intention to please the capitalists. I cannot claim that I have given any direct relief to the poor men. The one and the only objectice that I kept in view is the need for laying the financial and economic foundation of our country in the very first year of the existence, on an absolutely sound and impregnable basis. I confess that in matters financial and economic I am extremely conservative. The experience of other countries in the world has demonstrated beyond measure the prudence of being conservative in matters relating to financial and economic policy.

My first task was to restore in the country the confidence that had been shaken. In searching for the methods to bring about a restoration of confidence, naturally I had to build on the

years. When I make this observation, I do not want Honourable Members to go away with the idea that I am not myself influenced by these new ideolc. gies; in fact, I would be the last person to advocate a static policy in our economic and financial relations - I am all for dynamic policies, dynamic action. But then when you are out to reform your whole social and economic structure on a new pattern, unless you believe in a sudden revolution that can be brought about overnight, the way in which you handle the situation in the transition period would really determine the success or the failure of your ideology. I yield to none in the desire to see established in our country a real democratic socialistic Republic.

On a previous occasion I told the House what my own conception of a socialistic economy is: a socialistic economy is judged by the ends achieved by policy, and not necessarily by the means adopted to achieve that end. If by a socialistic economy is meant an economy in which poverty, hunger and disease will not exist, an economy in which every honest man shall he given an honest piece of work, an economy in which undue accumulation of wealth is not allowed in the hands of a few individuals, then, Madam, I am all for a socialistic economy. If in the pursuit of that ideal and for its fulfilment we find it necessary to have under State control and ownership the means of production and distribution, let us by all means have it. But what I would ask Honourable Members to remember is this: merely to take under State ownership the means of production will not by itself bring about a socialistic order.

#### Capitalistic Economy

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are right there.

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. E. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: Assume for argument's sake that we make up our minds, straightaway to take under State control all means of production within the course of the next twelve months: am I to understand that Honourable Members expect by that process to see at the end of twelve months an India free from hunger, poverty and disease, in which there will be no inequalities of wealth? No. Assume for a moment that, you are prepared to apply the surgeon's knife to the capitalist economy of our country in the most merciless manner, that you confiscate 90 per cent of the wealth of every rich man, would that bring about an equitable distribution of wealth, would that remove poverty, hunger and disease?

SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: No source suggested that.

THE HON'BLE SHRI R.K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: I know Prof. Ranga will agree with me in this matter, that is why I made so bold to say these things-(Laughter)

Modam, the days of real capitalistic



economy are really over in the world. The essence of the capitalistic economy was free exploitation by an individual or a group of persons, on a purely competitive basis, with the least and minimum interference from the State. Today, no country that can call itself a civilised country, can ever advocate that system of economy. Today the differ nce is not so much between the capitalistic and the socialistic economy, but a difference based upon whether your economy is a controlled economy or an uncontrolled economy.

If, therefore, we are to bring about a safe transition from the existing state of our economy into one which we all desire, then in the intervening process our main objective must be to create and create more of productive wealth in the country so that when the appropriate time comes, that wealth can be equitably distributed. After all, the wealth of a country is in its products, not in the currency notes that circulate. No difference will be made in the wealth of our country, for instance, if I recalled all the currency notes and added one zero to each of the denominations of the currency notes. Everyone who has got a one rupee note can feel that he has got a ten rupee note and a man who has got a hundred rupee note can got a hundred rupee note can feel that he has got a thousand rupee note, but that will not increase the wealth of the country. After all, it is wealth that is to be distributed amongst people and not currency. And that is what some of the leaders of the labour movement in India are not realising. When they want more and more increase in wages and in allowances, they are not really getting for the labourers anything of tangible and real wealth, for, after all, it is the value of the currency that we give to the labourer that counts and determines his standard of life.

I had therefore, Madam, in making my budget proposals to keep prominently in mind the devices that are necessary to encourage, within the framework of our present economy, an increase in the volume of production, so that the distributable scope may increase and thereby result in the increase of the value of the currency held by the poor man. Now, if that theme of mine is accepted then it follows that everything that is necessary to give an incentive to increased enterprise must be provided for in my Budget proposals.

#### Last Year's Budget

Madam, one Honourable friend said that I was only fattening the cattle, so that I might slaughter it for my table, Well, that was not a correct metaphor. I was feeding my cow so that it might give me more milk. I have not the slightest intention of slaughtering that cow at all. There is no doubt at all that a great deal of damage was done to our economy by the proposals contained in the last year's Budget. Considered merely in terms of money, probably, the burden imposed upon industry was not very great, but the psychological reaction of those proposals in the field of industry was something devastating. I had to do something to restore the psychology of confidence. After all, what is the relief that I have given in

super-tax? On page 65 of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the Budget papers, Honourable Members will find a Table showing the effect of my super-tax proposals as compared with the super-tax proposals of the last year's Budget. Right up to Rs. 30,000 incomes, there is no change. I have not given any relief. A man who earns Rs. 30,000 a year as earned income in the last Budget would be paying Rs. 6,000 tax, and he would be paying exactly the same tax under my Budget. If you come to a man who earns Rs. 50,000, while he had to pay Rs. 16,156 before, I would be asking him to pay Rs. 15,375.

In other words, while the tax in the last year's Budget represented 32.3 per cent of his income, under my Budget the tax will be 30.8 per cent of his income. So even to the every rich man—a man who earns Rs. 10 lakhs a month. Under the last year's Budget, he would have had to pay 92 per cent of his income as tax, while under my Budget he will have to pay 91.3 per cent. Madam, I do not want Honourable Members, therefore, to go away with the impression that I have been very extravagant in giving relief in the supertax field. But I do not want the capitalists to catch hold of what I say today and then complain that I have not given them any relief. In fact, I must express my surprise at the way in which the share market reacted to my Budget. Actually, the share market in Bombay and in Calcutta recorded a fall.

PROF, N.G. RANGA: I think it was inspired.

SHRI N. ANANTASAYANAM AYYANGAR: They expected more.

THE HON'BLE SHRI R.K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: 1 do not know, Madam, what exactly was the reason for this. They probably expected a good deal and pushed up the prices in the previous week and the fall was a natural reaction to that unhealthy bullish tendency. Sometimes, I wonder whether this is an attempt on the part of the investor really to blackmail me.

SHRI N. ANANTASAYANAM AYYANGAR: You have learnt it too lute.

THE HON'BLE SHRI SHANMU-KHAM CHETTY: But they will find to their cost that, however late the learning may come to me, they cannot easily cheat me. If the business world expected my taxation proposals to be so extravagantly altered, then I would say that they do not deserve any sympathy. In fact, I think we should give a warning. After all, I shall judge the effect of the relief in taxation that I have given by increase in production and by increase in the collection of taxer. If at the end of the year I do not find these two hopes realised and I am still here I would have to revise my attitude to this question of relief to industry.

#### Super-tax

Madam, I claim that though in the field of super-tax the relief that I have given is not very substantial my scheme for

taxation for companies is one that must really help investors, that must really permit the ploughing back of money into industry. There I was a little more liberal because in those proposals I was giving relief not to the few rich investors but to the vast multitude of the small or the middle-class investors in our industry. When we think of our industrial structure, we should not get away with the idea that the investor noressarily means a very rich plutocrat. If you analyse the list of shareholders of a number of Companies, you will find that probably not less than 70 or 70 per cent of the shareholders can really be classified as "Middle-class" people. After all, it is the middle-class that is the backbone not merely of our social structure, but of our economic structure. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Sondhi very rightly pleaded for some measure of relief to the middleclass people. Well, I thought about it myself in the Bugdet, but then it struck me that after all I must give an opportunity for the House to take some credit for giving relief to somebody. I would therefore be prepared in the Select Committee to consider very sympathetically any proposal that will give relie. to the lower middle-class.

My Hon'ble friend Mr. Anantasayanam Ayyangar wanted that we should now prepare our Budget for a period of years and he suggested five years. In fact, I have been for a long time a believer in that theory of Budgeting and when I was preparing my Budget I visualised in my own mind the possible developments in our own country and in the world for the next five years, but seeing the phenomenal and the catastrophic changes that occur in the economy of the world from day to day I thought there was no use in looking even so far ahead, I therefore had in my mind a period of three years.

In fact, though I have not expressed it in so many words in my budget speech, my object was really based on that conception. In fact I gave the House a glimpse of what the budget might be in the year 1949-50 and I expect that the picture that I have made in my own mind can be realized even in 1950-51 and it is because I was preparing for a period of three years that I adopted the rather unorthodox method of taking to the credit of revenue the 10 crores of rupees which stood in deposit account as the advanced payment of taxes.

#### Next Three Years

Now if this source of Revenue was available to me only during this year, then I would not have rest content with balancing my budget merely by the adjustment of accounts in this respect. But I may assure Honourable Members that this process will go on for the next three years. We have got in deposit approximately 50 crores of rupees on this account. If I wanted really to be a juggler as Honourable Members represent me to be, I could have taken all these 50 crores and proclaimed a huge surplus budget, but that would be wrong. What we propose to do is this; that spread over the next three years we will bring directly into the revenues the amounts paid as advance taxes by way of Corporation tax and Income-tax. This year we have selected the Corporation tax. Next year we would probably select a few circles of Income-tax, and bring approximately the same amount into account and a similar procedure will be followed in 1950-51, so that so far as hat its n of revenue is concerned, you may take it that it is available for our budget for the next three years. Even though I adopted this rather un-orthodox procedure, because of the special circumstances of the case, I have been more than conservative and over-anxious in other respects.

#### Customs Duties

Honourable Members rightly asked me in the course of the discussion whether I have taken any credit on the revenue side to the customs duties that will be realised on account of Pakistan being declared a foreign territory. I have not taken anything into account. For one thing, at the time when I was framing my budget proposals and making my revenue estimates we were not yet clear in our minds as to what would be the outcome of the discussions that were proceeding between our own representa-tives and the Pakistan representatives, and apart from that, I thought that in view of the various uncertain factors that might at any moment upset all your calculations regarding revenue and expenditure, prudence to keep this hidden reserve. It is very difficult to make a very accurate estimate of what will be our receipts by way of customs duties on goods going into Pakistan or coming from Pakistan. In fact, the Central Board of Revenue is now working on this problem.

On the 1st of March, we posted our customs officials on the frontiers. The preliminary estimate that we have made is that it would be of the order of 9 to 10 crores of rupes per year. The House will, therefore, realize that even though there might be an upsetting of the revenue and the expenditure estimate during the coming year, you have got this source which will go more than to balance our estimates and result, as I hope, in a really surplus budget when we close our accounts. I have, therefore, Madam, kept very prominently in mind the problem of our budgetary position for a period of three years beginning from 1948-49 and I would suggest that in this changing world it is a long-enough period to be taken into account.

#### Prices of Foodgrains

There are various other factors which ought to result in considerable savings on our expenditure side. Now I have provided for 19 crores of rupees on account of subsidies on imported foodgrains. This subsidy is the difference between the price that we pay abroad for our foodgrains and the price at which we sell them here and also the procurement bonus that we give to the Provincial Governments. Honourable Members will be glad to know that there is now every hope of a very substantial reduction in the prices that we may be called upon to pay for foodgrains in future,

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA (WEST BENGAL GENERAL): Have prices gone down or do you expect less import?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: I am coming to that. Already during the last 2 weeks there has been a remarkable fall in commodity prices in the Chicago g ain market. Whether this is a temporary feature or the precursor of events to come, it is too early to say. But whatever might be the case, our delegates are now taking part in an International Wheat Conference. Now in that conference we are arranging for an advance contract for the purchase of 750,000 tons of wheat at prices, the ceiling and the floor of which are fixed. The ceiling price will be about 2\$ and odd per bushel and the floor price will be 1 \$ and odd, whereas the price that we have paid for our latest purchase of Australian wheat is 3\$ and odd per bushel. Fortunately for us, we have inserted a clause in our wheat agreement with Australia that if there is a reduction from 3\$ as a result of International Wheat Conference, the Australian Government will give us the benefit of that reduction.

If, therefore, this food conference goes through, as we expect it would, even then on the wheat contract that we have made with Australia, we would save 1-3rd in the price. If, therefore, this tendency is in evidence during the next three years, there would be a very substantial saving under the item "Subsidy on imported foodgrains". Assuming that we import the same quantity, merely on price we ought to be able to save at least 7 or 8 crores of rupees. That is a very satisfactory feature.

#### Relief and Rehabilitation

In my budget speech I referred also to another item, the 10 crores of rupees that we have provided for relief and rehabilitation. I think, Sir, unless something again goes radically wrong, we may reasonably expect a considerable falling off under this item of expenditure in the next and the following year. So, taking all these factors into consideration, I feel that we can look to the immediate future, at any rate, in a spirit of real confidence. But in considering the deficit this year, I do not want that I should be carried away by this exuberance of optimism regarding our position

## SCHEMES APPROVED BY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

REHABILITATION of the warravaged Andaman and Nicobar Islands, strengthening of various engineering and technological institutions in India, extension of the Indian Tariff Board for three years and a Central Government grant for the Workmen's State Insurance scheme are among the latest proposals approved by the Standing Finance Committee.

Towards re-establishing the economic life of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Committee approved a giant of Rs. 10 lakhs. If possible, one or two social workers either from the Ramakrishna Mission or the Servants of India Society will be associated with this relief work.

Well-organised settlement before the Japanese occupation in March 1942, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were allowed by the enemy to fal. into a state of disorganisation. When the islands were reoccupied by the Allies in October 1945, there were abundant signs of Japanese vandalism. Buildings had been either demolished or badly damaged, the drainage system allowed to silt up, roads neglected and cultivable lands and plantations abandoned.

The general condition of the people was even worse. Many had died of starvation, and not a few of torture. People were clothed in rags or bits of gunny. Malaria, beri beri and scabies were much in evidence.

Relief, mainly in the form of recoverable advances, was made available by the Government of India to individuals and families on a specified scale. In addition, shop-keepers and traders were helped to set up again in business on the security of stocks and other property. Interest-free loans in cases of extreme hard-lip were also sanctioned.

The new grant of Rs. 10 lakes approved by the Standing Finance Committee is for the purpose of providing relief in kind to persons who are in actual need of it, the extent in each case not exceeding Rs. 2,000. It is expected that the money will be used to purchase livestock, timber and other building materials and to promote cottage industries etc.

#### Industrial Progress

The Committee approved in principle a scheme to strengthen existing Engineering and Technological Institutions with a view to improving and expanding the facilities for technical education and of providing more technicians for the industrial progress of the country. After certain details have been worked out, grants for 1947-48 will be made by the Central Government.

Among the Institutions to benefit are the Jadavpur Engineering Conege, V. J. T. 1. Bombay, various Technological Colleges of Benares Hindu University; Department of Applied Physics and Audio Electronics, Calcutta University; Jaipur Vikram Deo Conege, Andhra University; Alagappa Chettier Conege, Madras.

The Committee also approved a yearly contribution of Rs. 100 lands by the Central Government towards operation of the Workmen's Compensation Insurance scheme, the grants to continue for five years.

This scheme provides for certain benefits to persons employed in factories in cases of aickness, inaternity cases and employment injury. It is manny tinanced by contributions from employers and workers but the covernment of made has agreed to make a grant equivalent, to two-thirds of the cost of administration of the scheme, excluding cost of belief to be provided.

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for the next three years. It is in a period of inflationary tendency that every attempt should be made to balance the budget and if possible to produce a surplus.

I was therefore very anxious that somehow or other I must balance the budget, and with that object in view I searched for new fields of taxation. I wish I had a discussion with the lady member on that side before I framed my proposals because I might then have seriously considered the possibility of a doath duty and a birth duty. Whether ultimately I would have decided upon a marriage tax or a bache'or tax I could not say: but if I wanted that at least some members of the Cabinet must feel the weight and burden of taxation, I would have chosen a bachelor tax. Madam, I was very anxious in my search for new fields of taxation to ensure as far as possible that I did not affect the life of the poor man.

#### Lot of the Poor Man

Now I come to the second point of criticism of my budget, namely that my budget does not give any relief to the poor man. I have never believed in the practice of playing to the gallery (A Voice "There is a gallery.") I am now playing to the dress circle and not to the gallery. I yield to none in my anxiety to better the lot of the poor man. But let me tell this frankly on the floor of this House that if you are searching the central budget for reliefs to the poor man by taxation you will be searching in vain. Especially after the removal the salt tax there is very litt'e indeed in the central budget by way of taxation which you can reduce and give any effective relief to the poor man.

SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS: What about matches, kerosene, tyres?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: The real effective help and relief to the poor man is to be given not by trying to tamper with these excise duties but by creating avenues of fruitful employment to our people and fruitful sources of income. And from that criterion I claim that I have more than cared for the poor man and the common man.

A great deal has been said about the match duty. I shall explain probably in greater detail at the appropriate time how this restoration of the duty to its old level will not really increase the price of match-hoxes. As a matter of fact today we have got four different kinds of niatch-boxes,-those containing 40, 50, 60 and 80 sticks. Now I ask, when even intelligent educated nepple go and buy a match box for half an anna, do they take care to see whether it contains 40 or 50 sticks? The result of this system is that the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the retailer simply cheat the consumer. When Sir Archibald Powlands reduced the duty on 50's from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 1-12 he expected a reduction in price. As a matter of fact there was no reduction in price; it was exactly the same. And where did the 12 annas go? The exchequer lost and the manufacturer and the trader gained.

I simply wanted to restore that position and if the price was unaltered when there was a reduction of duty I claim that there is no justification for the manufacturer to increase the price when I restore the duty. As a matter of fact I have had my advisers to inquire in the hazar and find out if there has been any increase in the price of match-boxes since the lat of March, and I was glad to note that there was no increase.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: In Bombay there has been.

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: Well, Bombay is a special place. In any case I may assure Honourable Members that all steps will be taken and control of price imposed, if necessary, to see and to ensure that this alteration in duty does not result in any increase in price.

I said that the real relief to the poor man should be searched in my capital budget. I have provided no less than 165) crores of rupees in my capital budget for our various programmes of development for the next year. Honourable Members seem to have suggested, or made a grievance of it, that they do not find any provision made for the relief of Harijans. Those are fields exclusively reserved for the provinces; it is through the provinces that we expect all these constructive schemes to be put forth for the relief of the Harijans or the relief of the rural classes. I am not a believer in blindly providing lump sums of one crore or five crores for a particular purpose. You take it from me that the amount will go by the drain.

#### Grant to Provinces

We are providing for a free grant of 30 crores of rupees to the provinces; and if the provinces are to utilise the whole of that amount they have to spend another 30 crores. And with 60 crores for developmental purposes the provinces can do a great deal in this direction. I would invite Honograble Members to dovote, in their study of the budget, a little more attention to the capital budget.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA; We get no information and no details; the Explanatory Memorandum covers only 20 pages.

CHAIRMAN (Mus. SWAMINATHAN) The Finance Member need not be interrupted.

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: There is a great deal of information given in the Explanatory Memorandum supplied with the budget papers.

The Centre can only provide funds in the hands of provinces to carry forward these schemes of amelioration of the ordinary man. If I may use a metaphor, the Finance Minister of the Central Covernment is like the Keeper of the sluicegates of a big reservoir. It is his function to see that the reservoir is kept at its proper level and the sluice is opened in such a manner that the water is distributed in the proper season, in proper measure and to the proper places. And when care I open those sluices and let

out water into the channels I expect the provincial Governments, like the agriculturist, to utilise the waters of the channel and to irrigate the fields. really is the relative function of the Finance Minister of the Central Government and the Finances Ministers of the Provincial Governments. Some Honourable Member suggested-I think it was Mr. Krishnamachari that there should be some co-ordination between the work of the Finance Minister of the Central Government and the Finance Ministers of the Provinces. I welcome the suggestion: in fact that has been my feeling for some time. I think we should now start a practice of having periodical conferences with all the Provincial Finance Ministers, and to have one master conference about a month or two before the provincial budgets are presented, so that the provinces might know exactly where they stand for the coming year and the Centre also may know what exactly will be the demands that will be made on its resources. I hope to inaugurate this practice at an early date.

#### Research Sections

Various other suggestions have been made which I certainly will take into consideration. For example, a suggestion was made that we should have a tax research department in our Finance Ministry. Yes, we should also have a monetary research section. In the field of finance and economics also the work done by research schoarls in modern days is something very valuable. I know by personal experience and contact the great work done by the monetary research section of the United States Treasury at Washingtom; I myself have seen that work. I am hoping that before long we would set up in the Finance Ministry these two research sections.

Before I conclude I would just like to say that in the context of the new constitution that might come into existence within the next year or two it would be our sacred duty to hand over to our successors a financial and administrative structure with the help of which they can really launch forth great and embitious programmes of expansion and develorment. It is our secred duty to conserve the resources that we have got and during the transitional period to utilise those resources wisely and effectively and cautiously. And I look upon my own duty as the custodien of the finances of this country as that of ene who is charged with the secred duty of taking good care of a delicate mechanism during the transitional and difficult period. And transitional and difficult period. And if and when I hand over the reins of office to my successor, I can feel that I have handed over to him a mechanism of a more perfect and more enduring character then I feel that I would have done my duty to my country.

Wing Conmorder Rup Chard has been appointed His Maiesty's Antassader for India in Afghanistan, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 19.

Wing Commander Rup Chand was Member of the Council of State representing Purjab firm January 1946 to August 1947. During the wer be was in the Royal Indian Air Force firm 1939 to 1943.

## SILVER JUBILEE CONVOCATION reclaimed; and I prophesy that within the next fifty years the whole of these OF DELHI UNIVERSITY

### Lord Mountbatten's Address

16 YOU have a great opportunity here of fitting yourselves for these things in the way I nave described. And on your labours and the labours of thousands of others like you the future of a great country will depend. So when you go out from here please remember that you have a very special responsibility as the result of your privilege of having been hore at the Delhi University", said His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Governor-Ceneral addressing the students of the Delhi University on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Convocation of the University on March 7

Following is the full text of his address ....

It is a great privilege and pleasure that my exofficio position as Chancellor of the University of Delhi enables me to precide at this Convecation and to confer honorary degrees on some of the most enginent men of India and in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I feel parti-cularly proud to receive the honorary degree of a Doctor of Science myself.

It is curious but to my wife and myself a very pleasant coincidence that Delhi University should be celebrating the silver Jubilee of its foundation in 1932; for we were married in that year and have just celebrated our silver wedding. The connection between these two events may not be immediately apparent until I tell you that the room in which I asked my wife to marry me in February 1922 was Room No. 13, which is now the Registrar's Office. I am afraid I cannot claim that we were both members of the University, for the University at that time had not been founded, and the building in which the proposal took place was then Viceregal Lodge.

#### Mahatma Gandhi

I was immensely gratified to read that the Executive Council and the Academic Council of this University in their joint meeting at which they placed on record their sense of the immeasurable loss which the whole of India and not least the city of Delhi, had sustained by the death of Mahatma Gandhi, concluded their resolution with the following words:

"We solemnly pledge ourselves to use every endeavour within our power to follow the high example which he has set and accordingly to promote friendship among all communities and re-establish this University as a place of learning where two great cultures can meet and enrich one another, and which welcomes and gives protection to

How dearly Gandhiji would have loved that resolution; and how pleased

he would be to feel that the members of the University are carrying it out!

The University of the capital city of one of the greatest countries of the world must always play a very important part in the life of the country and indeed all the universities and educational establishments of India have a vital role to play at this time in the future building up of India.

It is less than six months ago that India got her freedom; and this as we all know, was accompanied by great-troubles. The Government of India have surmounted those troubles, and are now turning their attention to the future of this country. There is no secret about what their policy is; but I would like to tell you how I see it. You all know that their main object is to raise the standard of living of the millions of your fellow countrymen who are less favourably situated than yourselves, who live in misrable hovels, are ill-clad, under-nourished and illiterate.

In order to do this the Government have obviously got to so organise the wealth of the country that enough will become available to enable this great adventure to take place. That is to say, they must make sure that the country is so organised that everyone can earn a fair and reasonable amount; and they must also so organise amount; and they must also so organise it that there will be enough food, clothing; decent houses and cottages; enough doctors and hospitals; and enough schools and education facilities, in order to meet the demands that their increased standards will need.

#### **Potential Wealth**

Now you may think that this is a very tall order and very difficult to carry out; but it can be done; because if you stop and think for a moment you will realise that this great country of India has the greatest natural potential wealth of any country in the world. In the ground there is not only coal, iron ore, manganese and many other minerals, which have only just begun to be tapped but India as you know abounds in great rivers; and the schemes that are being carried out and have been carried out in the past are small compared with the schemes the Government of India now have in mind for the future.

These schemes will mean that the water from the rivers will be used to drive the hydro-electric, turbines to generate electric power which can be distributed at very small cost. After the water has done that, it will be used to irrigate vast stretches of land where nothing has grown hitherto for lack of water.

Desert reclamation is another science which can save a large part of India. Tens of thousands of square miles of the deserts of Jodhpur and Bikaner can be vast stretches of land will be among the most fertile in the world.

So you see that there is every chance of the policy of the Government of India being made good.

But the greatest potential wealth of India lies in the people of India; those 300 million men, women and children that make up the population of this great country. I don't refer just to their manual labour which at the moment we are using, though very uneconomically. I am referring to their skilled labour, which constitutes at the moment a very small percentage of the population, but which with the spread of education can rise to so great a proportion that it could eventually become nearly a hundred per cent.

Remember also the inventive genius of the people which can be trained and developed and made use of for the benefit of the country.

And last but by no means least, I would refer to the individual characters of the individual men, women and children of this country; because that is where a vital part of the wealth of the country lies. If we can give them education and give them a chance to develop their characters, then there is no telling how great this country may not become.

#### Education

Now I have mentioned education and character development. Those two character development. Those two processes are the vital ones behind the whole scheme. And I would like you to remember that in all the universities, and particularly here in the Delhi University, you have a very special chance to acquire those two things education and character development.

I am sure you don't think that education just comes to you; that it can be spoon-fed like medicine. All of you must have discovered for yourselves by now that you have got to do a lot for yourselves if you want to learn: if you come here and spend three, four or five years doing nothing about it-then you will leave as ignorant, and I might add in that case, as stupid. as the day vou came.

Now one does not always learn, while one is at a college or university, that it is knowing about things that makes the whole of after-life interesting and worthwhile. In my own case I did not really discover this while I was at college. first World War came and I went to see on my sixteenth birthday as a mid-shipman in the Grand Fleet. But I was one of the lucky ones and got a second chance; because those lads who had missed their education through being sent to sea as youngsters, and were called war babies, were sent to Cambridge University after the war ended on a postwar course. That was the time that I really learnt a lot, and that was the time I learnt how to learn about things. And that is what you want to do here; learn how to acquire knowledge for yourselves, learn how to learn, and go on learning

for the rest of your lives. I know that that is the thing I have striven to do.

A year ago, in February 1947, I was back in the Navy doing what is known as the Senior Officers' Technical Course at Portsmouth, learning about Radar, atomic energy, self-propelled missiles and all the new and rather horrible wonders that science is giving us for war. It was of great value; but I was not referring to learning at courses. I mean learning in the ordinary way of life. I have no doubt whatever that I have learnt more in this last year in India than at any other time in my life.

#### Character Development

The other point I spoke to you about was character development. You have got to make up your own mind what sort of a character you are trying to develop, and then set about developing that yourselves. Here you have ideal surroundings and great possibilities; but you must do it yourselves; nobody else can do it for you.

What sort of a character are you trying to develop? Different people have different ideas. But the fundamental which I think you have to aim at is to become the sort of man, or woman, that other people look up to; not just your future subordinates, or your con-temporaries, but your superiors. Yes, you want to be the sort of man that your own superiors also look up to. And to do that, I sugeest you want first of all to be absolutely mentally honest: you must possess complete intellectual integrity, never deceiving yourselves, for one moment. If you do that, and if you are capable of seeing both sides of every question, quite impartially, quite objectively and quite dispassionately you will have no difficulty in arriving at the right answer. And when you have made up your mind and come to a decision, have the moral courage to stick to it, no matter if it is unpopular, no matter if stupid people sn er at you; you will have the mental satisfaction of knowing you are right; and then the people that matter will look up to you.

It is no good, after you have graduated, going about life trying to cash in on the fact that you are a graduate of the Delhi University. It is no good boasting of this unless you are worthy of our University. Because all that will happen if you do will be that people either won't believe you, or they will think that something has gone wrong with the University. Therefore you should not mention you have been to Delhi University unless you feel you can be a credit to it and intend to live up to it.

It sounds rather as though I have been preaching to you, and I admit I have been doing something like it. But I don't want you to think that because I have been preaching to you, I regard myself as in any way perfect, or as in any way resembling any of the virtues which I have advised you to aspire after. You have only got to ask my wife, or my daughters or my staff, and they will tell you have very far from perfect I am in all these respects. But I have got one advantage which I do claim as an important one—I know I am not

perfect and I know what my shortcomings are and I try not to deceive myself mentally into thinking that they are anything else. I try to improve, though I am getting a bit too old now to improve much. S'ill, I go on trying, and I am sure we should all continue to try to improve ourselves.

But my real reason for speaking to you like this today is because India requires pioneers to put through the Government's policy of raising the standard of living of the people. It is obvious that you cannot start at once teaching 300 million people. It is obvious that we should start by educating and developing the characters of the chosen few—who are lucky ones—whose privilege it will be to go out and gradually spread the whole scheme. And it is the people in the universities like you who must be the pioneers.

And when you go out into world remember it is not just knowledge and educational qualifications which are wanted, it is character as well. When architects and engineers set out to design and build decent houses, factories and bridges, and to do town planning, what they do must certainly be professionally competent; but they must also have the courage of their convictions. They must fight any attempt on the part of the employer to cut down what they think is necessary for the workers in order to save money; they must fight when a Municipal Council wants to turn down some vital part of their townplanning scheme merely to save money. The same with doctors. They mustn't just be content to cure people or to operate skilfully or to build up a successful

practice. They must have the courage to fight and go on fighting for decent medical service and to see that the general standard of health of the people is raised.

And that goes all the way through—scientists should not learn research work just to discover or invent things; they should have the courage to see that their discoveries are put to the use of mankind, and not just kept for the use of one particular individual or firm. And so I could go on indefinitely. Lawyers should aim to get justice done particularly for the poor; and, when they become judges, should see that the law is administered impartially and fairly. Teachers should make certain not only that what they are teaching is right, but that they are devoting themselves to building up the characters of their pupils in the right way.

The future officers of the Navy, Army or Air Forces must be certain not only that their forces are kept ready for war, but that in peace time they are contributing to the stability of the country by an example of impartiality, discipline and loyalty.

Well, you have a great opportunity here of fitting yourselves for these things in the way I have described. And on your labours and the labours of thousands of others like you the future of a great India will depend.

So when you go out from here please remember that you have a very special responsibility as the result of your privilege of having been here at the Delhi University. Live up to it, and good luck to you!

## Foundation Ceremony of Miranda House

HE following is the full text of the address made by Her Excellency the Countess Mountbatten of Burma on the occasion of the Foundation Ceremony of Miranda House, the Women's College of the University of Delhi, on March 7.

I have very great pride and pleasure in laying the foundation stone of Miranda House, the Women's College of the University of Delhi.

I feel particularly honoured to have been invited to perform this ceremony, marking as it does a historic step forward in the education of women and one that, at the University's Silver Jublice, so fittingly exemplifies the spirit of progress of this great academic establishment.

It was only recently that I had the pleasure of opening the Central Institute of Education, the women students of which will I understand be among those to be accommodated at Miranda House. On that occasion I expressed my confidence and hopes of educational development in India in which this University is giving a fine lead, and I do most wholeheartedly associate myself with all that my husband has said today.

#### Women's Education

There is pressing need for further facilities for women's education throughout the country, but here in Delhi perhaps particularly so with the

large influx of students from the Punjab and being as it is the capital city. The Government of India has with sympathetic and financial support enabled the University of Delhi to carry out farsighted plans to meet the need by the construction of this building where the vital facilities of collegiate life and academic training will be available to about 300 resident students.

Women are already playing a great part in the pu lic life of India today. In what other country of the world does one find women holding the responsible and leading appointments as Governo of a Province, as Ambassador and as a Minister of Health? The high example of ability and service to their country set by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Pandit, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and so many leading women, is one that is an inspiration to all of us and one which, with increasing opportunities for education and training, we can confidently expect a greater number of women to emulate in the years to come.

I am proud to be associated by the laying of this foundation stone with the great educational development work of the University of Delhi, a University for which as my husband has said we have so many happy and sentimental attachments. To the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Councils, Faculty and Students I would like to exterest good wish for successful progress in the years to come.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CIVIL AVIATION

### Communications Minister's Speech

REPLYING to the debate on demand for grants in respect of Communications Ministry in the Indian Parliament on March 12, the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi. Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications stated that it was incorrect to say that the Legislative Assembly had accepted in February last year the principle of nationalisation of airlines. He said:—"In fact in November, 1946, this question was discussed in the House and the House dispersed without reaching any conclusions; and all that the Minister said was that he would consider all the points of view expressed in the House."

He continued: "It is true that a conference on Civil Aviation was held in February (1947) but there, too, no decision was taken. When I took over charge of this Department, matters stood there. The question of nationalization of air services was under consideration but no decision was taken. It is ture most of the air services were in favour of nationalization of air services outside India. But so far as internal services were concerned, they were opposed to it because they thought that the internal services would pave their way from the beginning, while they will have to incur much loss if they take to external service.

I think the House knows that the Government have already reached their decision about external services. We have entered into an agreement with Air India and in May next our first external service will start touching Egypt, Switzerland and England. In the beginning this will be twice a week. It is a partly-owned Government company and partly a private company. Government hold 49 per cent of the shares and Government have also a lien on another 2 per cent, which they can acquire in any way from Tata's. So Government have a controlling share there and on the directorate too, Gövernment have controlling position.

#### Committee To Advise Government

"So far as internal services are concerned, the motions put forward by my friends on the other side, have my sympathy. But today Government have no organisation which can immediately take over the air services and, therefore, at the last meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, it was decided to set up a departmental committee and that committee has been appointed, and I will read out to you the terms of reference of that Committee which will make it clear that Government are taking over one route, and after that when an organization is set up it will be possible for them to take over other routes.

The Committee has been appointed to-

- (a) select a route on which an air service may be operated by Government with an organization under, and directed by the Government of India:
- (b) advise Government on the details of the organisation for the purpose; and
- (c) give a broad indication of the economic possibilities of the operation of this service."

#### Telegraph And Telephone Service

Mr. Kidwai then gave figures of telegrams booked each month in Delhi and the number of telegrams sent by wire and by post from August, 1947, to March 10, 1948 and said: "There is an improvement in the despatch of telegrams by wire although there is a big increase in the number of telegrams received. This month, so far, only 400 and a few have been sent by post, while as much as over 42,000 were sent by post in September, 1947. That shows an improvement.

"I now come to telephones and the following information may interest Members: The number of effective Trunk calls booked in Delhi were: October (1947)—12,400; November—14,000, December—14,900 and January (1948)—17,800. In February the number has gone even higher and today an average call you can get from Delhi to other places in less than 4 hours' time, while in September or October last you could not have got an urgent or express call to any place outside of Delhi in less than eight hours. This is the position two or three months ago and what it is today.

- "I think the Delhi situation is improving and we are trying an experiment which will start on the 15th of this month by which you can call some stations on demand. If you want Luck now and if it is on the list, as soon as your demand is received you will be put in contact with it without being asked to wait. Improvement is all the time going on.
- "We all know in what circumstances we had to work in September and October last year. Anywhere the working would have broken down and it broke down here.
- "I need not say much about telegrams. I have just given the figures for Delhi. The same is the state of affairs all over the country but there has been all round improvement and I hope soon the Department will be restored to their former efficiency."

#### More Rural Post Offices

The Minister continued: "A plea has been put forward for extending postal services to our villages. Such

extension can take only three directionsincrease in the number of post offices, increase in the number of deliveries per week and extension of postal facilities to villages, where they do not exist today. That work is on hand. Up to date the following extensions have been made. 2,156 new post offices in villages have been opened: 542 postmen have been added to the existing post offices: postal facilities have been extended to 1,603 villages, where up till now no facilities existed. This work will continue.."

SHRI DESHBANDHU GUPTA: "Is it one year's record?"

THE HON'BLE MR. RAFI AHMED KIDWAI: "It is two years' record. The work was held up during the disturbances. For the current year a large gamount has been provided to extend facilities. As a matter of fact, directions have been issued to Circle Officers that they should try to have a post office in every village with a population of 2,000 or more, even if the post office in the beginning had to run at a loss up to Rs. 500 a year. Therefore, let us hope that as soon as other facilities are available the postal service will be extended to all the villages, where they do not exist today.

"It is also proposed to provide cycles to village postmen, so that they can cover a large area.

#### More Telephones For Delhi

"Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta has expressed his fear that perhaps in the next few years we will not be able to provide new telephone connections in Delhi itself. So far as my information goes, I hope by September 1,000 new connections can be given in New Delhi and by early next year another 1,500 new connections will be available."

SHRI DESHBANDHU GUPTA: "What about Old Delhi?"

THE HON'BLE MR. RAFI AHMED KIDWAI: "Both will be covered by this. "Much has been said about the inefficiency of the Department. I share the feelings of the House in that criticism and I think I have been as great a critic of the departmental inefficiency as any other member in this House. But I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the good work that the department had to do during the last six months.

#### Some Remarkable Achievements

"As Members are aware, on account of the partition, many parts of our country were isolated. We had to face the difficulty of communicating with Assam. We had to do something almost immediately. The first thing we did was to instal a wireless transmitter at Gauhati, Shillong and at Tripura and this put us in communication with that part of the country. Then the department took up the construction of telegraph and telephone lines and a work that would normally have taken more than a year, was completed within five months.

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"A similar situation arose when Kashmir acceded to India and we had to connect it with communication. As a first resort we set up a transmitter in Srinagar and in Jammu and in a month we were in direct contact with Srinagar and Jammu both by telephone and by telegraph. That is a remarkable achievement, for in ordinary times it would have taken six months.

"Similarly our officers had to contact many other posts in the frontier of Western Pakistan, the Rajputana state frontiers and in Central Provinces also, where on account of developments in Hyderabad we had to have telephonic connections with the border towns. These connections were provided as quickly as could be expected. I hope the House will also appreciate this.

#### Wureless Telephony

"I have to say a few words about the measures that we are taking to improve the departmental services. When the trouble arose in East Punjab and there was complete breakdown of communications the department installed wireless sets in all the important centres and communication was restored. Similarly we had to do with other places. Now we have to improve our daily communications, both telegraphic and telephonic. It takes long to construct new lines and, therefore, we have decided to instal wireless transmitters and receivers at important centres. I think before the close of this month wireless communication will be available between Delhi and Calcutta. Similarly all important places like Madras, Bombay and other political centres will be connected by wireless".

Mr. Kidwai continued: "If we have wireless transmission there will not be so much delay in telegrams and we will not have to send them by post because the wireless transmission will be supplementing the existing une system. We are also considering to have in this country wireless telephony and I hope that in the next few months we will be able to formulate a scheme which will connect all the existing centres with wireless telephony. That will improve our communications very much.

#### Promotion By Merit

"I think, Sir, I have touched almost all the points that were raised by Honourable Members except that of Mr. Anthony. When Mr. Anthony was praising the present system of promotion by selection I think he was in favour of promotion by merit and not promotion by seniority. In most of the departmental services we proposed to introduce the system of promotion by merit. I know that the present reporting system is not foolproof; I know there is opportunity for favouritism and jobbery. I have in the course of the last five or six months received several representations in some of which I see that injustice was done.

Therefore, we are thinking of introducing such a system wherein full care shall be taken that the reporting authority is an impartial authority. If we are sure of the impartiality of the authority, then, in promoting on officer all that we

have to see is his past record. They favouritism will not come in. But I admit that till we are able to devise a fool-proof reporting system there is some occasion or scope for favouritism or antagonism. I assure the Honourable Member, Mr. Anthony, that I will look into the cases that he has referred to and if I find that any injustice has been done, then the injustice will be removed. Similarly, in future also, if there is any such cases I will look into the complaint if it reaches me".

#### **Telephone Factory**

Dealing with the establishment of a factory in the country to manufacture automatic telephones the Minister stated: "We were negotiationg with three or four countries for establishing a factory here in India. Sometime back we had deputed a special officer to negotiate with them and to bring the terms so that we might decide on our course of action. I am glad to inform the House that we have almost reached our conclusion and in the course of the next few days a delegation will go to complete the negotiations with them and if these negotiations are completed and finalised, of which we have every hope, then in the course of the next few months we will start establishing a factory here and start manufacturing tools. Let us hope that by the time the next Budget is placed before this House

that factory will be manufacturing some parts of our requirements. A part of the agreement is that so long as full manufacturing is not started, that company will supply us from its own factory in Europe the parts or the equipment that we require for improving our services here."

## AVIATION SCHOOLS TO OPEN NEXT WINTER

A scheme for the training of commercial pilots, ground engineers and flying control officers, is expected to be put into operation during the next cold weather, possibly even earlier. This was disclosed by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, in the Indian Pailiament on March 10, during question hour.

The Minister added that the present plans of Government contemplated the opening of the Flying Training and Aerodrome Schools at Allahabad and the Aircraft Engineering School at Barrackpore. Government had no plans at this stage for opening training schools at other centres. The question of the grant of scholarships was included as part of the scheme.

## Effort To Rehabilitate Highly Qualified Displaced Persons

A Special Employment Bureau in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has been set up to facilitate quick rehabilitation of highly qualifi€d displaced persons drawn from trade, business, commerce, industry and professions. The Bureau will commence registration of persons immediately, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 13.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation feels that there is a considerable amount of high class talent amongst refugees which ought to be harnessed to gainful occupations as early as possible. The interest of displaced Government servants is taken care of by the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Those of artisans, crattamen, clerks and in general of the lower middle class people are looked after by the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation is convinced that a special effort is necessary if highly qualified displaced persons drawn from trade, business, commerce, industry and professions are to be rehabilitated quickly. The Special Employment Bureau has therefore been set up.

#### Eligibility for Registration

To avoid overlapping and duplication of work between this new Burcau on the one hand and the Transfer Burcau and Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour, on the other, a dividing line has been laid which will consider education, experience and status before displacement. Accordingly, the following criteria will be observed in determining

eligibility for registration with the Special Employment Bureau:

Education: Graduates—First Class Honours; M. A.—At least high second class; LL.B.—At least high second class; M.B.B.S.—at least high second class.

Experience: At least 10 years' experience of a special line of work.

Previous Status: This will be determined by the responsibility of the post previously held and salary drawn. In the case of non-service men income from business will be the determining factor.

As it is not possible to lay down any hard and fast rule, persons who are not considered eligible for registration with the Special Employment Bureau, will be free to register elsewhere. Displaced Government servants will have the option of registering with the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation or with the Transfer Bureau.

List of persons registering with the Employment Bureau will be forwarded periodically to Governments of all Provinces, all States which have acceded to the Indian Union, all Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India and to first class private firms.

Registration with this Employment Bureau, however, will not connote a commitment to provide employment.

The office of this Bureau is located in Room No. 180, "P" Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

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# MR. NEOGY REVIEWS PROGRESS OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

REPLYING to the debate on the cut motions to discuss the progress of relief and rehabilitation in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on March 12, the Hon'ble Shri K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation said:—

I am afraid that in the few minutes that I have at my disposal it will not be possible for me to reply to all the points that have been raised, I beg of my honourable friends not to take that as a discourtesy. I very much hope that in so far as there are specific points on which information can be given, they will do me the favour of giving notice of questions covering those points.

In the first place I should like to convey my cordial thanks and gratitude to my honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava for the handsome terms in which he referred to me and the humble efforts that I have so far been able to put forth in the service of the refugee population. At the same time, I am afraid he was carried away by his eloquence so much so that he ignored some of the fundamental facts of the situation.

My Honourable friend complimented Government on having made adequate financial provision for the relief of the refugees. But he wants to know what is the actual result. Sir, in all humility I claim that the actual result is to be seen in the fact that lakhs of our brothers and sisters are at the present moment enjoying a medicum of comfort and are in a position to eke out their living in some cases.

#### Low Mortality

Not very long ago, the Delhi correspondent of a very powerful English newspaper made the prediction that numerous people among the refugees will not survive the winter. Sir, we have survived that wishful thinking. It is my proud claim today that the mortality that has prevailed among the refugee population is not in some cases even as high as the normal mortality in cities and towns and rural areas having comparable population. Sir, that is the actual result. When after the partition our brothers and sisters living in Western Pakistan had to flee for fear of their lives, the slogan was "Bring them out alive"; and I make the claim that we did succeed in bringing them out alive.

The next problem was how to keep them alive; this was a problem for which there has been no precedent in the history of the world. I cannot claim any experience for myself in handling such a problem, but I dare say very few in the world can claim any experience in handling a problem of this magnitude. When I remember the day I took over charge, with what trepidation, with what hesitation I went to Government House to

take the oath! And today I have no reason to regret that I undertook this task and availed of the opportunity of serving my fellowmen.

#### **Permanent Rehabilitation**

Sir, what is meant by permanent rehabilitation? Permanent rehabilitation means creation of employment—because it ultimately comes to that; creation of employment for millions of people at a time when production is admittedly at a dangerously low ebb, and when volume of trade and commerce in the country is shrinking.

My Honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava is disappointed at the poor number of people that have secured employment through the Employment Exchange. I am surprised that it has been possible to place so many as we have succeeded in placing in various capacities, through the Employment Exchange and otherwise. Full statistical information as regards people who have secured jobs in various capacities is not yet available and if, in the course of this session I am in a position to give more detailed information on this point, I will certainly do so.

Sir, permanent rehabilitation can be achieved satisfactorily only as a feature of general development of the country as a whole. This is the point which I emphasized once or twice before. Particularly when we are concerned with such a vast population, it is simply impossible to think in terms of rehabilitating them without at the same time proceeding for measures which would lead to the development of the resources of the country as a whole.

Sir, as the very first step towards permanent rehabilitation we have to try and fill the gaps that have been left in the economy of our country by the withdrawal of the Muslims from India. But when we approach the question from that point of view, what is it that we find? It is not the same population in structure that has come across from the other side as the one that has gone over to Pakistan. Here numerical comparisons would be very misleading. The gaps that have been left by the withdrawal of the Muslims cannot easily be filled by the incoming refugees. The most broad-based method of permanent rehabilitation in a country which is predominantly rural in its economy would be by way of agricultural rehabilitation. Here again, the land that the refugees have left on the other side of the border, was certainly superior to the land that was vacated by the Muslims who have gone across. Likewise, the size of the average agricultural holding in Western Pakistan, which has been vacated by the incoming refugees, was larger than the average size of the holding that has been vacated by the Muslim evacuees from India.



Mr. Neogy

Then again, it must not be forgotten that we cannot think in terms of permanent rehablitation even in regard to agriculture so long as the right, title and interest of the Muslim evacuees continue in regard to the property left behind by them. And that is a fact. Even today all the property, agricultural or otherwise, that has been left behind by the Muslim evacuees from India still continues to be the property of the Muslim evacuees although they may be in Pakistan. Likewise, the right, title and interest of the Hindu-Sikh refugees who have come away from Pakistan, in regard to property left behind by them in Pakistan still continues to be there.

SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR: On paper.

THE HON. SHRI K. C. NEOGY: I do not think I should take such a pessimistic view as my Honourable friend opposite does. Sir, efforts are made continuously and we are, I venture to hope, reaching the final stages of the negotiations that would lead to a final settlement of this property again. A committee of officials would soon be meeting in Lahore to discuss this very problem in the very near future and it is my hope that before this Assembly session terminates I would be able to report progress in that matter.

Sir, as a matter of fact, if we can succeed in having a satisfactory settlement on this property question, not only would it enable us to make permanent settlement of land and other property on both sides of the border in accordance with the terms which may be agreed upon, but the very fact that the refugees who are now in India would be in a

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position to claim some compensation in whatever shape, in whatever degree it may be, would enable them to stand on their own feet and rehabilitate themselves through their own efforts, at least in a large number of cases.

My Honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas referred to the question of housing acommodation at Delhi. He expressed his impatience at the delay that is taking place. I wish my Honourable friend were in my position because he would have then realised what are the difficulties that stand in the way of accomplishment of even the best considered schemes which are promoted with the best intentions by people who have nothing but the spirit of service to inspire them.

I have before me a note which indicates the programme which we have in hand with regard to housing accommodation in Delhi, but I do not think I will be justified in reading through the various items that are now under active consideration. May I tell my Honourable friend that there are so many limitations as regards expansion of housing accommodation in Delhi that it will be risky on the part of anybody to embark on an unlimited expansion. Water supply is the most difficult limiting factor in this regard.

We are now engaged upon experimentation in tube-wells, although at one stage it was definitely declared by technical opinion that tube-wells cannot be a success in Delhi. Not daunted by such adverse opinion, we are now again embarking on experimentation in the matter of tube-wells. On the success of this measure would depend the extent to which we succeed in expanding housing accommodation. After all, there is on over-all limit beyond which the capacity of Delhi cannot be expanded.

#### Movement of Refugees

My Honourable friend does not like any restriction being placed upon the movement of the people; the refugees. Now, Sir, if we were to allow free movement of refugees to take place, what would happen to Delhi? My Honourable friend to the right is a distinguished citizen of Delhi, and if I were to claim the advantage of his opinion on the subject. I daresay I have some support in the view that I am putting forward that we cannot think in terms of permanently rehabilitating the refugees who are at the present moment in Delhi in their entirety. Let me be quite frank about it to the House. I have been nurtured in the Legislature, I have been a member of the Opposition for a longer period than I can well imagine, in a way. I have no secret from this House. Let me assure my Honourable friends that they would be doing the greatest wrong to refugees if they were to create the impression that the capacity of Delhi to house them has not yet been exceeded.

If they are real friends of the refugees, they had better tell them to leave Delhi and be controlled by Government. You cannot in one breath hold Government responsible for their failures, and at the same time, claim full freedom to go about from place to place wherever you like. Either you claim your freedom of

action in the matter—then rehabilitation will be your responsibility—of, if you want to hold Government responsible for rehabilitation, you must agree to be controlled in your movement by the Government.

Continuing his speech after lunch Shri K. C. Neogy said: Sir, part of the criticism advanced by my Honourable friend Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava could well have been directed against the East Punjab Government and here I should like to point out to the House that although I have no desire to disown my part of the responsibility, even the adoption of the plans, not to speak of detailed execution thereof is primarily the concern of the East Punjab Government in so far as the refugee people of that area are concerned.

Sir, the House should not forget that in the East Punjab there is today a popular Government functioning with the support of a popular legislature and that legislature has recently been expanded by the addition of all the Hindu and Sikh M.L.A. from West Punjab, so that it can be truly said that the legislature of East Punjab is today fully representative of the interests of the refugees. We, undoubtedly in the Government of India, try to influence their policies and their decisions—not always, let me add with cent percent successbut that is all that we can do. Undoubtedly we finance their schemes to a large extent and that is the only title in a sense, that we have to control their activities in any effective manner.

#### East Puniab Capital

Sir, that leads me to the question of the East Punjab capital. I would be very much obliged to my Honourable friend if he were to use his eloquence with the East Punjab Ministers for the purpose of influencing them to make an early declaration in this matter.

SHRI BIKRAMLAL SONDHI: (East Punjab: General): I was told by the Prime Minister of the Punjab the other day that he has already sent the papers and he is awaiting the orders of the Government of India.

THE HON. SHRI K. C. NEOGY: I may tell my Honourable friend that up to yesterday the Cabinet of the Government of India had no information on this particular point.

THE HON. Mr. RAFI AHMAD KID-WAI: (Minister in charge of Communications): The latest letter says that they will indicate their decision in about a week's time. That letter was received 2 days ago.

#### Safe Deposit Vaults

THE HON. SHRI K. C. NEOGY: My Honourable friend made a specific complaint of the restrictions that have been put on the operation of the safe deposit vaults. I want to tell the House that just at the present moment there is a non-official delegation, consisting of 5 members of the Advisory Committee attached to this Ministry, carrying on negotiations at Lahore in regard to this matter and that delegation

includes my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal. Not merely are they going to help our organization at Lahore in this matter, but I propose to fly to Lahore tomorrow to take a hand, if necessary, in these discussions. I denot know what more is expected of the Government of India.

Sir, I should now like to give a very brief idea about the major features of our rehabilitation policy. Sir, schemes of rehabilitation may broadly be classified into two categories:

- (a) those undertaken directly by the Central Government, and
- (b) those undertaken at the initiative of Provincial Governments.

In order to co-ordinate rehabilitation schemes as far as possible with schemes of development, the Government of India have set up a high-powered Rehabilita-tion and Development Board. This Board is expected to work out schemes of rehabilitation as integral parts of schemes for the economic development of the country. The Board will, of course, work in the closest co-operation with the Provincial Governments concerned. Details regarding the allocation of expenditure on schemes undertaken by the Board have not yet been worked out. Some of the schemes may be undertaken as the sole responsibility of the Centre while others might be financed from the block grants for development made by the Centre or by some suitable arrangement with the Provinces.

With regard to schemes or rehabilitation undertaken by Provincial Governments, the responsibility will be mainly that of the provinces concerned. The Government of India, however, recognise that in carrying out such schemes the Provincial Governments should be helped financially to some extent by the Centre.

Unlike refugees from West Punjab who have facilities and the opportunities for rehabilitation in East Punjab and the East Punjab States taken together as a pooled Unit, rehabilitation of refugees from N. W. F. P., Baluchistan, Bahawalpur and Sind other than those who have their old roots in East Punjab and can be resettled there, is the direct responsibility of the Government of India. For practical purposes this category of refugees comprises those dependent on what may be described as urban occupations.

In terms of the Resolution of the A. I. C. C. all agriculturists from West Punjab and those from N. W. F. P., Bahawalpur and Sind who have their roots in East Punjab must be settled within the pooled unit of East Punjab and Indian States in that area.

Other Agriculturists from N.W.F.P., Baluchistan, Bahawalpur and Sind may be settled on soil elsewhere in India. Alwar, Bharatpur, and Gwalior in particular, have possibilities in this direction.

In regard to refugees depending on urban occupations, it is proposed to assist rehabilitation of those from West Punjab in East Punjab, and assist rehabilitation of those from other parts of Western Pakistan elsewhere In India.

It is proposed to pursue schemes of suburban development, establishment of new cities and development of new ports for rehabilitation of urban refugees.

It is proposed to promote establishment of cottage, village and large-scale industries in such newly developed areas according to the environment and aptitudes of refugees to be resettled.

Rehabilitation finance facilities will extend to all refugees to promote rehabilitation. There will besides be other financial assistance to various categories of refugees, announcements about which have from time to time been made.

#### Problem of Abducted Women

Sir, I now come to the very valuable suggestions which the Honourable lady from Bengal made in regard to certain social and psychological factors of the problem presented by the abducted women who may be rescued as a result of our efforts. These suggestions will be given due weight. I wish it were possible for the Honourable lady to make available to us her services in this behalf by continued presence at Delhi.

Sir, I should now like to take up a few points which my Honourable friend Musafirji made. A good deal of his speech would have been quite appropriate if it had been delivered in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly, because most of the charges, as far as I could make out, were not against this Government, but against the Government of Pakistan. I can easily understand my Honourable friend's impatience at the slow pace at which negotiations are going on and at the apparent unsuccess of our efforts so far. Sir, in dealing with Pakistan we must have an abundant supply of patience. I have not yet despaired of ultimate success in our efforts.

#### Custodian's Organisation

My Honourable friend made a particular complaint about what is happening in the Custodian's organization in regard to the allotment of business premises. We had a Custodian who was rather hasty in his action, and I have even now to deal with shoals of complaints on account of the somewhat hasty action taken by him. Now we have another Custodian today who is circumspect, who is very careful and who is scrutinising everything with the utmost care and attention with the help of a popular advisory committee.

My Honourable friend comes along and makes an equally grave complaint that things are not moving fast enough. Now I should imagine that it would not be in the best interests of the refugees themselves if less care and attention were to be given to this very vexed question of allotment of business premises than what the Custodian is at the present moment in a position to do. Now, as I said, there is a good deal of impatience at the pace at which rehabilitation work is proceeding. As I said before, we had no experience in this matter and our method has, in many instances, been one of trial and error. I also said before that I have no secrets from this House. I must confess that we have learnt by experience, by mistakes that we have nade. But at the same time when I

turn to literature that is available to us indicating the experience in such matters of other countries in the world, I find that in the case of Greece and Turkey—which were the first in modern times to have a similar experience of mass movements of population—the time taken for rehabilitation of a fraction of the population with which we are concerned today was five years, and they seem to take a pride that it was accomplished in that period.

Then, Sir, I was looking into what I suppose is the latest issue of the United Nations Bulletin (January) and there I find an article from the pen of the Executive Secretary of the I. R. O. (International Refugee Organisation),

which is in a sense the successor of UNRRA. This is what he says with reference to the refugee camps now in Europe and other places:

"Many of the men, women and children for whom we are responsible are spending their third winter since the end of the war in the twilight existence of displaced persons' camps in Germany, Australia, Italy and the Middle East".

Sir, as I said before, Greece took five years; we have not had as many months in India. And much as I am personally impatient at the slow pace of progress I should like to say that if we want extra quick results the House had better look for a magician and not a Minister.

## Refugee Pensioners: Procedure For Payment of Advances

Procedure for payment of advances to Provincial Government civil pensioners who may have come as refugees from Western Pakistan has been decided, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 4. It has also been agreed between the Dominions of India and Pakistan that all Provincial Governments in either Dominion should take definite measures to facilitate the quickest possible transfer of the relevant pension papers.

Pending the transfer of these papers it has been decided that the following procedure should be observed:—

(i) When a pensioner presents his Half of the Pension Payment Order

The Accounts Officer in whose payment transfer is desired will, after obtaining the following documents, authorise the Treasury Officer or the Post Master to make provisional payment:—

- (a) A certificate from a Magistrate or a Gazetted Officer certifying the pensioner's identity.
- (b) An Indemnity bond from the pensioner with two sureties, who should either be permanent Government servants or persons certified to be solvent by an Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar, agreeing to refund any amount wrongly paid.
- (ii) When a Pensioner has lost his Half of the Pension Payment Order

The Pension. not exceeding in amount the residual monthly pension assuming that the original pension would have been commuted to the full permissible extent, will be paid provisionally on the production of the following documents:—

- (a) Certificate. from a Magistrate or a Gazetted Officer certifying the pensioner's identity;
- (b) An Indemnity bond from the pensioner with two sureties, who should either be permanent Government servants or persons certified to be solvent by an Officer not below the rank of

Tehsildar, agreeing to refund any amount wrongly paid;

- (c) Other corroborative evidence to show that he was in fact a pensioner and the Department and Office from which he retired;
- (d) A declaration stating the amount of his monthly pension, the month up to which he had received payment and the name of the Treasury or Post Office from which he received payment;
- (\*) The number of Pension Payment Order, if possible

#### Through Recognised Banks

This procedure will apply only to pensions due for the period ending the March 31, 1948. To minimise the risk of inadmissible claims, payment under (ii) above where the pension exceeds Rs. 100 p.m. should be made only through recognised banks.

In order that fresh payment Orders may be issued at an early date to the Treasuries or Post Offices by the Accounts Officers concerned, the Auditors-General of the two Dominions will collect all relevant cases and refer the same to each other so that the Treasury Halves of the Pension Payment Orders may be quickly transferred. All complaints of pensioners who want to draw their pensions in India should be made to the Auditor-General of India and these will be cleared by him with the Auditor-General of Pakistan.

The procedu e laid down above will apply to all Provinces in India. Similar orders have also been issued by the Government of Pakistan.

Similar procedure in respect of pensioners of the Central Government has already been announced under which the Accountant-General Central Revenues, New Delhi has been authorised to issue provisional authority for payment of monthly advances. He also obtains applications from the pensioners for transfer of the pensions to Treasuries in India and forwards them to apprequiate Accounts Officers in Pakistan for affecting the transfer.

## PROBLEM OF BLINDNESS IN INDIA like to draw attention to certain social and administrative aspects of the problem, which are of interest to all. These include the following:—

### Kajkumari Amrit Kaur's Address Ophthalmological Conference

66THE magnitude of the problem of the blind in India can well be realised when it is remembered that, according to a recent report by a Joint Committee of the Central Advisory Boards of Health and of Education, there are in the country some two million persons who suffer from this disability, said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health, in the course of her inaugural address to the Ophthalmological Conference on March 11 in

Following is the text of the address:

"About six weeks ago an indescribable calamity overtook India-nay the whole world and your conference which was to have met here last month had to be postponed. We have not yet recovered from the shock nor emerged from the gloom which has enveloped us ever since. Mentally and spiritually blind persons caused to be removed from our midst one who was the light of our eyes. The loss is so incalculable, so crushing. As a friend from abroad wrote to me "He was the only sane person in a mad world". Nevertheless we must cease to mourn Gandhiji's absence in the flesh and we can do so if we realise that the radiance of his life's example is always there to guide and his spirit abides. And in faith and courage we must gird up our loins in order to accomplish the many things we must accom-plish in order to make free India great in the highest sense of the term.

Let me begin by thanking the orga. nisers of this Conference for giving me the opportunity to associate myself with its deliberations. The All-India Ophthalmic Society has been in existence, I understand, for the past 17 years and periodical conferences have been held in different parts of the country. Today, however, you are meeting here in Delhi under the new conditions of a free India which has to bear full responsibility for shaping her own destiny in every sphere of life.

There is perhaps no nobler profession than that of the doctor, concerned as he is with the alleviation of suffering and the promotion of positive health so as to enable the individual to live a richer and fuller life. In the medical field itself the Ophthalmologist can claim for himself a place of high honour because the importance of the preservation of the eyes in proper working condition need hardly be emphasized from the point of view of the economic and social life of the individual and of the community.

#### Blindness—Colossal Problem

The magnitude of the problem of the blind in India can well be realised when it is remembered that, according to a recent report by a Joint Committee of the Central Advisory Boards of Health and of Education, there are in the country some two million persons who

suffer from this disability. The number of those suffering from various eye diseases which may eventually lead to limitation of vision and even loss of sight will in all probability be many times this figure. It is difficult to estimate the extent of suffering and in-capacitation to which these people are subject or the effect that their condition has on the social and economic life of the community. It is a tragic confession but nevertheless true that a large proportion of eye disease and of blindness existing in the country is due to preventible causes the principal amongst which is the general ignorance amongst our people of the laws of life.

#### Causes of Blindness

The Joint Committee's Report gives the following as the main causes of blindness in India. They are given in the order of importance in the causation of this condition:-

- "(1) Inflammatory diseases of the conjunctive and cornea due, among other causes, to the effects of irritants applied in ignorance to the eye.
  - (2) Cataract and glaucoma.
  - (3) Malnutrition.
  - (4) Venereal diseases.
  - (5) Smallpox.
- (6) Pernicious activities of couchers and quacks.
- (7) The ill-effects of bad posture, glare, bad lighting and badly printed books."

#### Preventive Measures

It will thus be seen that preventive measures against disease, a balance diet providing the necessary amount of vitamins and, above all, proper education of the people to lead clean lives, adopt simple measures of personal hygiene and seek medical aid as soon as eye troubles start can easily bring under control the factors now operating for the production of the large amount of blindness existing in the country. While the responsibility for medical and other measures for the treatment and prevention of eye diseases and for the welfare of the blind must ultimately rest on the community and more particularly on governments, such action as they can take in this field must largely be influenced by the technical advice and guidance which a conference such as yours can place before the country. I, therefore, particularly welcome this opportunity of meeting you all today and of wishing you success, especially because I am now privileged to be your first servant in the Health Ministry of the Government of India.

I realise my limitations, in addressing a distinguished body of experts in their specialised field of work but I should

- (1) the organisation of curative and. more than curative, preventive health services for eye conditions and as an essential step towards this end, the provision of adequate training facilities for medical and ancillary workers in this field;
- (2) the promotion of a programme of welfare work with special reference to the educational and social aspects of the problem of blindness;
- (3) the provision of facilities research in order to guide community effort in the medical and other branches of the programme on sound lines and;
- (4) most important of all, education of the people for the preservation of their own eyes in good condition.

I do not propose to deal with these matters at any great length, my main purpose being that of inviting the attention of the conference to the urgency and importance of these questions. Such remarks as I offer are only intended to stimulate discussion and to evoke from the experts assembled here helpful suggestions for the guidance of govern-ments and of non-official organisations interested in the problem of eye diseases and of blindness.

#### Eye Service in Villages

Adequate provision for the treatment of eye diseases and for preventive care will become available only as part of a well-developed health organisation for the country as a whole. The immediate need is to utilise all the resources within our means to extend help to as wide a section of the community as possible, particularly in the rural areas, and in attempting to do so, we shall have to seek I feel, the help of various types of non-medical workers such as teachers, nurses and health visitors in addition to that of doctors. The importance of training a large body of such auxiliary personnel and of enabling them to carry out elementary preventive work has been emphasized by the Joint Committee, which has suggested that "they should be given instruction on the hygiene and care of the eye, and be allowed to make up simple lotions and instruct the villagers in their use-remedies such as boric lotion, normal saline and castor oil drops are suggested." The general social worker may well be added to the above list. In addition, medical aid of a higher standard can be made available to the rural population by travelling dispensaries under the charge of trained ophthalmologists, these medical units concerning themselves not only with the treatment of patients bus also with the education of the people in the prevention of eye diseases. travelling eye dispensaries have been working in a number of provinces and have been doing excellent service but a considerable expansion of such work is desirable. As a long term measure the provision of well-developed ophthalmological departments in every district and sub-divisional hospital will be necessary to ensure that the cam-



paign against eye diseases is promoted on a sound basis. The report of the Joint Committee to which I have already referred states that, in the opinion of ophthalmological experts, well over 50 per cent of existing blindness in the country is curable. Hence the need to make medical aid available to as large a section of these sufferers as possible is evident.

In order to assist in the orderly development of such a programme I would suggest that each province should have an Ophthalmological Adviser on the establishment of the administrative head of the provincial health service. The Central Government has already created such a post and is proposing to appoint a suitable officer to it. It will be his duty to assist in co-ordinating and guiding provincial effort in this field.

#### Welfare Workers

Welfare work for the blind covers such a wide field that it seems to me that there is room for all to contribute their share. The general education of the blind, the provision of suitable vocational training for them and the promotion of measures intended to reduce as far as possible the sad effects of their sense of well being and to increase their capacity for undertaking useful work—these activities, if they are to be developed on an adequately large scale, will require the united efforts of Governments and of the public. An essential need is to train welfare workers for the blind in sufficient numbers. The type of training required for such workers and the institutions to be developed for their training are matters requiring serious consideration.

#### **Educating Public Opinion**

Education of the people in the care o their own eyes will have to be undertaken on the broadest possible basis. The mother and the teacher must play a dominant role in the preventive campaign. Which of us has not seen children with "sore eyes", the latter covered with flies? Which of us has not seen our children sitting in wrong postures in the school room, often in dark rooms, often with the sun facing them rather than at their back, often poring over their books in order to cope with examinations at all hours of the night with a miserable light to assist their labours? One of the most widely prevalent forms of eye disease is Trachoma, particularly in North-Western India and with its great infectiousness and high incidence in children no effective control can be promoted without interesting mathematical mathematical and the control of the control o structing mothers and teachers to participate intelligently in the measures devised to combat the disease. It should also be remembered that any damage caused to the eyes of children may have lasting results crippling them for all time by reducing their ability to earn a living and by robbing them of their legitimate share of the joy of life. And yet there are no arrangements for the compulsory examination of our school children's eyes.

In addition to teachers and mothers and social workers, health personnel of all sorts and particularly health visitors.

nurses and midwives, can and should participate in the educational campaign. It is their duty to educate the people in the adoption of the simple measures which will suffice to prevent the spread of many forms of eye diseases and to encourage them to seek and obtain proper medical aid, wherever possible, instead of resorting to remedies put forward by quacks. Women health workers are in the privileged position of having access to mothers and other womenfolk in the homes of the people and their responsibility for promoting educational and welfare work in this field should therefore be all the greater.

You have in your Chairman of the Reception Committee a man who has, to my knowledge, tried to follow the high ideals of one of the noblest of professions and I am glad to have this opportunity of paying a public tribute to his charitable work in Delhi over a long period in his special domain—ophthalmology. I am sure you will all carry on your deliberations in that same spirit of service that gives and asks for no personal returns and that relief to rural India will be in the forefront of all your schemes.

With these few remarks, gentlemen, I have much pleasure in inaugurating your Conference and wishing you every success in your deliberation."

#### Travelling Eye Hospitals

Dr. S.A. Rahim who delivered the presidential address called upon his colleagues to assist the Society in its crusade against blindness which was rampant throughout the country. He hoped that with a National Government the foundations of a real eye service would be laid within the next decade by building as many eye hospitals in every part of the country, by University centres providing facilities for research and granting diplomas and lastly by having travelling eye hospitals and a net work of blind relief workers throughout the country.

Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Director of Medical Services, who also spoke, promised the Ophthalmologists a sympathetic consideration. Earlier, Dr. S.P. Shroff, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the Hon'ble Minister for Health.

### TUBERCULOSIS MENACE MUST BE CHECKED

-Health Minister

We have neither the means nor the personnel to cope with it. And yet we flust turn our attention to this menace if we are to check its spread", said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, inaugurating the second Diploma Course for Tuberculosis in the Delhi University on March 1. The following is the full text of the Health Minister's speech:

I am very grateful indeed to Sir Maurice Gwyer for having given me the opportunity of inaugurating the second Diploma course for T. B. in this University. Of the many services he has rendered to this Institution of learning this course is by no means the least good or useful.

Tuberculosis is spreading at an alarming rate in our country. We have neither the means nor the personnel to cope with it. And yet we must turn our attention to this menace if we are to check its spread. Undoubtedly bad housing and malnutrition are the main causes of its incidence, coupled with the poverty and ignorance of our people. Nevertheless we do need men and women to specialise more and more in the treatment of this fell disease and I, therefore, welcome the starting of this Diploma course with all my heart.

#### High Incidence

During many years of social service in my own home town of Jullundur I was painfully struck by the high and increasing incidence of this disease among women, in particular pardah women and I became actively and keenly associated with the first T.B. Association. I believe our small anti-T.B. Dispensary in Jullundur was the first of its kind in the Punjab and I long for the day when

there will be enough workers to man such dispensaries and hospitals at the head-quarters of every district town in this country as also to serve the villages which alas! are also touched now.

I am aware that the Vice-Chancellor has submitted proposals to the Government for establishing an Institution of T.B. in Delhi. I hope this Diploma course is the first step in that direction and that it will not be long before the larger dream comes true. I can assure him of my moral support at all times. He has sown the seed which has already sprouted and there is no reason to doubt that the plant will be fostered and grow in size and yield rich fruit as time goes on.

I am glad to learn from him that the 12 places that can be allotted have been filled and that too from all over the country. It is, however, sad that more candidates cannot avail themselves of health programmes, have had to be held up because our resources have had to be harnessed to meet unforeseen emergencies. We have, therefore, to be content with less. Since, however, all big things spring from small beginnings
I have no doubt that this venture too
will grow into something well worthwhile and that perhaps more rapidly than we can today imagine, provided we have the requisite faith and perseverance. The success of this endeavour will lie largely in the hands of those who qualify themselves here. If their service is appreciated, as it must be if it is rendered in the right spirit, the demand for more training centres will be in existible.

With these few words I have much pleasure in inaugurating the second Diploma course in Delhi University and wishing it every success.

### ROLE OF FORESTS IN ECONOMIC LIFE

## Mr. B. R. Sen On Forest Resources And Industrial Development

THE time has come when we must revise our entire outlook in the matter of utilisation of forests in India. Past policy, though based on essentially sound principles, appears to have been rather static in character, now it must be more dynamic", stated Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary to the Government of India, opening a three-day session of the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation in Dehra Dun on March 10.

Emphasizing the importance of Indian forests in making India economically stronger, Mr. Sen referred to the existing forest policy, which was laid down in 1894. Its main principles were (a) that the need to preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the country i.e., to prevent floods, soil erosion and dessication, must be the first consideration in any scheme of forest management; (b) that the preservation of the minimum amount of forests necessary to satisfy the wants of the local population for fuel and house building must come next in importance; and (c) that the exploitation of forest resources for commercial purposes is permissible only after the first two needs are adequately satisfied.

The essential soundness of this policy will hardly be challenged even to-day but the question which arises is whether in the new conditions in India the administration of that policy needs any change. To deal with this question we must take certain essential facts about Indian forests into account.

#### Forests in India

What proportion of a country ought to be forest land in the interests of the country as a whole is a problem on which various opinions have been expressed. Sir Herbert Howard, late Inspector-General of Forests on a study of European conditions, expressed the view that 20 to 25 per cent of the land in India ought to be covered with forests, properly managed and distributed both for protective pur-poses as well as to supply the general and village consumers all over the country. Of the total area of 6,25,000 sq. miles in India about 1,55,000 sq. miles or about 25 per cent are estimated to be under forests. At first sight it might appear that the present area under forests in India should be adequate for her needs. This, however, is not correct. About one-third of the area under forests is under communal or private ownership which as in other countries, has been extremely wasteful in character. Within the definition of properly managed forests, we can include only about 11 per cent of the total land area which are of the reserved and protected types.

The present distribution of forests in India is also far from satisfactory from the point of view of meeting the needs of local village consumers. The Provinces north of a line from the Gulf of Cambay to Calcutta are particularly deficient in forests except in patches.

Floods and soil erosion are two of India's greatest problems in connection with the increased production of food. Though neither of these problems are new, there can be no doubt that in recent years floods are taking an increasing toll of our crops. The rapid progress of soil erosion in different parts of the country has also been a factor of grave concern. Both these problems are intimately connected with the management of forests in the hilly country and at the headwaters of rivers. Though a large portion of these forests is under the management of the Government quite considerable areas are under private ownership, which during the last few decades have been recklessly exploiting them for grazing or fuel, exposing considerable areas to the dangers of floods and soil erosion. The matter has now the fullest attention of the Government of India. Proper land management with a view to control floods and soil erosion will be an important subject for study by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, which is already functioning, and the Land Utilisation and Soil Conservation Board which is proposed to be set up at the Centre. 'Forests', how-ever, are a Provincial subject and unless there is full and active co-operation from the Provincial Governments, success in this field must be limited.

#### Need of Fuel

So far as village consumers are concerned, while the policy of making the supply of fuel and timber to them is second in importance only to the control of floods and erosion is unexpectionable. the application of that policy does not appear to have yielded satisfactory results. Nine-tenths of the U. P., half of Bombay, most of West Bengal, much of Bihar and the whole of the coastal areas of Orissa are almost completely without any forests. The small quantities of fuel and timber required by the villagers in these areas cannot be transported across long distances within their purchasing power; the villagers therefore have been compelled to use one of their most valuable agricultural assets for fuel which has seriously affected their production. Agricultural crops depend very largely on the supply of manures. India's soils are particularly deficient in nitrogen. It has been calculated that the amount of nitrogen required to make up the loss through crops every year is about 21 million tons.

In the past India has been very largely dependent on cowdung to supply the nitrogen deficiency. The total production of cattle manures in India is estimated to amount to 160 million tons of dry weight or 800,000 tons of nitrogen.

Actually, however, 40 per cent of what is produced is used as fuel, thus about 320,000 tons of nitrogen which can produce an additional 1.75 million tons of rice is lost. The national importance of saving as much of this cowdung manure as possible will be clear. This saving can only be achieved if the rural population is provided with fuel in the form of some quick-growing trees where there are no natural forests to draw upon. The question has been discussed in the past both by the Centre and the Provinces, but owing to the lack of a determined policy, there has been little progress in the growing of such trees. The implementation of such a policy must therefore constitute one of our most urgent and important problems.

#### Forests and Industry

When we come to the exploitation of forests for commercial and industrial purposes we find the existing policy still more inadequate and lacking. Under the policy laid down in 1894, the uses of forests in India have been confined very largely to (a) the supply of railway sleepers and (b) furniture and house building. The bulk of the valuable hard woods is reserved for railway sleepers but even then the supply has been found inadequate and the deficiency has been met by imported sleepers of timber and steel. For household purposes also large imports of teak come from Burma.

The insufficiency of the Indian forests is stated to be due to the scattered nature of her hard wood trees which makes economic exploitation difficult and the reluctance of the consumers to use any timber other than those which belong to the primary species. In the India of to-day such a halting and unprogressive policy of exploitation can hardly be permitted to continue. Though India is largely an agricultural country the standard of living of her masses can be substantially raised only if India develops her industries simultaneously on a wide scale.

#### Timber To Relieve Steel Shortage

India has now vast schemes for industrial expansion based on the use of structural steel which is in short supply. Can treated timber replace structural steel to any extent? Persons of undoubted technical knowledge and experience have told us that treated timber can replace steel in the construction of highway bridges upto an extent, and completely dispense with steel for electric transmission and distribution lines, telephone and telegraph poles, and roof trusses for factories, godowns and workshops, aeroplane hangars etc. The cheapest steel in the world is produced in Belgium and yet Belgium finds it more economical to the control of the control cal to use treated timber for telegraph and telephone poles than steel. In the United Kingdom also over 90 per cent of the poles for telegraph and telephone lines are from timber imported from Scandinavia. In U. S. A. up to 80 per cent of the bridges on most of the leading railways—which use much heavier locomotives than in India-have till recent years been built of treated wood and not steel. If the countries so highly

industrialized can find such uses for treated timber, why should India not try and do the same, especially when her entire industrial progress is threatened to be held up for lack of steel?

I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with some of the major consuming departments of the Government of India and I have been given to understand that the main obstacles in the way of greater utilisation of Indian timber in the past has been the non-availability of timber properly treated at centres convenient from the point of view of transport. This, however, is a problem which is surely not beyond administrative solution. I may say that the matter has already been taken up by the Government of India for examination. It the Advisory Committee can give us any practical suggestions in dealing with this problem, we shall be most grateful.

#### Plywood and Rullway Sleepers

Apart from the use of treated timber in place of structural steel, there other industries in which Indian timber can play a more positive and effective part than it has done in the past. Plywood, for instance, can be one of the most important timber industries in India. The annual requirements amount to 150 million square feet. Large quantities of playwood used for packing Indian tra for export are now imported. With a little more enterprise in research and organisation on our part and a little more co-operation from the tea industry it should be possible for India to supply all demand from within the ocuntry.

The estimated annual requirements for railway sleepers amount to 36,00,000 B.G. sleepers and 26,00,000 M.G. sleepers. The present production from Indian sources amounts only to 15,00,000 B.G. sleepers and 15,00,000 M.G. sleepers. The Forest Institute has now offered 36 species of secondary timber for sleepers. It is hoped that the Railways will find it possible to eliminate their demand for steel for this purpose by making the utmost use of the available species, even though the latter may not be as satisfactory as hard woods.

The jute and cotton mills require 552,000 gross bobbins annually. Before the war almost the entire demand was met from outside. During the war the Indian industry was able to meet the entire demand. Imports have started again with the end of the war. It is clear, however, that if the Indian industry is properly organised and the supply of the timber required is attended to, India can be self-supporting in the supply of bobbins.

#### Newsprint

Another important industry which can be developed is newsprint. The present annual demand is 50,000 tons all of which is imported from hard currency countries. Valuable research has already been carried out and we saw the paper produced from broussonetia papyrifera, popularly known as paper mulberry, tested by the "Statesman" the other day with very satisfactory results. If plantations of the fast growing paper

mulberry are taken up in right earnest there is every reason why within a reasonable time India should be able not only to supply but also to keep pace with her growing needs for newsprint.

There are other industries in which forestry can now play an important part. The time has come when we must revise our entire outlook in the matter of utilisation of forests in India. The policy in the past, though based on essentially sound principles appears to have been rather static in character; now it must be more dynamic. While the prevention of floods and soil erosion and satisfaction of the fuel and timber needs of the local village consumers must continue to receive priority, the use of our forest resources for the industrial development of our country must also be given a prominent place in our future programmes of forest development. The

success of this policy will, however, depend on certain definite factors. We must extend and intensify our research activities to meet all technical needs and problems. We must overcome the prejudice of important industrial consumers against the use of the secondary species, which is holding up progress. And most important of all, we must revise our feeling, regeneration and planta-tion practices to the extent necessary to cope with the growing volume of demand which will arise under the new policy. It will also be necessary to devise much more effective arrangements than in the past, to bring the uses of forest products for industrial and commercial purposes, in the light of the results of the latest research, to the notice of all concerned. Towards the success of this policy, quite spart from the Government, the industrialists can play a decisive part.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY FOREST UTILISATION BOARD

The Central Advisory Board of Forest Utilisation which met at Dehra Dun recently adopted various suggestions affecting the future development of many Indian industries dependent upon forest products. Recommendations made by four sub-committees appointed on March 10 were considered and the following resolutions, among others, were adopted:

- (1) Investigation on the designs of wooden towers for electric power transmission is of great urgency; assembly of bamboos to serve as Joles for telephone lines and similar uses should also be investigated.
- (2) Use of indigenously produced insecticides for wood preservation, preferably those soluble in cheap solvents, should be investigated.
- (3) In the interests of the nation's economy, treated timber should be used in place of steel and concrete wherever possible.
- (4) In order to make use of timber more extensively, it is imperative to instal wood preservation plants in several centres for treating timber.
- (5) Government should give the lead by using treated timber more extensively, and should ensure that the treatment of timber ic done satisfactorily before it is supplied to Government Departments, industries and the public. It is also essential that trained staffs be maintained at the Forest Research Institute for loan to agencies as and when required.
- (6) To examine carefully the technical, administrative and financial implications, a small committee should be appointed to make definite proposals. This committee should include representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Industry and Supply, the Technical Power Board and trade.
- (7) High priority should be given to the work of processing and treatment which would impart special properties

to wood for textiles for which suitable woods for special purposes are required.

- (8) The programme for the current year as passed by the Advisory Committee of the Indian Paper Industry be approved and priority be given to work on waterproof paper.
- (9) In view of the economic importance of minor forest products, attention in the current year should be focussed, among other times, on tamerind seeds, which have been used for producing sizing material, and a quick-growing plant used in the manufacture of camphor. At present India has practically no source for the manufacture of synthetic or natural camphor.
- (10) In view of the promising results so far obtained from preliminary work on certain minor forest products in bringing about stabilisation of soil, further experiments should be continued with the requisite staff.

The Board accepted the need for more effective informational machinery to bring to the notice of the general public, commerce and trade activities of forest research. It also accepted the need for organised industrial show-rooms at all important centres in India for the display of products utilising timber and other forest products on a commercial scale. This should be organised with the co-operation of Chambers of Commerce or other public bodies wherever possible.

Mr. B.R. Sen, Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, Government of India, presided over the meetings of the Board.

The Railways (Transport of Goods) (Amendment) Act, 1948, passed recently by the Dominion Parliament, has received the assent of the Governor-General. Priority Control is exercised under this Act which will be in force up to March 26, 1949.

## NO MORE MINISTERS FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

### Prime Minister's Reply to Cut Motion

REPLYING to the debate on the cut motion suggesting the expansion of the Cabinet the Prime Minister said in Parliament on March 8:

"I am in an unfortunate position, unfortunate in the way that I find it very difficult to resist the arguments advanced today on both these motions. Dr. Keskar's motion is to the effect that there should be more Ministers and that the Departments should be better controlled. I do not quite know what he means by Departments being better controlled, nor do I quite understand what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, in his very interesting remarks, said. If Dr. Keskar thinks that by appointing a number of Ministers the Departments would be better controlled, I think he is wrong—in fact entirely wrong. It is much more likely that the Ministers who are appointed so will be for a long time controlled by others. Instead of their controlling they will be controlled or they will be failing to understand the same thing and the permanent machine will control.

This is not a matter so much of policy or of circumstances in India. It is the development of an intricate and complicated system of administration in every country. If Dr. Pattabhi had had to walk a mile here in some Secretariat building, he probably would have to walk about seventy miles in a War Office building in Washington—just one War Office building—I am not talking of the whole Secretariat. The Secretariat establishments now of great countries are so enormous, so complicated, that nobody understands them; no Government understands them; they run themselves as a spontaneous growth.

#### A Difficult Problem

So that this is a problem which is not solved by appointing more Ministers, but it is a separate problem and a very difficult problem. In fact one of the major problems of the age is how to control this intricate system of administration democratically because demo-cracy cannot deal with such problems. Only high class experts in an organisation can really understand it. The democratic system arose in a fairly simple way where high principles were laid down and they were carried out by certain civil servants: but when the civil servants job became not only frightfully intricate but also rather technical—because it is becoming more and more technical—then a democratically elected House finds it difficult to consider it in all its details. So the civil servants of the technical establishment progressively more and more independent because nobody could understand or control them. They just laid down principles or high policies. It is a very difficult matter to consider and in fact the whole democratic structure of government is rather imperilled by this developI do not think therefore that the appointment of additional Ministers will by itself bring about any radical change in the control of departments. I do agree that—whether you may call them Ministers or Deputy Ministers—it is desirable to have a larger number of heads looking after these various activities. On the other hand, if you increase the number of Ministers, the Cabinet becomes uncontrollable.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: In England there are 21 Members of the Cabinet.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That is why it is not a very good one.

It is a grave difficulty. There is a tendency then for the Cabinet Ministers to function separately. It ceases to be a practical thing. The whole idea of Cabinet Government is that it should be practical, a jointly responsible thing.

SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYY-ANGAR: (Madras: General): We could have additions with Cabinet rank or without Cabinet rank.

#### Deputy Ministers

HONOURABLE PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am going to deal with that point. So I think it is definitely undesirable for the Cabinet to be too big. It cannot function together. In fact, if I may confess it, even our present Cabinet is slightly difficult to function together. In fact, to give you a very simple test, it becomes sometimes difficult to sit even round a table together, and if people have to sit in two or three rows, it ceases to be an informal meeting to consider a matter. It becomes more like a public meeting: so that the only way out is not to increase the Cabinet Ministers but to have somebody in the nature of Deputy Minister or whatever he might be called. You may perhaps have some kind of Deputy Minister in charge of each major department and a person who can be called a Cabinet Minister in charge of three or four of them in supervisory charge. That is a possibility.

It is true that the work of many of the Ministers—in fact of all of them—is very heavy. Anyhow, it would have been heavy because we had to catch up, not to carry on a machine but create precedents and do many such things. Quite apart from this, the events of the last six months have put such a tremendous pressure upon Government and prevented it doing many things which it otherwise might have done, that it has become really difficult to know how to deal with all the problems that we have. On the other hand, it is not of course a question of lack of policy or of people not being eager enough to do this or that job. It is far more an intri-

cate question of doing something which is an organic growth and which is not upsetting.

Now for instance we had the case of appointing additional Ministers in this Government, first Mr. Neogy who came as Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation; then Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. Now after their appointment, for some weeks almost, they were homeless. They did not have a place to sit or an office. They did not have a Secretary, clerk or stenographer or anybody because naturally the establishment here thinks in terms of a Minister having a certain circle of friends, acquaintances, helpers, menials, & co., and if all of that is not there, he simply cannot function.

#### Incresse of Bureaucracy

It is certainly the trouble and perhaps might be important. Nevertheless it is true that you do want some place and some organization to function. It you are to function efficiently, you must have certain equipment and certain place to sit in and certain methods of work, so that it is an odd thing, you will notice, that this House protest—and rightly protest—against the increase of lurraucracy and at the same time it suggests things which inevitably involve increase of bureaucracy. The Minister is just there—somewhere—one person but with him he brings in thirty or forty or fifty officers sitting to the right and to the left of him (laughter). It is a difficult problem.

The House will not expect me to give a precise answer to these questions, but I do realise that it is necessary to make some further arrangements for, if I may say so, the individual supervision of various departments more than it can be done now. I do not think Ministers can be added to certainly you could have one or two more, but I rather doubt whether the increase will be conducive to better work. May I say that long before I requested Mr. Neogy to come in as Minister for Relief and R habilitation, even then we were thinking in terms of a Minister for Social Welfare and Economic Welfare, some such Minister because we attach considerable importance to that. But then other events came in, the Punjab events and others, which put that rather away from our minds.

#### Criticism of Some Ministers

I should like in this connection, if I may, to say something about certain remarks that have been made, and that have been repeated I believe outside, in criticism of certain of my Colleagues. In fact, they are named—four of my Colleagues—and the criticism made is that for various reasons they should not be in the Cabinet, that they should resign. Now, obviously I am the person primarily responsible for their appointment to the Cabinet and if any criticism is to be made it should be made about my appointment or about me—not about them.

As a matter of fact, I have no doubt that each one of them would willingly and gladly divest himself of this tremendous responsibility at the slightest suggestion; nobody is sticking on or



holding on to office. Office is not a pleasure nowadays, as the House might well realise; it is not easy now to induce people even to accept office because it is so difficult and the burden is so heavy. In fact, I might mention that two of my Colleagues—I shall not name them now—have actually repeatedly asked me to relieve them, but it is at my request only that they have continued, and one of them has only continued at my request for a limited period of time and not for long. So I would say this, that it is rather unfair on my Colleagues and on me for these criticisms to be made. I can understand that it is the right of any member of the public to demand on public grounds or other grounds that the Cabinet may be changed or the Government may be changed. Or if he likes occasionally he may criticise any individual Member of Government. But this persistent criticism of some Members of Government and a demand for their withdrawal from the scene of their activities is improper unless it is coupled, as it should be coupled, by a change of Government completely and primarily by the removal of the Prime Minister who is responsible for them.

#### **Mixed Cabinet**

I may say that naturally the Cabinet, as it exists today is what you might call a "mixed" Cabinet, you may call it a Cabinet of various talents or varying talents, whichever you like. It was deliberately made that way, whether that was rightly done or wrongly done, is another matter, but it was deliberately made from the point of view of having various elements in the Cabinet who could devote themselves with ability to that particular task in hand. It was not meant at that time to be just a purely Party Cabinet, although undoubtbut the viewpoint of the Party was the dominating viewpoint and had to be because that viewpoint was represented by the great majority in this House, and we were responsible to this House, and the majority in the Cabinet also represented that viewpoint. Nevertheless, it was not conceived to be a purely Party Cabinet. It was filled by me and by those Colleagues of mine whom I consulted at the time that in the peculiar context of events after this changeover we should proceed on a wider basis.

No doubt gradually, as soon as the immediate problems are over, we thought things would take some other shapemay be there may be purely Party Ministries or All-Party Ministries whatever that might be—but immediately in the early days of August when I had to think about it I thought this was the right thing to do and those Colleagues whom I consulted also thought that that was right. We cannot, in the changing context of today, make plans for any lengthy period of time; I can only look a few months ahead, I do not know what may happen after that. So it was in that context that we made this Cabinet deliberately including people who were not definitely of the Congress persuasion but whom we expected naturally to fall in line with the general viewpoint of this House.

I wish to say this, that inspite of differences of opinion on many topics we have pulled on with extreme friendliness and co-operation; we have differed, we have argued, but we have in a very large measure shown very great loyalty to each other. So it distresses me to see any Colleagues of mine criticised in the way some of them have been criticised in the Press.

#### Agency for Planning

May I say a few words about planning? I do not entirely understand or agree with Mr. Krishnamachari's suggestion that planning as such should be postponed for two years and preparations for planning should be made till then by the appointment of various other liaison agencies on the Secretarial level. I agree that those liaison agencies should be appointed on the Secretarial level. I thought it might be a good thing to revive the Cabinet Co-ordination Committee which existed last year; it did do some good work, I think it might be revived. I do not know that the Deve-lopment Board as such, as it existed, would do much good now. We have now, you will remember, something of this kind; we have now the Rehabilitation and Development Board and although it is thinking in terms of refugees only, nevertheless it is thinking in terms of development also. I hope that either as an extension of this or independently of this something more in the nature of planning will be arranged.

Now, the various liaison bodies can come into existence almost at the same time or may be that the Planning

Authority itself may create them—quite possibly. This business of doing a lot of spadework in preparation for the Planning Authority hardly seems to me to be necessary partly because we have got tired of spadework—we have been doing it year after year without any structure emerging out of it.

#### Statistical Organisation

Another thing that I am anxious that we should do is to improve the complete set-up of our statistical organisation. At the present moment many of our Ministries have some statistical departments. That is not good enough, we are very bad in regard to statistics, although as a matter of fact Indian statistics have a very high reputation in the world today; that is not Governmental statistics but some Indian experts have a very high reputation. I hope that before very long we shall organise a set-up connecting governmental activities with the non-official statistical organisations so that this work may go ahead. That will also be the foundation for the planning activities in the future.

There are many things that might be said about planning; it is a vast subject. But all I can say to Mr. Krishnamachari is that I am intensely interested in it and I am very sorry that events have somehow compelled us not to pay much more attention to it. I do hope that before this session is over we might be able to produce some more concrete proposals.

## INDIAN EXHIBITION AT SINGAPORE: STAGGERING VARIETY OF PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY

ETAILED figures available by March 2 showed that well near 2.00,000 people comprising all nationalities and classes, visited the Indian Trade Exhibition at Singapore before it was closed on Feb. 29, after a successful nine-day run.

Among the visitors, many of whom travelled hundreds of miles from up country areas of Malaya, were representatives of leading business houses and senior local and foreign officials connected with trade and economic affairs.

Organised as a gesture of India's goodwill and friendship to the people of South East Asia, the Exhibition provoked unprecedented interest in India's industrial progress, both among commercial circles and the general public.

A feature of the Exhibition which perhaps impressed visitors most was the "almost staggering" variety of Indiamade products on display, which ranged from cheap cotton cloth to highly finished embroidered gold and silver tissues; from Talcum powder to top-grade pharmaceuticals; from gardening tools to precision surgical instruments.

The quality of India's manufactures also attracted a great deal of attention—the point particularly significant since

none of the goods had been specially manufactured for the display.

India's leather products, cotton and silk manufactures, surgical instruments and woollen goods, besides ornamental wares of ivory, brass and wood, earned special praise from visitors of all classes.

The sections devoted to Indian painting and literature also attracted large crowds. Standard films, showing Indian life and culture which were screened every evening as part of the exhibition, proved another attraction.

Singapore school children were specially invited to visit the exhibition on the last two days by Mr. J. A. Thivy. India's representative.

Two Singapore newspapers paid a tribute to the Exhibition—the first of its kind and size to be organised from India by the Government of India and perhaps the first ever in South East Asia—by bringing out special "Indian Trade Exhibition" supplements.

Written trade enquiries from individuals and business concerns number over 4,000 and the value of orders booked is estimated to run into several hundred thousands.

### A GREAT FUTURE FOR INDIA Lord Mountbatten In

## Lord Mountbatten's Plea For Wise Utilisation Of Minerals

here tonight appreciate the new need for conservation and wise utilisation of our minerals, which once used up can never be replaced. I hope that Provinces and States will realise the need for utmost co-operation with the Centre so that our resources are used to the best advantage, and utilised for local industries before any consideration is given to their export abroad", said His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Governor General of India, at a dinner party given by the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India at Calcutta on March 13.

Below is the text of the speech:

I should like to thank you first of all for the very kind way you have received me tonight and for the honour you have conferred on me in inviting me to dine with you on this occasion. You, Mr. President, have referred to my work out here in very flattering terms. I am not sure that they are entirely justified. But, as I have said on previous occasions, any work which I have been able to do out here is amply repaid by the kindness and friendliness I have received on all sides. In fact it would not have been possible for me to do what I have done but for this kindness and friendliness and there was nothing I could do but to give of my best in return.

You, Mr. President, have suggested that the affairs of an Institute devoted to Geology, Mining and Metallurgy must seem peculiarly dull. I am, I freely admit, not an expert in any of these three subjects but I was to a certain extent a technical expert in a restricted field in that for ten years in my earlier days in the Navy I was a specialist in wireless telegraphy, and wrote some of the text books at that time on the subject. In the construction of wireless sets and their components I naturally gained some knowledge of metallurgy.

#### Large-scale Industrialisation

In addition I am an associate member of the Institute of Naval Architects and the Institute of Electrical Engineers. While at the present time I am President of the British Institution of Radio Engineers. To this extent I can claim therefore that I definitely have scientific connections, although not directly, with geology, mining and metallurgy.

I was particularly interested, Mr. President, in your reference to mining in India and to the importance of the mineral industry in the economy of the country. In this I agree with you entirely. I am sure that the main lines of progress at which India should aim in the future are in the spheres of education, health and the industrialisation of the country. It is with the last of these that I am more concerned tonight.

The large-scale industrialisation of

the country will lead to two things; it will be a means of developing all the latent potentialities which exist in India and it will also result in a raising of the standard of living. The first step in the industrialisation of the country is the one which the Government are pursuing i.e., large-scale hydro-electric works. We shall thus get increased irrigation leading to more land under cultivation more food and the raising of nutritional standards and under the same schemes we shall get cheap electric power, which I hope will be carried all over the country.

#### Cheap Electric Power

It is when we have this cheap electric power that India will really progress, and here I visualise 'the geological and mining experts of the country playing a really big part. Cheap electric power will enable us to get at and develop all the hidden mineral wealth of the country. Geologists will tell us the likely places for the deposits to be found, and with cheap power and cheap transport, 'the development of these products will naturally follow. I visualise an immense future for India when the industrialisation of the country is properly accomplished.

When industrialisation takes place we must take care that it does not follow the industrial revolution in England 150 years ago. Here the people of England were not thought of at all, and many were the abuses and malpractices which crept in. In the modern India I hope the errors of the past will not be repeated. Universal education, the raising of the standard of living and a respect for the rights and freedom of man as embodied in the new draft Constitution should avoid all these errors, this future is not immediately around the corner, but it will come and of that I am convinced.

I am sure that all you gentlemen here tonight appreciate the need for conservation and wise utilisation of our minerals which once used up can never be replaced. I hope that Provinces and States will realise the need for utmost co-operation with the Centre so that our resources are used to the best advantage, and utilised for local industries before any consideration is given to their export abroad. There is, as we all know, a paucity of trained personnel in the country, and I am sure that the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute will offer their utmost co-operation in the training of personnel and will give every assistance in the overriding needs of national development.

I will not keep you any longer tonight. I have only spoken briefly on what I hope the future of India will be and of the part I visulalise you gentlemen may play in it. I should like to thank you. Mr. President, once again for the kind way you have received me and to express my heartiest thanks for the hospitality you have offered to me tonight.

## Lord Mountbatten In Calcutta

Speaking at a tea party given by the Mayor of Calcuta on March 8, Lord Mountbatten said:

MR. MAYOR, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,-

My wife and I are very appreciative of the kind words of welcome with which you have received us. In the year during which we have been in India we have tried to do our best in every direction and if we have succeeded in any way it is because we have been received with such friendliness and kindness by all sections of the community, that it would have been impossible not to have given of our best in return.

We are very happy to be back in Calcutta again and our only regret is that this will be our last visit to your famous city. This is, of course, by no means the first time that my wife and I have been here, as we were both frequent visitors here during the war years when the South-East Asia Command was in existence.

Calcutta was an amazing city in those days; not only was it the base from which the Armies in Burma were nourished, but it was also the principal leave centre for men from the front. I am afraid the war years caused very great dislocation to your city—I shall never forget the transport dumps along the Maidan and the Red Road Fighter Aircraft Strip—but so far as the troops were concerned they never forgot, and were always appreciative of, all the hospitality they received here.

#### Communal Harmony

The city is now looking very much normal and in addition to the physical changes for the better I have noticed, I am also delighted to see with my own eyes the communal harmony for which we are striving all over India. For this happy state of affairs in Calcutta the credit must, I am sure you will agree, go very largely to Mahatma Gandhi, whose tragic loss was such a shock to all of us and whose absence we are feeling more keenly as time passes on. But his spirit and his ideals are still with us and I know that his labours in this great country will not have been in vain.

I do not propose to keep you any longer. Let me say in conclusion what a pleasure it is to us to meet you all here this afternoon and once again. Mr. Mayor, may I thank you for your kind words of welcome to us and for your generous hospitality.

## ABSENCE OF COMMUNAL FEELING

At another party given by the Sheriff of Calcutta on March 9, Lord Mounthatten said:

Mr. Sheriff, Ladies & Centifmen,-

I should like to thank you very much



for the kind welcome you have extended to us today. It has been a great pleasure to me to re-visit Calcutta and have the opportunity this afternoon of meeting so many of its prominent citizens. But my only regret is that my visit to Calcutta is also short. I am hoping to see all the Provinces and most of the larger States before I leave India in June, so with the best will in the world I am afraid that it is impossible for me to fit in more than these two days and another at the end of this week.

May I say how much my wife and I have appreciated the kind way you have referred to us, Mr. Sheriff, in your speech. You have been very flattering and I do not think we could possibly have deserved all the nice things you have said, because we both feel that what we have been able to achieve has been possible only because of the co-operation and friendliness we have received on all sides. When one is received in such a way, and when we are all working towards the common object of the future greatness of India, then it is impossible for anyone not to give of their best in return.

I said earlier what a pleasure it was to re-visit Calcutta because of course I have been here many times before, starting with my first visit in December 1921, when I was a very junior officer on the Prince of Wales staff. But it was during the war years that I saw so much of Calcutta. I used occasionally to stay at Barrackpore with the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Land Forces, but more often I stayed at Government House with the Caseys, who had such a great love for the Province of Bengal. I had a set of offices in Fort William and used to move to and from Government House.

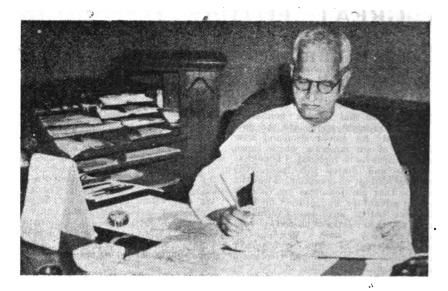
I am also particularly pleased to note the absence of communal feeling in this city. I have referred to this previously but I feel so strongly about this matter that I must speak of it again. Communalism, with its spirit of intolerance, is foreign to the Indian way of life. Mahatma Gandhi, whose tragic loss we are still mourning and whom we miss more and more each day, saw this entirely and the city of Calcutta, the scene of his magnificent efforts and fast last August, is setting a splendid example to the rest of India by the peaceful conditions existing here.

### (Continued from Col. 3.)

in the last two years, e.g. preliminary investigations of the project, detailed designs, plans and estimates of the Tilaiya Project, preliminary designs for the other dams, setting up of organisation for building construction camps at Tilaiya damsite, and building of construction camp at Maithon.

No land has been permanently acquired so far. A small area near Maithon was temporarily acquired for 2 years since April, 1946. No contract has been given out so far. The construction camp at Maithon was built by the military.

Regarding the policy that the Damodar Valley Corporation might pursue for utilising local people as employees, contractors etc., he pointed out that the Administrator of Damodar Valley Project was in consultation with the participating Governments.



Shri N. V. Gadgil

# OBJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CWINC

# Shri Gadgil's Statement

N spite of the paucity of staff, the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission has taken up several multipurpose river development schemes of stupendous magnitude, for example, the Kosi Project in Nepal and Bihar and the Mahanadi Project in Orissa."

The Hon. Shri N.V. Gadgil who made this statement in Parliament on March 15 in reply to a question gave a brief survey of the work undertaken and accomplished by CWINC.

The Commission was set up in April, 1945, but due to the non-availability of staff and pressure of work due to enormous demands made by a large number of schemes, no annual report was written. The position as regards technical staff has now fairly improved and the report is under preparation which will be ready by about April, 1948.

Considerable progress has already been made as regards the investigation of the Kosi Project. In the case of the Mahanadi Project, investigations have reached a stage when detailed estimates for the Hirakud dam could be drawn up and construction work started on it.

In addition to the above, several reconnaissance surveys were made with a view to ascertaining the possibility of developing the water resources of Assam, Central Provinces, Bastar State, Coorg, Bombay and Baroda and estimates for investigations of specific schemes have already been submitted to Government.

The agency of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission is also being utilised in settling interprovincial and inter-State river disputes. For instance, the Tungabhadra dispute between Madras, Mysore and Hyderabad which had been pending for nearly 40 years has been settled by the Chairman.

The disputes between Madras and Hyderabad regarding the Ramapadasagar project, between Coorg and Mysore regarding the Lakshmanatirtha Project, between Bombay and Baroda in connection with the Sabarmati project and between some of the Rajputana States regarding the Chambal development schemes etc. have been referred to the Commission. These cases are in various stages of settlement.

#### **Expert Advice to Provinces**

Another important function of the Commission is to give expert advice to Provincial and State Governments on technical matters and that is being done as and when requests are received. Expert advice has been given by the Commission on the flood and other river problems in Assam, irrigation problems in Bengal and Bihar, flood control, irrigation and other river problems in Bombay and a large number of States.

The posts of Deputy Directors and above are generally filled by suitable officers drawn from the cadre of Provincial Governments. The other posts i.e., from the rank of Assistant Directors and below are filled by open competition on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Every effort has been made to draw more or less equally from all Provinces, but the response has not been encouraging. Selection therefore, had to be limited to the officers made available by the Provinces.

Replying to another question on the progress of Damodar Valley Scheme, the Hon'ble Minister made the following statement:

A great deal of work in respect of the Damodar Valley Project has been done (Continued in Col. 1)

# SECURITY MEASURES IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

# Shri Gadgil's Reply To Debate In Parliament

REPLYING on behalf of the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the debate on the cut motions relating to demands under the Head Ministry of Home Affairs in the Dominion Parliament on March 15, the Hon'ble Shri N. V. Gadgil said:—

With respect to the cut motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta and which was supported by the representative in this House from Ajmer-Merwara. I only want to say that the whole matter is in a sort of melting point. The Constitution has been prepared and the draft has been circulated. This question will be dealt with permanently and I hope in a satisfactory manner in the Constituent Assembly. There are only a few months left between now and the time when the new Constitution will come into force. Meanwhile, I would ask the Honourable Members concerned to put up with some inconvenience which they have put up with for many many long years. But as a matter of fact this Advisory Council scheme came into existence as a result of representations made by the very honourable members who have participated in today's debate. It may not be entirely satisfactory and there are good reasons, such as constitutional and political, why it cannot be entirely satisfactory.

#### Security Measures

The next question that was raised in connection with these Centrally administered areas was about the security measures. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister gave details about the situation in Delhi and the main fact that he pointed out was that immediately after partition when disturbances started here there was desertion in the police ranks on a very large scale both here in Delhi as well as in Ajmer. In Delhi the total strength was about 3,500 out of which only a thousand were left, the rest deserting. In Ajmer-Merwara 50 per cent of them were Muslims and they also deserted. The House can well imagine the difficulties which the Hon'ble the Home Minister had to face and I should say it is a great tribute to his tact and resourcefulness that within a short space of two weeks he brought the whole situation under control and imported police from the Provinces of C. P. and U. P. Recruitment has started and it is expected that the full complement will be available in good order in the course of a few months, and the new plan is that even in a great emergency there should be no recourse to military. That is the plan on which the Ministry has been working.

As regards other matters, during the disturbances, it was not that there was any lack of determination to go the full measure in taking pracautions. The apparatus of the State was brought into

full operation. Two thousand people were arrested, meetings were banned, proceedings were taken against newspapers, in fact everything that was expected of this Government was done. I do not think therefore that I need waste any more time on this.

#### Civil Liberties

The third cut motion, which was moved by Prof. Shibbanlal Saksena, dealt with civil liberties. He went on to point to that there has been a process of indiscriminate arrests following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. He gave certain instances, and certain other instances were given by Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava. Our critics cannot have it both ways; they cannot say that this Government has been weak and at the same time accuse Government of being so strong that there has been a process of indiscriminate arrests. When we talk of civil liberties it must have reference to normal times. When we are living in abnormal times, when the very existence of the State is challenged by a section of the community or a wellorganized group, then it is not only the duty of the State but the duty that the State owes not only to the present generation but to the generations to come that it must bring into operations to come that it must bring into operation swiftly whatever apparatus it has and put it down with a heavy hand. Sir, you are aware of the way in which Mahatma Gandhi and certain Congress Leaders were abused in the Mahratti Press, and when that paper which was edited by the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi was saled to deposit accurity there was a asked to deposit security there was a regular howl against the Provincial Government of Bombay from all quarters -Communists, Socialists and Congressmen and everybody who counted for public life in that Province. Now, when this violent propaganda has ended they suddenly turn round and accuse the Government of being weak. All I want to say is this, that this policy—the policy of a strong Government you may call it—will remain in force so long as the needs of the situation justify it. There is not the slightest desire on the part of the Government to detain a single person beyond what the exigencies require.

So far as Delhi is concerned there are 300 persons detained and about 90 are detained in the Ajmer-Merwara Commissioner's area. Their cases are being reviewed and they will be reviewed from time to time. Everybody will be released unless there are strong grounds to suppose that one is involved in criminal activities or if it is realized that there is a possibility of the revival of those activities the putting down of which was the objective of this Government. A point was made by the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, as to why they should not be tried if there was enough evidence. The House knows, Sir, that there are cases

in which it is not possible to prove in the judicial sense but all the same the moral proof is there, and some discretion must be given to the executive Government if the Government is to govern. The essence of government is arbitrariness and swift action.

And, as I said, you cannot have it both ways. You cannot call the Government weak, hesitant and at the same time when it takes action, not a minute earlier but just at the right time and takes the right sort of action, you cannot suddenly turn round and accuse it of being repressive in the name of civil liberty.

Mr. HUSSAIN IMAM: How many of these 300 men detained in Delhi were Muslim National Guards?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI N.V. GADGIL: I cannot give it off hand. The point is this, Sir, that as Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava has said, it goes against the grain of Congressmen to resort to such action. I share that feeling and I have no doubt that the Government shares that feeling. But the use of such measures is reduced to a minimum both in extent and in point of duration also. At the same time, if the necessity of maintaining law and order is well appreciated, and without which there cannot be progress, peace or prosperity, these powers must be left to the Government.

I do not claim that this Government, or for the matter of that any Government, is infallible. After all a Government consists of men and they are bound to commit mistakes. But I can assure you that this Government is not obstinate and if any instance in which a mistake has been committed is pointed out, I assure you that justice will be done at once.

#### Lathi Not the Solution

Reference was made to the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister which he delivered a few months ago at Lucknow. It was pointed out by the same speaker why an attempt should not be made to win over these youngmen who merely are doing some sort of physical training and drill. What the Deputy Prime Minister said in that speech was that after the attainment of freedom there was no necessity for the Hindu Mahasabha organisation or the R.S.S. and that they should morre in the Comment at the should merge in the Congress and do useful social service. He also pointed out that the lathi was not the solution. or the only solution of this problem. I wish to point out, Sir, that this Government is very much alive to the fact that the basis of State is the consent of the governed. A willing citizen is an asset; a repressed citizen is a potential danger. At the same time it should be remembered that when you have cast the responsibility of maintaining law and order on this Government, it is only expected of the Members of this House and the public at large that they should give their whole-hearted support to the Government. As no reference has been made to any other aspect of civil liberties, I do not want to take up the time of the House.

SHRI SHIBBANLAL SAKSENA: What about labour and kisan arrests?

THE HON'BLE SHRI N.V. GADGIL:
I think I have covered that.

Then, Sir, while a cut motion was moved by the left Saksena, criticism was indulged in by 'right' Saksena. He referred to certain aspects of Secretariat recruitment, and some other points, which if I were to deal in detail, will take me a couple of hours. I do not propose to do that. I will say nothing about the dress and diet and other matters which are the individual concern of the I.C.S. officers. I will in this connection only refer the House to the compliment that was paid to the members of this service by the Deputy Prime Minister a few months ago on the floor of the House. It is possible, Sir, that some of us may not be able to get over the prejudice which has been very carefully nursed in us in the course of the last so many years in which we have been brought up in an atmosphere of agitation. I may tell, you, Mr. Speaker, from the personal experience of my own Ministry that the few I.C.S. officers I have, adjusted themselves well within a short time of fifteen days. I have never found them impeding or pigeonholing any scheme. On the other hand, they are very anxious to co-operate. After all, let us remember they are Indians and they are now in tune with the spirit of the times. If there are exceptions here and there, that should not prejudice us to generalise in a manner which will instead of enabling us to get the best out of them have the contrary effect. After all, in a democratic Government the permanent services must be left aloof from politics. What ever politics may dictate to us in the matter of dress or diet that should not be made applicable to them. It is for them to wear Gandhi cap or not. What I want to point out, Sir, is that the Services should be kept aloof from politics.

It was pointed out by Mr. Mohanlal Saksena that there are innumerable posts carrying more than Rs. 3,000 per month.

SHRI MOHANLAL SAKSENA: I never said that.

THE HON'BLE SHRI N.V. GADGIL: Well, there are 189 such posts in the Central Government out of which only 69 are held by members of the I.C.S. If the Government, or if the House, decides that no public servant should be paid more than a particular sum by way of salary, that decision will be carried out.

BABU RAMNARAYAN SINGH: That has already been decided Karachi.

THE HON'BLE SHRI N.V. GADGIL: So long as the sentence of execution is not carried, even the man under sentence is entitled to get his diet. If the House decides that no man should be paid more than 500 or a thousand or 1,500, or whatever it is, Government is bound to carry out that decision, and those who do not want to serve will find out alternative jobs for themselves.

### Secretariat Reorganisation

As regards the other point raised by Mr. Saksena, I may bring to the notice of the House that several attempts have been made for the reorganisation of the

Secretariat. Bellie the war were two committees appointed, the Wheeler Committee and the Maxwell Committee. During the war, Mr. Tottenham was appointed to draw up a scheme of Secretariat reorganisation. The recommendations of all these committees have been implemented. cently another committee under Chairmanship of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai was appointed to suggest ways and means by which the Secretariat machinery could be put on a sounder footing; some of its recommendations have been adopted. As the House is aware, an Economy Committee has been appointed, and if according to their reommendations it is found that the Secretariat is overstaffed, it will be put on its optimum strength. Another direction in which Secretariat has been reorganised is the abolition of the War Department and the distribution of its work between the Defence and Home Ministries.

Mr. Saksena then referred to the composition of the Federal Public Service Commission. Under the Act, 50 per cent of the Members of the Commission must be persons who have put in ten years of service. His point was that no independent-minded persons are appointed. I want to bring to his notice that it is not so. There are in the Commission persons from public life and persons who were on the High Court Bench. Many improvements have been made in the matter of recruitment and promotion. If I were to detail all these. Mr. Chairman, it will take quite a long time. I want only to assure Mr. Saksena that whatever suggestions he may have with respect to economy and efficiency, this Government will heartily co-operate.

## CONFERENCE ON FREELOM OF INFORMATION

The following will be the members of the Indian Delegation to the International Conference on Freedom of Information to be held in Geneva from March 23, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on March 11.

#### **DELEGATES**

- 1. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I. (Leader);
- 2. Mr. G.S. Bhalja of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- 3. Mr. P.C. Chaudhuri, Director-General, All India Radio;
- 4. Mr. S. A. Brelvi of the Bombay Chronicle; and
  - 5. Mr. D. B. Desai, Minister in Berne.

#### ALTERNATE DELEGATES

- 1. Mr. Chandulal Shah of Ranjit Movietone: and
- 2. Sir Dhiren Mitra, Solicitor to the High Commissioner for India in London,

#### SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. P. L. Bhandari, Public Relations Officer to the High Commissioner for India in London.

# Machinery Exports To Pakistan

The question of placing restrictions on the export of machinery to Pakistan was raised on March 12 in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) in the course of a short notice question.

Pandit Kunzru asked:

- (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain jute plants in West Bengal have been dismantled and taken over to Eastern Pakistan?
- (b) Have any steps been taken by Government to prohibit the export of Indian plants and machinery used for pressing jute to Pakistan?
- (c) Do Government propose announce their considered poncy in this connection at an early date, particularly in view of the fact that the Government of Pakistan have already placed restrictions on the export of machinery and some other goods from that Dominion to India?

The Hon, Mr. C. H. Bhabha replied:

- (a) Government have heard rumours to this effect, but no such case has actually been brought to their notice.
- (b) Yes. The Government of West Bengal propose to pass a measure pro-hibiting the dismantling of plant and machinery used for pressing or manu-

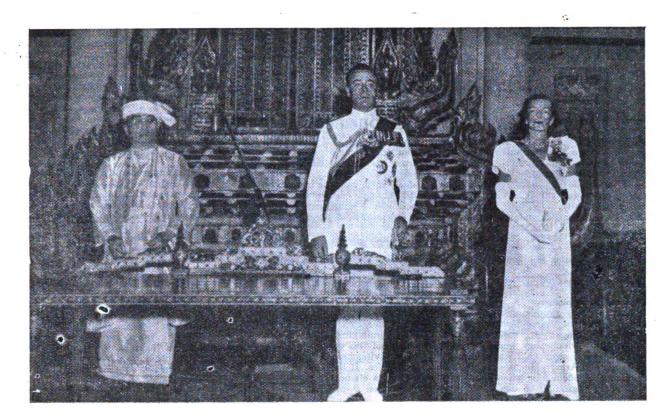
facturing jute for export to Pakistan jute mills and jute presses have also been warned in addition that they should not remove machinery and spare parts to places outside West Bengal.

(c) Exports to Pakistan are now subject to strict licensing under the Import and Export Control Act of 1947 and the policy to be followed with regard to the restrictions to be placed on the export of machinery and other goods trom India to Pakistan is now engaging the attention of Government. 1 would invite the Honourable Member's attention in this connection to the reply which I have just given to question No. 44 asked by him and would add that it is hoped to take up these matters for discussion with the representatives of the Dominion of Pakistan at a very early date.

### P. & T. OFFICES IN PERSIAN **GULF**

The administration of the P. and T. Offices in the Persian Gulf will be handed over to His Majesty's Government with effect from 1st April, 1948, said a Press Note issued by D. G. P. and T. on March 23. From that date, postage stamps overprinted 'Kuwait' and Bahrain' will be withdrawn from sale at the Indian Philatalic Bureau, Bombay.

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Their Excellencies Earl Mountbatten and Countess Mountbatten photographed with the President of the Union of Burma after the Governor-General had presented King Theebaw's Golden Throne to the Government of Burma. The Throne appears in the back-ground while in the fore-ground can be seen the Taktaposh which was also presented to the Burmase Government by His Excellency

# BURMA WILL ENJOY FRUITS OF FREEDOM

# Lord Mountbatten's Speech At Throne-presentation Ceremony

NOW have much pleasure in presenting the Throne, the Taktaposh and the silver mat to the people of Burma on behalf of His Majesty the King and of the Government and people of India. In presenting these historical relics may I say, once again, that they come with the warmest wishes and goodwill by all of us in India, and with them go our fervent hope and firm belief that Burma will enjoy the fruits of peace and freedom in the year to come", said His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, while presenting King Theebaw's Throne to the people of Burma on March 12.

Here is the text of Lord Mountbatten's speech:—

I feel very proud and privileged to have this opportunity of taking part in this unique ceremony today. As I stand here in this great room memories come crowding fast around me. Here I danced as a young man 26 years ago, but most I think of the period four years ago when we were starting the fight to liberate Burma, and of the period nearly three years ago when we returned to Rangoon. Here in this room I held an investiture for the presentation of medal ribbons to allied soldiers of many nationalities, and here too I had a small afternoon reception where Bogyoke Aung San and many of his

colleagues assembled in a friendly and happy gathering.

General Aung San is alas no longer with us -the man who did so much for his country. During the final months of the war he placed himself and his Burnese Patriot Forces under my command to fight against the Japanese. The assistance which he and his forces gave to our advancing army was most welcome and from our earliest meeting I formed the opinion that here was a man who was a proved leader and would be a man to guide the destinies of Burma for many years to come. His murder was a shocking loss, and we in India can appreciate how much this has meant to all of you here, as we have recently suffered such a crushing blow by the loss of our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

Although this is my first visit to Burma for two years I have retained a close interest in the affairs of the country through the agency of my good friend. The late Governor, Major-General Sir Hubert Rance. I am glad to hear that the rehabilitation of the country is progressing; but I know it will take time as the whole of Burma was a battlefield twice in three years, and the devastation which I saw everywhere was unspeakable. I am sure, however, that with her internal resources Burma in the process of time will regain her former strength.

With my close connections with Burma, whose name I have the honour to bear in my title, I was keen that my visit should be marked in some special way. On Burma's Independence Day on the 4th January I made a token presentation to your Ambassador in Delhi of the small Taktaposh, which was formerly at the west end of the throne room in Government House, Calcutta. This is the Taktaposh you see before you, it originally belonged to King Theebaw and was taken from the Palace in Mandalay in 1885. I arranged with U Win that I would take this Taktaposh with me in the aeroplane and deliver it in person in Rangoon.

Behind me is the Mandalay Hlutdaw Throne which I shall unveil shortly. This was last used by King Theebaw of Burma when he visited the Hlutdaw, in Mandalay, and which is a replica of the famous Lion Throne of King Theedaw which used to stand in the great Hall of Audience in the Palace of Mandalay, now, alas, burnt to the ground. I also bring with me another object of historical interest—a silver mat which according to tradition was woven by Queen Su ya ya lat for King Theebaw.

I now have much pleasure on presenting the Throne, the Taktaposh, and the silver mat to the people of Burma on behalf of His Majesty the King and of the Government and people of India. In presenting these historical relics may I say, once again that they come with the warmest wishes and good will of all of us in India, and with them go our fervent hope and firm belief that Burma will enjoy to the full the fruits of peace and freedom in the years to come.

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# EDUCATION AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

## Lord Mountbatten's Advice to Burmese Students

OU have got to make up your mind what sort of a character you are trying to develop and then set about developing that yourselves. Here you have ideal surroundings and great possibilities; but you must do it yourselves, nobody else can do it for you", said His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, in course of an address to the Rangoon University, on March 12.

Here is the text of his speech.

It is a great pleasure for me and my wife to have this opportunity of visiting the University of Rangoon and to find that the buildings have been restored to the use for which they were intended. The last time I saw them was just after the Japenese Army Headquarters had cleared out of them and when the Allied Forces were beginning to use them as a hospital for Allied wounded and recovered prisoners of war.

I remember distinctly the shock I felt on hearing the report that my air forces had bombed the Teachers' Training College in the University grounds, for I knew what fine buildings the University boasted, and how essential they were war. When I enquired why the University had been attacked, I was informed that the buildings were being used by the Japanese Army Headquarters. then gave instructions that so far as possible the buildings were to be spared for I was certain that the Japanese were on the run and I did not wish to see the whole University destroyed. I realised then, and it is brought home to me all the more now, the vital part the University of Rangoon was going to play in the future life of Burma.

## General Aung San's Plan

I remember talking to the late General Aung San when he visited London at the beginning of 1947 about his future plan for the country. He told me that his main object was to raise the standard of living and ensure that all in Burma could earn a fair and reasonable amount, and to provide enough food, clothing and new houses, enough doctors and hospitals and enough schools, and education facilities in order to meet the demand that their increased standards would need.

I admit that this is a tall order and that it is not going to be easy to carry out because of the dovastation which the war has caused in your lovely country, which has been a battlefield twice over. But there are oil and minerals in the land, there are good rivers from which hydroelectric power can be obtained, and above all, there is the opportunity of growing an abundance of rice for export, of which the world in general and India in particular, stand in such dire need.

But the greatest potential wealth of Burma must lie in her people, the men, women and children. I am not referring just to their manual labour, but to the skilled labour which, although it only constitutes a very small percentage of the population at present, can rise to a great proportion with the spread of education.

Remember also the inventive genius of the people which can be trained and developed and made use of for the benefit of the country.

And last but by no means least, I would refer to the individual characters of the individual men, women and children of this country; because that is where a vital part of the wealth of the country lies. If they can be given education and a chance to develop their characters, then Burma can really develop.

Now I have mentioned education and character development. Those two processes are the vital ones behind such a scheme. And I would like you to remember that in your University, you have a very special chance to acquire those two things—education and character development.

I am sure you don't think that education just comes to you that it can be spoon-fed like medicine. All of you must have discovered for yourselves, by now that you have got to do a lot for yourselves, if you want to learn; if you come here and spend 3, 4 or 5 years doing nothing about it—then you will leave as ignorant, and I might add in that case, as stupid, as the day you came.

### Acquire Knowledge

Now one does not always learn, while one is at a college or university, that it is knowing about things that makes the whole of after-life interesting and worth-while. In my own case I did not really discover this while I was at college. The first world war came and I went to sea on my sixteenth birthday as a midshipman in the Grand Fleet. But I was one of the lucky ones and got a second chance; because those lads who had missed their education through being sent to sea as youngsters, and were called war babies, were sent to Cambridge University after the war ended on a post-war course. That was the time that I really learnt a lot, and that was the time I learnt how to learn about things, and that is what you want to do here; learn how to acquire knowledge for yourselves, learn how to learn and go on learning for the rest of your lives. I know that that is the thing I have striven to do.

A year ago, in February, 1947, I was back in the Navy doing what is known as the Senior Officers' Technical Course

at Portsmouth, learning about Radar, atomic energy, self-propelled missiles and all the new and rather horrible wonders that science is giving us for war. It was of great value; but I am not referring to learning at courses. I mean learning in the ordinary way of life. I have no doubt whatever that I have learnt more in the recent years I spent in South-East Ama than at any other time in my life.

The other point I spoke to you about was character development. You have got to make up your mind what sort of a character you are trying to develop and then set about developing that yourselves. Here you have ideal surroundings and great possibilities; but you must do it yourselves; nobody else can do it for you.

#### Character Development

What sort of a character are you trying to develop? Different people have different ideas. But the fundamental which I think you have to aim at is to become the sort of man, or woman, that other people look up to; not just your future subordinates, or your contemporaries but your superiors. Yes, you want to be the sort of man that your own superiors also look up to. And to do that, I suggest you want first of all to be absolutely mentally honest; you must possess complete intellectual integrity. never deceiving yourselves for one moment. If you do that, and if you are capable of seeing both sides of objectively and quite dispassionately, you will have no difficulty in arriving at the right answer. And when you have made up your mind and come to a decision, have the moral courage to stick to it, no matter if it is unpopular; no matter if stupid people sneer at you; you will have the mental satisfaction of knowing you are right, and then the people that matter will look up to you.

It is no good, after you have graduated, going about life trying to cash in on the fact that you are a graduate of the Rangoon University. It is no good boasting of this unless you are worthy of the University. Because all that will happen if you do will be that people either won't believe you, or they will think that something has gone wrong with the University. Therefore, you should not mention you have been to the University unless you feel you can be a credit to it and intend to live up to it.

It sounds rather as though I have been preaching to you and I admit I have been doing something like it. But I don't want you to think that because I have been preaching to you that I regard myself as in any way perfect, or as in any way resembling any of the virtues which I have advised you to aspire after. You have only got to ask my wife, or my daughters or my staff, and they will tell you how very far from perfect I am in all these respects. But I have got one advantage which I do claim as an important one—I know I am not perfect and I know what my shortcomings are and I try not to deceive myself mentally into thinking that they are anything else. I try to improve, though I am getting

a bit too old now to improve much Still, I go on trying, and I am sure we should all continue to try to improve ourselves.

I am sure that Burma, like all other countries that wish to develop, requires pioneers to bring this about. It is obvious that one cannot start at once teaching all the people. You here in this University are the lucky ones whose privilege it will be to go out and gradually spread education and character development. It is the graduates from this University who must inevitably be the pioneers.

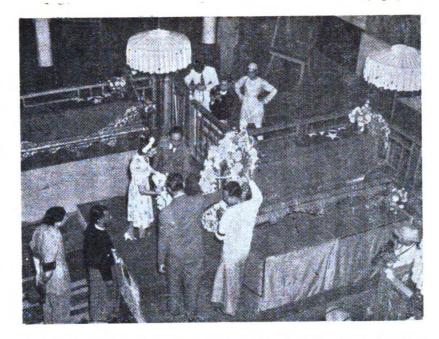
### Courage of Conviction

And when you go out into the world remember it is not just knowledge and educational qualifications which are wanted, it is character as well. When architects and engineers set out to design and build decent houses, factories and bridges, and to do town-planning, what they do must certainly be professionally competent; but they must also have the courage of their convictions. They must fight any attempt on the part of the employer to cut down what they think is necessary for the workers in order to save money; they must fight when a Municipal Council wants to turn down some vital part of their townplanning scheme merely to save money.

The same with doctors. They mustn't just be content to cure people or to operate skilfully or to build up a successful practice. They must have the courage to fight and go on fighting for decent medical services and to see that the general standard of health of the people is raised. And that goes all the way through—scientists should not learn research work just to discover or invent things; they should have the courage to see that their discoveries are put to the use of mankind, and not interest the second of th just kept for the use of one particular individual or firm.

And so I could go on indefinitely. Lawyers should aim to get justice done particularly for the poor; and, when they become judges, should see that the law is administered impartially and fairly. Teachers should make certain not only that what they are teaching is right, but that they are devoting themselves to building up the characters of their pupils in the right way.

You will have a great opportunity here to fit yourselves for these things in the way I have described. Although I no longer have any official connection with this country, I have the honour to bear its name in my title and to have been closely associated with the people, and so I naturally take a great interest in your future. I hope, therefore, you will allow me to say that I feel it is on your labours more than any others in Burma that the future of the country will depend. So when you go out from here please remember that you have a very special responsibility as the result of your privilege of having been here at the Rangoon University. I am sure you will live up to it, and I wish you all the best of luck.



Lord and Lady Mountbatten at the Jubilee Hall, Rangoon, where the eight fallen leaders of the Burmese Government were lying-in-state. Her Excellency is laying a wreath in front of the coffin of the late General Aung San

## INDIA'S GOODWILL FOR BURMA

The following is the speech delivered by His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, at the banquet given in his honour during his visit to Rangoon on March 11.

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I need hardly say what a pleasure it is to me to be back in Burma again among all my old acquaintances, and I should like first of all, Mr. President, to thank you most sincerely for the very kind references you have made to me and to my wife during your speech. I am afraid they are more flattering than we deserve; during my time in Burma during the war years I endeavoured to do my duty as a Service Commander and as Military Governor of the country and any results I may have achieved were due to the co-operation, assistance and kindness I received from the hands of everyone.

It is many years now since I first came to Burma, as a very junior staff officer, with the Prince of Wales in 1922. I shall never forget my first sight of Rangoon. We came up the river from the sea on board the "Dufferin" to find this beautiful city spread out along the river bank, with the golden dome of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda shining in the sunlight behind the town. It was an unforgettable sight; nor shall I ever forget the thrill I got on my visit to Mandalay-that lovely city of the Kings.

#### Bitter-Sweet Experience

My return to Burma during the war was a bitter-sweet experience-full of happiness that we were liberating this lovely country from the Japanese yoke and of sadness at the sight of the unspeakable devastation which had been caused. For Burma had been fought over twice in three years, and even this city of Rangoon, although less touched than some other towns I saw in our progress to the south, had suffered grievously during the war years.

When I formed the South-East Asia Command towards the end of 1943, I think it is not unfair to say that all of us. in the allied countries visualised a long war. In this connection I remember an incident concerning my Principal Administrative Officer, Lieutenant-General Wheeler of the U. S. Army, when he paid his first visit from my Headquarters to Burma early in 1944. He was talking to Lieutenant-Colonel Williams, who was in charge of the force of elephants with the fourth Corps, and on asking how long the period was before a baby elephant was born, was told two years. A little later he saw a teak forest on the slopes of a mountain above a river and said "Anyway, it is easy to get the teak away here, as it rolls into the river automatically and floats down the stream". He was informed that this was not the case, because teak has to be dried for three years before it will float. That evening he said to the Corps Commander "If it takes two years to produce a baby elephant and three years for teak to float. I have a feeling things are not going to happen very rapidly on this front".

But as you know things did not go as slowly as all that, and once we got into our stride after the monsoon of 1944 there was no holding the American-Chinese Forces on the Northern front, the Fourteenth Army on the Central front and the Fifteenth Corps on the Arakan Rangoon before the monsoon of 1945 front. We just managed to and a few months after that the second world war ended.

But during that wonderful advance



Dr. B. C. Roy, Premier of West Bengal, presents the Members of his Government to His Excellency Lord Mountbatten on his arrival at Dum Dum on March 8

to the south a very significant thing happened in Burma itself. Both in Burma and in Malaya we had taken very great eare during the war years to get in touch with what was going on in each country by means of small parties of officers and other ranks dropped behind the lines, to rais small bands of nationaliss and keep them supplied with arms. As the months went by these movements developed to an extraordinary extent, and finally General Aung San came forward with his offer to fight on our side.

I was convinced that at all times there was only one thing that he really wanted, and that was that his country should be free, and he was prepared to use every method and every purpose in the furtherance of this ideal. I therefore had no hesitation in asking the British Chiefs of Staff that I should be given authority to enter into negotiations with him, when he offered spontaneously to place his Burmese Patriot Forces under my command. That my judgment of the man was right is shown by the future course of events in the welcome assistance we received from his Forces, in the leading part which he played in his country after the liberation and in the happy relations existing between him and the last Governor, Major-General Sir Robert Rance, of which the latter has so often informed me.

It was a great shock to me when I heard of General Aung San's dastardly murder last year! I know full well how all of you must have felt, as we ourselves in India have suffered a similar irreparable loss in the shocking murder of our great leader, Mahatma Gaadhi.

But at least General Aung San lived long enough to see not only the liberation

of his country, but also long enough to know that the freedom for which he had fought so long was to be Burma's within the very near future. I always recall with pleasure the many meetings I had with him, both here and in Kandy and a year ago in London, and the fresh and forthright approach he had to all the many problems which faced him.

### Indo-Burmese Friendship

I feel I cannot let this occasion pass without referring to the friendship and goodwill which the people of India have for the people of Burma, a feeling which found expression in the spontaneous rejoicing all over India on the occasion of your recent independence celebrations. The visit of your Prime Minister to New Delhi, last December gave us particular pleasure. It was, I believe, a good augury for still friendlier relations between the two countries in the years to come.

As you are aware there is a large Indian population here many of whom are probably looking forward to making Burma their permanent home. I am happy to know that as a result of your Prime Minister's recent visit to India. the Governments of the two countries have agreed to exchange missions for the purpose of discussion and adjustment of all outstanding issues. I sincerely hope that with so much goodwill on both sides a satisfactory agreement will soon be reached in the interests of that cooperation in larger affairs which the world expects from two great neighbours like India and Burma for the peace and progressive welfare of mankind.

In conclusion, Mr. President, may I say how touched my wife, my family and I

have been by the magnificent welcome we have been accorded here. We should like to thank you very much indeed for the splendid programme which has been arranged for our vi it and for the kindness and friendliness we have received on all sides. We shall take back with us to India a very happy recollection of this visit. Finally I should like to wish you and all the people of Burma the very best of good fortune in the future.

#### HIGH COURT FOR ASSAM

The arrangement by which the Province of Assam is subjected to the appellate jurisdiction of the High Court in Calcutta has, for some time, been found to be inconvenient, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on Feb. 29.

In pursuance of the views expressed by the Legislature and Government of Assam, the Governor-General has today (March 1) made an order under section 229 of the Government of India Art, 1935, setting up a separate High Court for Assam with effect from April 5 next, All proceedings pending on that day before the Calcutta High Court (except on its original side), the court of origin of which is in Assam will be transferred for disposal to the High Court of Assam.

The powers which the Governor of Assam at present exercises as a High Court for ce tain purposes will also be transferred to the Assam High Court from that day.

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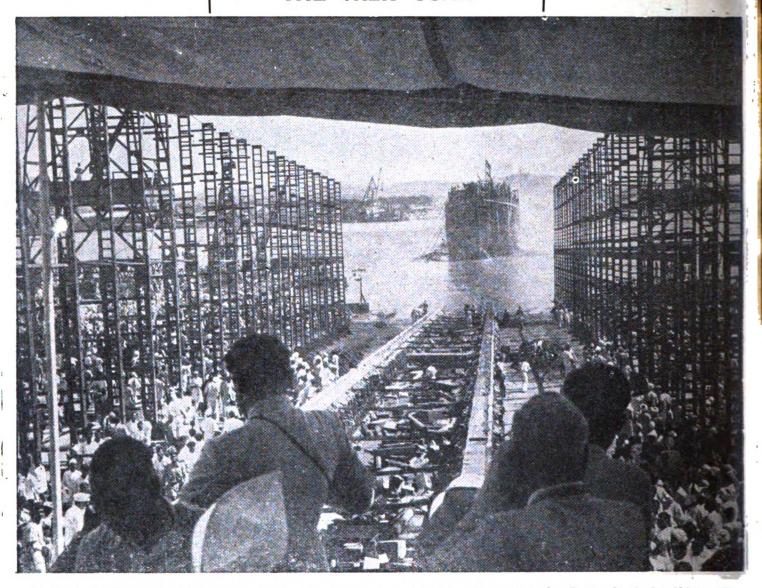
## Last British Battalion Leaves India

(Above) Men of the First Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry march through the Gateway of India, Bombay, to embark on launches on their way to the United Kingdom

(Right) A colour party of the Infantry carrying the colours of the Battalion comes down the steps at the Gateway of India to embark on a launch

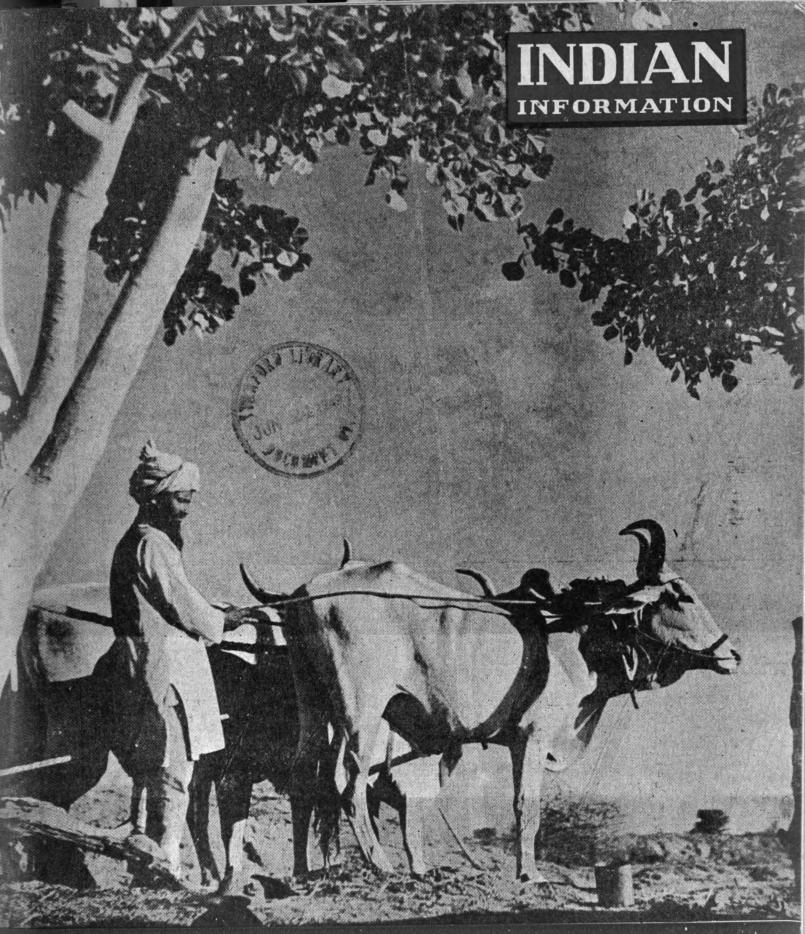


## THE JALA USHA



The "Jala Usha" photographed immediately after its launching on March 14 at Vizagapatam by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The "Jala Usha" is a single-screw cargo steamer having a deadweight capacity of 8,000 tons on a draft of 25 feet. The vessel's idimensions are: overall length 415 feet, moulded breadth 52 feet and moulded depth 30 feet and 6 inches. The vessel is propelled by a single-screw triple expansion reciprocating engine developing 2,600 H. P. The vessel is designed for a trial speed of 11½ knots and is expected to maintain a speed of 10½ knots in service

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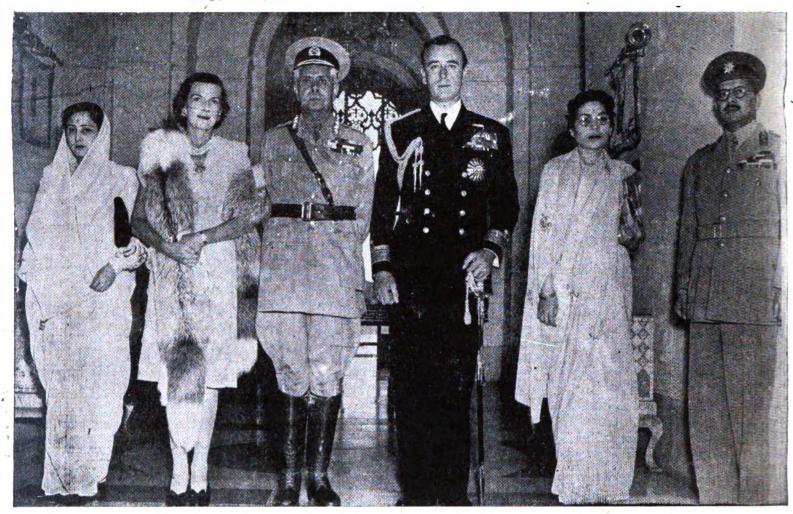
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MATSYA AND RAJASTHAN UNIONS

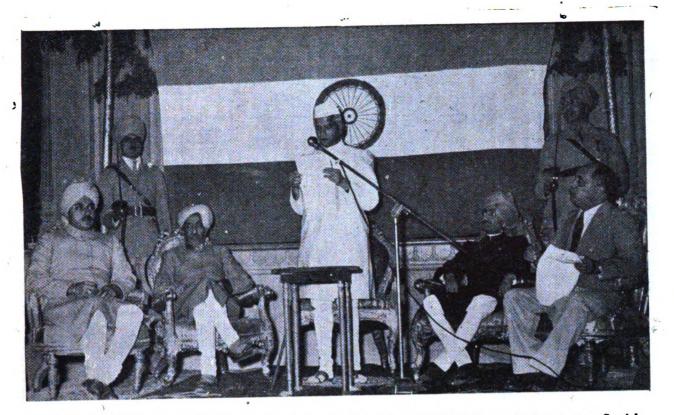
PRICE 4 ANNAS

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H. H. the Maharaja Gen. Sir Padma Shamsbere Jung Bahadur Rana, Frime Minister of Nepal, called on H. E. the Governor-General at Government House on March 18, (L. to R.) H. R. H. Princes Rama, wife of the Napalese Ambassador in India: H. E. Countess Mountbatten of Burma; the Prime Minister of Nepal; H. E. Farl Mountbatten of Burma; wife of the Prime Minister of Nepal; H. E. General Krishna Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana

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Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, inaugurated the United State of Matsya at a Special Durbar held in Bharatpur on March 17. (L. to R.) H. H. the Maharaja of Bharatpur; H. H. the Maharaja of Dholpur; Mr. N. V. Gadgil; H. H. the Maharaja of Alwar and Mr. K. V. Seth, Chief Administrator of the new Union

# UNITED STATE OF MATSYA INAUGURATED

THE United State of Matsya, comprising the States of Alwar. Dholpur, Bharatpur and Karauli (pronounced as Mats) was inaugurated in the Durbar Hall of the Fort in Bharatpur on March 17. The ceremony was performed by Government of India's Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Mr. N. V. Gadzil.

The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. and lasted three quarters of an hour. The Rulers of Dholpur, Alwar and Bharatpur were present, and the Ruler of Karauli was represented by his younger brother.

Inaugurating the new State of Matsya, Mr. Gadgil read a message to the people of Matsya by the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Patel. The message said: "On the inauguration of the Matsya State, I send to the Rajpramukh and his colleagues and the people of the new State mv heartiest congratulations and best wishes. As I explained at the public meeting at Alwar the future of our motherland lies in unity and strength. The need thus is for different units to draw together and not to drift apart.

"I am gratified to learn that the rulers of Dholpur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Karauli have joined together to form a Union which can reasonably be expected to form a viable unit and have thus forced one more bond with their people of affection and goodwill. I am sure

their sense of public duty and spirit of sacrifice will be fully appreciated by their people. On behalf of the Government of India I should like to express our gratefulness to them for their assistance and co-operation in bringing about this beneficient achievement.

"To the people of the new State I should like to say how much I should have liked to be with them at this hour when new responsibilities and new opportunities are opening up before them. They will now realise what tremendous tasks of Government lie before them and what heavy obligations devolve on them.

"It is only a great sense of public duty, a willingness to place service above self and people above personalities, indefatigable labour in the public cause, and incorruptible character and pure honesty of purpose that can enable them adequately to discharge their allotted tasks.

"Any failure in these essentials will only expose them not only to public ridicule in their life time but to the shame of history and odium of coming generations. I hope and pray that the popular representatives will justify the confidence placed in them by the people and Rulers slike."

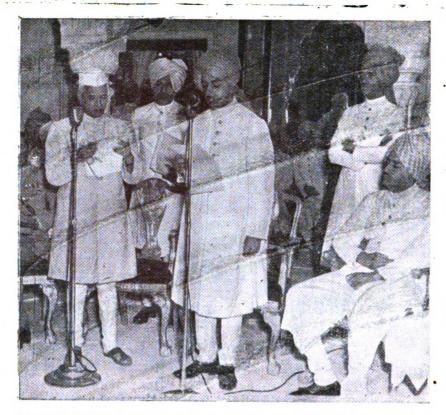
Rajpramukh, the Maharaja of Dholpur, and the Uprajpramukh, the Maharaja of Alwar took the oaths of office and were followed similarly by the Ministers. The Ministers were: Mr. Sobha Ram of Alwar, Mr. Jugal Kishore Chaturvedi of Bharatpur, Rao Gopilal Yadhav of Bharatpur, Dr. Mangal Singh of Dholpur and Pt. Chiranji Lal Sharma of Karauli.

Rajpramukh, His Highness the Maharaja of Dholpur, in his speech said that times and circumstances having greatly altered, demanding changes to accommodate the new forces, the four States had patriotically decided to erase their boundaries into one State of Matsya, His Highness appealed for efforts to fight poverty and disease and to maintain and enhance goodwill and understanding between man and man. Then, he declared: "I am certain Mother Bharat will feel happy and proud of her daughter Matsya".

The Hon'ble Mr. Gadgil in a speech congratulated the four Princes on their patriotism in joining together into one United State of Matsya and in entering the Indian Union. He declared that Princes had marched with the times.

Earlier, a parade was held at the Akhand Grounds at which Mr. Gadgil and the Rajpramukh of Mataya, the Maharaja of Dholpur, took the salute. The Maharaja of Dholpur also unfurled the Indian National Flag. Before the flag was unfurled, priests chanted prayers and vermilion was put upon the foreheads of the Rajpramukh and Mr. Gagdil.

(Centinued on Page 504)



Mr. N. V. Gadgil administers the Oath of Allegiance to the Maharao of Kotah, Rajpramukh of the Rajasthan Union at a ceremony held in Kotah on March 25

## THE BIRTH OF RAJASTHAN

HE Union of Rajasthan was inaugurated on March 25 by the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil on behalf of the States Minister, Sardar Patel. Nine States in Rajputana have joined this Union and the Maharao of Kotah was sworn in as the Rajpramukh of the Union.

The function began with the hoisting of the Union Flag by the Maharao of Kotah at the polo ground where theusands of people gathered to witness the ceremony. A Durbar was held later where the Rajpramukh, two Pramukhs, the Maharawal of Dungarpur and the Raja of Bundi, and the Chief Minister of the Union, Mr. Gokul Lal Asawa, were sworn in.

Addressing the Darbar the Maharao of Kotah, as the constitutional head of the Union, expressed the hope that the Samyukta (United) Rajasthan would grow into a powerful Union as part of the Indian Dominion. He had no doubt that the inhabitants of Rajasthan would forge themselves into a strong and united people of free India.

The Maharao referred to the death of Mahatma Gandhi and said that though the country was impoverished by his passing away his vioce of peace and truth could still be clearly heard in the midst of the present turmoils. It should be their endeavour to work for the ideals for which Mahatma Gandhi lived and died.

The States constituting the Union, the Maharao said, had voluntarily agreed to merge their separate and scattered identities with the consolidated brother-hood of Rajasthan. In the inauguration of the Union of Rajasthan, he added, they saw the birth of a new democratic age and it was a great privilege for him to be chosen as the Rajpramukh of the Union. He assured his loyalty to the constitution of the Union.

## Sardar Patel's Message

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's message said: "Placed as they are today, small units unable to support themselves according to modern requirements cannot afford to remain in precarious isolation. The history of the world in the last two centuries amply demonstrates that it is only by coming together that smaller States can retain their distinctive cultures and safeguard their economic interests and also make their due share in the political life of the country.

"I am delighted to feel that the Princes and people of the Rajathan Union have decided to benefit on this lesson of history. For this happy culmination of their determined voluntary efforts both the Princes and people deserve highest praise. Both have realized that in their mutual accommodation and co-operation lies the future prosperity of the State in which they have so much at stake. Both have felt that in the timely adjustment of their respective viewpoints lies the ultimate

good of each. May this spirit of comradeship in common endeavour and their liberal interests continue to guide them in the many and complicated affairs of State which it will be the common responsibility of all to dispose of."

Mr. Gadril in a brief speech paid a tribute to the patriotism and farsightedness of the Rulers and he was particularly gratified at the enthusiasm shown by both the Princes and the people. It was not as though events overtook the Princes but they responded to the spirit of the times. He was confident that in the future, if in the higher interests of the country the subordination of the rights and interests of Rulers were required, the Princes would not hesitate to make the sacrifice.

### The Integrating States

The nine States which form the Rajasthan Union are Kotah, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Basawar, Pratapgarh, Tonk, Kishengarh and Shahpura. The total population of these States is about 23,00,000 with a revenue of slightly less than Rs. 2 crores. The area of the Union is over 16,000 sq. miles. Udaipur, which is one of the premier States of Rajputana, is also expected to join this Union shortly and talks are already taking place with the States Ministry in this connection.

# EXISTENCE OF ATOMS NOT UNKNOWN TO INDIA

"The existence of atoms was not unknown to Indian scientists. The concept of atoms was familiar to India several thousands of years ago", observed Dr. Kothare, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Delhi University, addressing men of the Royal Indian Air Force at Palam on March 23.

The Arabic system of notation was an Indian discovery and a great feat of nathematical genius on the part of Indians some two thousand years ago. Great strides were made in the field of astronomy also. Modern science, which has achieved this wonderful discovery of the fission of the atom, started its career in the West only 300 years back and armed with modern science, the West has been able to spread its influence and to dominate the world. For various reasons, India has lagged behind in this pursuit of science. Despite all the handicaps, she has produced jewels like Prof. Ramanujam. The formula of notation discovered by him in 1917 was made use of by Lord Rutherford in his experiments on Atomic fission in 1940.

Dr. Kothare then dwelt at length on the structure of the atom and the enormous power that resides in the infinites. mally small nucleus and the process by which the Mesonic force that holds the protons and neutrons together is unleashed.

He sounded a note of warning. Humanity, he affirmed, cannot afford to play with this stupendous force which has fallen into the hands of men.

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# MR. V. P. MENON ON MERGER OF STATES

THE inauguration of the Rajasthan Union on March 25, and of Vindhya Pradesh on April 2, the progress achieved towards the realisation of Malwa merger, the forthcoming integration of Gujerat States as one more step towards the formation of Maha Gujerat and the agreement reached regarding the setting up of an Interim Government for Baroda were the main items of a statement made on March 20, in Bombay by Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary, Ministry of States. Addressing a Press Conference, Mr. Menon said:

In the first place you will be glad to hear that Sardar Patel is making satisfactory progress. He is always at the end of the telephone and I am supposed to report progress to him both in the morning and in the evening and get instructions. He sent me here for five different objects.

The first one is the formation of the Union of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand known as Vindhya Pradesh Union; the second, to discuss certain matters relating to the Rajasthan Union; the third, to bring about the Union of Gujerat States; the fourth, to discuss certain matters connected with Kohlapur, and the fifth, to discuss with His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda the question of responsible government for the State.

### Vindbya Pradesh Union

As regards the first, I am glad to announce that the Vindhya Pradesh Union has been formed consisting of Rewa and several other States. The Maharaja of Rewa will be the Rajpramukh and the Maharaja of Panna will be the Vice-Chairman (or Up-Rajpramukh). The Rajpramukh will enter upon the duties of his Office on April 2, 1948, and the Rulers of the covenanting States will hand over administration of their States to the Rajpramukh before the first of May. The United State of Vindhya Pradesh will have an area of about 25,000 square miles, a population of about 3,600,000 and an annual revenue of about Re. 2½ crores.

As regards the Rajasthan Union I discussed the future arrangements connected with the United State of Rajasthan with the Maharaja of Kotah, Rajpramukh of the United State. It was decided as a result of this discussion that the United State of Rajasthan would be inagurated on March 25, 1946. Pending the framing of the constitution by the Contituent Assembly, the Rajpramukh will form an Interim Cabinet after consulting the leaders of the Praja Mandals in the covenanting states.

As regards the Gujerat States a series of discussions with the Rulers were held at Rajpipla House on the 17th, 18th and the 19th instant. The Rulers have agreed to integrate the administrations of their States with that of the province of Bombay. The Rulers of Bansada, Baria, Cambay, Dharampur, Jewahar,

Lunawada, Rajpipla, Sant, Idar and Pijayanagar have signed the agreement yesterday. The Maharaja of Lunawada has signed the agreement on behalf of Balasinor and Chota Udepur, which are under minority administration. The Rulers of the remaining six states, Sachin, Radhanpur, Danta, Palampur, Jambughoda and Sirohi are expected to sign the agreement within a day or two. The administrations of these States will be handed over to the Government of Bombay on June 5, 1945. There are certain other semi-jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional States in Gujerat. They will also be merged with Bombay as soon as possible.

The total area of Gujerat States merging into Bombay Province as a result of these agreements is approximately 27,000 square miles, population is over 26,00,000 and the revenue about Rs. 11 orders.

In this connection I should like to mention that on the occasion of the signing of the merger agreement yesterday, the Maharaja of Rajpipla on behalf of Rulers of the Gujerat States made the following statement:

"We have pleasure to inform you that as Rulers of Gujerat States we believe our mother country and particularly Gujerat looks up to us to make all the sacrifices in the wider interests of India as a whole. We, therefore, have cheerfully responded to the call of duty and decided to take the first step in forming the Province of Maha Gujerat by integrating our States with the Province of Bombay. We invoke God's blessings on our decision".

### Interim set-up for Baroda

In Kolhapur as you are aware there was a lot of trouble on the day after Gandhiji's death. There were widespread disturbances in Kolhapur city and some of Talukas. The Government of India had received very serious allegations regarding the manner in which disturbances had been handled by the local administration. I saw the Maharaja of Kohlapur under instruction from Sardar Patel and also had a long interview with the Ministers and other representative organisations. I told both His Highness as well as his Ministers that once allegations had been made it would be in the interests of all concerned, that an impartial enquiry should be 'held. Highness agreed to this and an impartial and thorough enquiry is going to be held. Since allegations have been made against the Ministry they should not remain in office during the enquiry. His Highness has agreed to dismiss the Ministry and has also agreed that an administrator should be appointed. The administrator will take charge of the administration as soon as possible. We are also appointing a Tribunal to conduct investigations.

There were discussions between His Highness of Baroda and Darbar Gopaldas about the Interim set-up of Baroda. I am glad to say, we have come to a satisfactory settlement, which has been approved by Sardar Patei. The Maharaja will make an announcement in the first week of April.

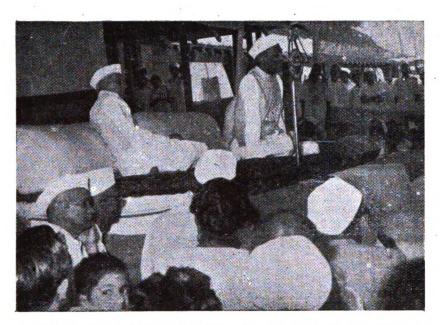
As regards the Union of Gwalior, Indore and other Malwa States you may recall that Sardar Patel in his speech at Alwar expressed the hope that for the security of India and other considerations the Union of Gwalior, Indore, and other Malwa States would be in the best interests of India. When I came to Bombay I had informal talks with the Rulers of Gwalior, Indore and Devas. I also had occasion to consult the representatives of the Regional Council of the All-India States People's Conference and Prajamandals including Chief Ministers of the responsible Cabinets of Indore and Gwalior. As a result of their free and frank discussions I can say that in the greater interests of the States of these areas and the country at large, the Rulers as well as the accredited representatives of the people share a common desire for merger, provided the special interests of merging States are borne in mind.

### Democratic Government

Incidently I may point out that in certain quarters an impression is being created that the States Ministry as such is endeavouring to maintain the structure of Indian States in a particular form against the wishes of the people. I have no hesitation in stating categorically that in the case of all merger constitutions, Sardar Patel has been influenced and guided by the views of popular representatives and has acted with their full support and consent. In the case of Indore, Gwalior and other Malwa States also I feel confident, we will be able to evolve a constitutional structure in harmony with the individual traditions and different vital interests of the premier merging States and capable of providing an efficient, progressive and democratic machinery of government of the people.

It is my plan that as soon as I reach Delhi I will place my tentative conclusions in regard to the formation of this Union before Sardar Patel. After this I will draw up a tentative plan and will meet the Rulers and a few leading representatives of all States for its final adoption, some time in the first week of April.

I may state for the benefit of those who have indulged in destructive criticism of those vast and colossal changes that are being brought about in the map of India with such a rapid speed that while I have heard the highest praise from the Rulers of Gwalior, Indoro and Dewas for the Prime Ministers and Ministers of their responsible Cabinets, the Rulers could have had no more jowerful and whole-hearted advocates of their prestige and position than the Ministers and accredited representatives that I



Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Congress President, addressing the Constructive Workers' Conference held recently at Wardha to devise means for implementing Mahatmaji's ideals. Pandit Nehru is seated beside the Congress President

# GANDHIJI'S ASHES IMMERSED IN RANGOON AND SINGAPORE

AHATMA Gandhi's ashes were immersed at the confluence of the SIrrawady, Pegu and Prundaung rivers in Rangoon on the morning of March 21.

The ceremony, which was performed by Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma, from a specially decorated launch, was watched by a large gathering including Minister Ba Gyan, Supreme Court Judge Kyaw Myint and representatives of the entire diplomatic corps in Rangoon. The Indian Ambassador, Dr. Rauf, and his officers were also present.

The ashes, which were kept at the Bandoola Square since March 17 were taken out in a mammeth procession estimated at 100,000 on March 21. The procession was headed by detachments of the Indian National Army, Yebaws and Yemays (men and women volunteers of the Peoples Volunteer Organisation) the Rangoon Fire Brigade and the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade. Behind them came a decorated car containing the ashes, which wasdrawn by a coam of volunteers. Immediately behind walked bare-headed all the way from Bandolla Square to the Thomson Street jetty, Premier Thakin Nu, the Indian Ambassador and other leading citizens of Rangoon, among them a large number of Muslims. The citizens of Rangoon thronged the entire route of the procession to pay their homage—some offering flowers, others chanting scared verses, still others in silence.

At the Thomson Street jetty, the copper urn containing the ashes was taken out from the car and reverently carried

to a special launch, which was tastefully

decorated and which flew the flags of India and Burma. As the special

launch slowly left its moorings, shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" rent the air. As the launch carrying the ashes

steemed down the river, to the appointed spot, bhajan and prayers were offered, in which Premier Thakin Nu participated. A specially chartered plane dipped in salute several times, showering nowers.



In Bapuji's hut at Sevagram

Before the immersion ceremony, the ashes were placed in a specially erected pandal in Bandoola Square facing the City Hall, for three days to enable the public to pay their homage. During this period there were "bhajans" and singing of devotional songs by all communities continuously day and night.

Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Parsi soriy-

Prime Minister Thakin Nu and diplomats in Rangoon joined the endless stream of visitors of all communities who flocked to Bandoola Square day and night to pay their homage to the ashes of Mahatma

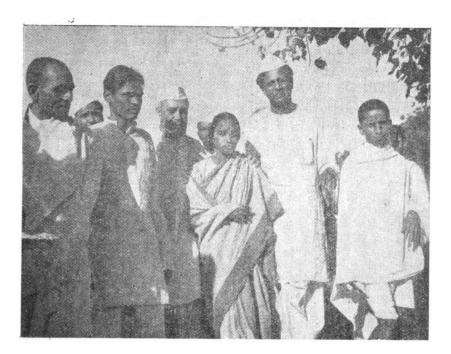
Burmese visitors offered flowers and incense. It was a touching sight to see an old Burmese lady, who was a daily visitor to Bandoola Square sobbing and shedding tears.

#### Wreaths Laid

tures.

Thakin Nu, accompanied by his children, went three times round the special enclosure in which the urn containing the sacred ashes was placed. He recalled to his children his meeting with Mahatmaji, during his visit to Delhi, by pointing to a large picture of himself and Candhiji, forming part of the decoration of the pandal.

Wreaths were laid before the urn containing the ashes by British, American and Chinese Ambassadors and by the Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan Embassy and the Royal Netherlands Legation. Heads of Swedish, Swiss, Belgium,



Pandit Nehru (third from left) with friends at Sevagram

French and Chinese Consulates and the Deputy Representative of the Indonesian Republic also laid wreaths. Besides the representatives of All-Burma Indian Congress, who were responsible for the arrangements, Dr. Rauf, the Indian Ambassador, was also present during the ceremonies.

Wreaths were also laid by the entire staff of the Indian Embassy and by about fifty associations in Rangoon, including Burma Muslim Women's organisation.

## In Singapore and Prome

The urn containing ashes of Mahatma Gandhi arrived in Singapore on March 15 and was kept in the Town Hall on an exquisitely decorated platform for three days to enable the people to pay their homage. Among the early visitors on March 16 was the Governor of Singapore, Sir Franklin Gimson, who stood before the urn for two minutes with his head bowed. Along with him was the Colonial Secretary, Mr. P. A. B. Mokarron.

Special prayer were offered every evening in the Hall by groups representing Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism and the Sikh religion. Muslims offered prayers in mosques.

After being on display for three days in Singapore, the urn was removed from the Town Hall on March 18. On March 19 the urn was flown to Kuala Lumpur where it was kept upto March 21. The Representative of the Government of India, Mr. Thivy, accompanied the urn to Kuala Lumpur. From there Mr. Thivy flew with the urn to Kotabharu and Penang, returning to Singapore, for the immersion ceremony on March 26.

A portion of Gandhiji's ashes was immersed in Prome also. It is below Prome that the Irrawaddy branches off. The ashes were kept at Prome for one day to enable the public to pay homage before immersion in the clear waters of the Irrawaddy on March 24.

# SCHOOL IN MEMORY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Indians in Bangkok expect to collect Re. 7,50,000 for a school in the city in memory of Mahatmaji.

At a recent meeting held at the Indian Legation, Bangkok, a committee with the Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Bhagwat Dayal as chairman, was formed. A sum of Rs. 1,57,000 was contributed on the spot.

A local Dutch Architect, an admirer of Mahatmaji, has given his services free and has produced the plans for the building.

# Iranian Premier Urges Closer Ties With India

The centuries old relations between India and Iran were emphasized at a lunch given recently at Tehran by the Prime Minister of Iran, Mr. Ibrahim Hakimi, in honour of the Indian Ambassador Syed Ali Zaheer.

M. Espandiari, the Indian Foreign Minister, proposing India's toast and welcoming its first Ambassador, referred to Pandit Nehru's "Discovery of India", in which he has said that few peoples have been more closely related in origin and in history than the people of India and the people of Iran. He also referred to the visit of Rabindranath Tagore come years ago as a messenger of India's great culture and recalled the warm welcome extended to him by the people of Iran. He hoped that the long-standing relations between the two countries will be further strengthened by close ties.

Replying, the Indian Ambassador said: "Our friendly relations have stood the test of centuries and I am happy to inform you that now that our country is again independent and we are a free nation, we want to revive our friendly contacts. The passage which you have quoted in your speech from the book of our great Prime Minister expresses a sentiment which is not only contained in his book but is also shared by a vast section of the people of India. They feel that they are one with the people of Iran and it is a mere accident that one branch is living in Iran and another in India".

The lunch, which was the first official function to be held in honour of the Indian Ambassador, was attended by Ministers, high officials of the Iranian Government and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

# "Irreparable Loss": Pakistan Parliament's Message

The Secretary of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan has communicated to His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, a message expressing profound sense of grief and sorrow "at the irreparable loss suffered by India and Pakistan in the passing away of Mr. Gandhi".

The message says:

"At a meeting of the Constituent Assembly (Legislature) of Pakistan held on Feb. 23, 1948, the Leader of the House and the other Members of the House expressed their profound sense of grief and sorrow at the irreparable loss suffered by India and Pakistan in the passing away of Mr.Gandhi and the Honourable President was requested to convey on behalf of the

House its deep sense of sympathies and sorrow, with which the Honourable the President associated himself, to the people of the Dominion of India. I am accordingly directed by the Honourable President to convey this message through you to the people of your Dominion.".

The Private Secretary to the Governor-General acknowledging the message, says:

"I am desired by His Excellency the Governor-General to thank you for your letter of the 13th March, No. 19-1/48, Legis, and to request you to convey to the Leader and Members of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan the sincere gratitude of the people of India for their message of sympathy".

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INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1948

# AGRICULTURAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO BE SET UP

## Shri Jairamdas Doulatram's Statement in Parliament

In my opinion the Centre ought to spend much more on agriculture and much more on plans of production of food. After all food is our major problem, and I do wish that the Centre should have more power", stated Shri Jairamdas Doulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister, in the Dominion Parliament on March 16, replying to oritioisms against the two Ministries under his charge.

Here is the full text of his speech :--

I have welcomed this discussion because all discussion on the administration of Government helps Government. But frankly speaking it has also been for me a matter of regret that there has not been sufficient time for a larger number of members to express themselves on the working of the departments with which I am concerned. It has been my effort, and it will be my effort, to provide everything possible, inside and outside this House, and all opportunities as time would permit for discussion of matters relating to my departments.

We are having this evening after the session is over a meeting of the Food Advisory Committee, and also a few days hence a meeting of the Committee of the legislature relating to Agriculture. I propose also, over and above these two occasions, to discuss with as large a number of members of this House as possible any other details which relate to my departments.

## Planning Commission

One other reflection that has been occurring to me as the discussion has gone on is that part of the remarks seems to relate not to the present Government but to the past Government. Let us realise that the present Government has taken charge of the destinies of the country, practically speaking, only a short while ago. The Government is confronted with many big problems and some of these big problems are emergent. I have no doubt that, looking to the importance of the subject of food, which has been given in the Finance Minister's speech the first priority, it should receive also our first attention when we have taken charge of the affairs of the country. The House knows what events have transpired during the last few months. But still I must state that we should as early as possible, having taken charge of the country after the termination of British rule, try to set about planning on a longterm basis for our country.

So far as agriculture is concerned, both under British rule and also during the interval that the present Government has been in charge, there had been a kind of piecemeal attempt to deal with the problem. I take the responsibility for that and I wish the House also to share that responsibility. I am not satisfied that we are handling the question of food production in the country and of making our country self-sufficient in regard to the production of food as well as we ought to.

I propose, with the collaboration of the House, to set up some kind of agricultural planning commission which will go to the bottom of the whole question, planning out something scientifically and also something which may be of practical achievement within a limited number of years. I do not know how far this planning commission will be able to achieve the purpose, but I can assure the House that it is the intention of Government to try to solve our fundamental problem of food in a fundamental manner. We are trying to deal with the question of defence, to deal with the question of industrial development. but agricultural development cannot wait longer. There is no doubt that Government have had a variety of schemes left to us by the former Government. I do not know how far they suit us; they will have to be examined. People talk of the selfsufficiency of India as a whole; people speak also of regional self-sufficiency; our country is vast enough, our soil is varied enough and our water resources also are manifold. It may be a wiser plan to have some kind of regional self-sufficiency on the whole; it might relieve a great deal of the strain on our transport system which may be available for other purposes. And so there are a variety of considerations that I think would have to be taken into account if we want to plan for our country in a proper manner.

#### In Other Countries

But I also wish the Legislature to realise that Government at the Centre, as has been auggested by more than one speaker, is today without much scope for action. The field and power of action lies with the provinces. We are in a position to advise, to make researches here and there and try to help financially. But the execution is to be with the provinces. Any part of the criticism today and a good part of the criticism which we hear generally relates to work in the provinces. I do not know how far the legislature would support the suggestion that is being made that the Centre ought to have more power with regard to production of After all it is our major problem; it is the fundamental need of man. And if it is the fundamental need of manthat is, of India - I do wish that the Centre should have more power. 'I do not know what our future constitution will provide; I do not know whether I personally would have any say in the matter. But the question of the future constitution is before the Constituent Assembly and I do hope that the Constituent Assembly will go fully into this question and give to the Centre far greater power than it has today. With power must also come finances.

There has been a complaint that the Central Government is spending too much on agriculture; it has increased its expenditure on agriculture, on forests, on food, etc. I hope that I will not be

misunderstood when I say that in my opinion the Centre ought to spend much more on agriculture, and much more on plans of production of food. I do not want to tire the House with figures because I am afraid I may have to place some figures in regard to some other points. There are other Federal or Central Governments also in the world. Powers with regard to agriculture and production of food there also lie largely with the provinces. But still with the Centre lies much more power and with the Centre are available far more funds than in our country. I will give you only three other instances of three major federal institutions.

Here is the U.S. A. The Federal Government spends per head Rs. 80. We spend one anna per head.

The Central Government in Canada spends Rs. 21 on agriculture. We spend one anna.

The United Kingdom an highly industrialised country, which should be expected to spend far less than India on agriculture, spends Rs. 2 per head on agriculture: we spend one runa per head.

It may be said that the income of those States is larger. I will therefore give you other figures.

The U.S. A. spends 3.3 per cent of the Central Budget on agriculture. Canada spends 1.6 per cent. Even the U. K. spends .8 per cent. We fall below even that and with the inflated figures. as some might say, which are being ciiticised today in the House, we spend .75 per cent. I do not think it is possible with the funds at the hands of the Central Government we can make any greater progress in advising, guiding, helping and giving the lead to the provinces as has been suggested. If the Central Government misspends the money; it is the right of the Legislature to call it to book, because after all the Government is utterly and wholly responsible to public opinion and through it to the Legislature. But I do believe that unless a Central Government is given more powers and more funds, it will not be possible for us to handle the situation satisfactorily.

#### Andamens Forests Contract

I wish now, the time being exceedingly limited, to confine myself only to two or three outstanding issues which have arisen in the course of the debate. But there are also one or two other points which I cannot but refer to, because they have been brought out a little more prominently in the debate.

One relates to the contract for the Andamans timber and wood exploitation. I think it will be fair to judge this matter in the context of its real background. As is known, the former Government wanted to hand this over to a Europeanfirm for exploitation. The option before our Governments was, once we took charge that either the Government should run it as its own concern, under its direct control and supervision, or that it should be handed over to Indian exploiters, or there should be another arrangements which may give us the advantages of both. I know the criticism in

this House with regard to official management of things. We heard of it often; we have heard it today. We have also heard of the criticism against private exploitation. It was quite possible for our Government in the midst of other heavy tasks, in the midst of other emergent tasks, in the midst of the need for concentration on industrial and agricultural development within the country, also to take charge of a kind of new venture, far away from the Centre of control and leave it to be administered by the official element. I do not know whether a year or two hence, there would not have been far greater criticism than there will, I expect, be now.

We have tried to find a solution with this background before us. We have tried to provide, that, while attending to development in other sectors within the country, we should also be able to exploit this vast and large source of wealth for the country. We have tried to take maximum precautions in the agreement. It is true that the agreement is not one-sided because, as I have said, the arrangement is not one-sided. We have consulted our experts. We have consulted our forest experts. We have consulted our other departments. It is the decision of the Cabinet as a whole in which all the departments are concerned. We have gone into the question of the royalties that are being taken by other provinces. After getting all that information we have reached an agreement. If there is any loophole which goes against the public interest. we do propose to go into the terms when they are being gone into.

SHRI T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTI-YAR: Were not these forests exploited before?

THE HON'BLE SHRI JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM: They were exceedingly slightly exploited. It is nothing of the nature which is contemplated now and if I may say a little further with regard to the Forest Department, though I intend to say much more with regard to food in the Madras situation.

#### Forest Research Institute

We have in the Forest Institute probably the finest Research Institute in the world. Whatever may have been left to us by the foreign Government, let us make the fullest use of it. We are experimenting and making research in that Institute on ply-wood, composite wood, paper, cellulose rayon. We want to develop on these lines. We want to intensify research. We want to make it possible for us to reserve steel and iron for industrial and agricultural purposes. Research is going on, following the example of the U.S.A. and other countries to treat our timber, to make it available for telegraph and telephone poles: if possible to make it available for the construction of bridges and for a variety of other uses to which timber is being put in other countries.

All this requires additional effort. All this requires additional concentration of research. Surely all this requires a host of men to conduct that research. I would plead that the House should criticise most vigorously when mistakes are made, but not to criticise in anticipation when plans are being made The plans are being made after fullest dis-

oussion with all the departments. Plans are being made with all the experts that are available, and I have no hesitation in saying that so far as agriculture, food and forests are concerned that any expert advice that is available, in the country and has not been consulted will be consulted before final schemes go through.

#### Country's Food Budget

May I, Sir, in the few minutes that are left, refer first to the Madras situation and then to the food question generally though I am sure it will remain my regret that I will not have a full opportunity to explain these matters fully at least today in this House. But I do hope to take the public and the press juto confidence within a few days and deal more fully with regard to the food question than it may be possible in the few minutes that remain.

May I say, Sir, with regard to a reference to some memorandum made by my friend opposite that it is out dated because it is one month old? During this one month things have moved further. That wa, the state of things a month ago when all of us were feeling anxious with regard to the food situation. Since that month, we have put forth fresh effort. We have not allowed things to remain in a static condition. We have moved and used all the influence which we could command, and today, as I will give you a few figures, the position is definitely better and absolutely hopeful and sure. May I Sir, take the House into confidence with regard to our food budget much more fully than has been known to them so far.

If the members of the House will bear with me for a few minutes I will give them a few uninteresting but possibly helpful figures of our food budget.

#### Imports

The balance of what we had contracted to purchase in 1947 but which we were to receive in 1948 was 5.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. This is what we started with. Our internal surpluses out of various parts of the country, from where we expected that we would be able to get some help, was 4 lakh tons. That makes 9.4 lakh tons and the imports which we were....

PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Do you expect to receive that now?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI JAI-RAMDAS DOULATRAM: Yes, and much more than that. The memorandom is one month old. I will take the House into confidence with regard to the details. The imports were 20 lakh tons. That makes in all 29.4 lakh tons. Against that we had to allocate to various deficit areas 22 lakh tons. That leaves a balance of 7.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. Since then we have increased the allocation for Madras by 2 lakh tons, so that the total allocations for the provinces are 24 lakh tons, leaving a balance of 5.4 lakh tons with us.

About a month ago we began to receive certain reports from certain provinces and the official reports as well as other signs also seemed to indicate that we may

possibly have difficulties and the position as it then was that while the balance of the 1947 purchases, i.e., 5.4 lakh tons. would remain with us. the internal supplies may be reduced from 4 lakh to 3 lakh tons. For this there were two reasons. One main reason was that Assam was not able to send us anything, Assam which had promised 50,000 tons and there were some difficulties also with regard to Hyderabad State.

With regard to the imports we had arranged and we are getting 7 lakh tons from Australia. For the first quarter of 1948 we will have from America one lakh tons. That makes 8 lakh tons. Then from Burma and Siam for the first half year of 1948 we will have another 4 lakh tons. That makes 12 lakh tons. We were not quite certain as to what would happen with regard to the rest. Since then things have moved. More facts have come to be known to us and the position today as I am speaking is that from Burma and Siam for the second half of the allotment three lakh ton: more are to come. This makes 15 lakh tons. And from America as good as certain for the second half of the year are 3 more lakh tons. That makes in all 18 lakh tons.

## Good Response from Provinces

Then may I refer back to those surpluses which we had budgetted as 4 lakh tons but which we thought a month ago might be reduced to 3 lakh tons. When we realised that this might be the state of things and we had to see Madras and possibly West Bengal also through, we took special efforts to improve the response from our own country.

I say with pride that our country is coming up and various provinces are putting forth their best efforts and giving us a most promising response. I will give you some details of that.

I had to use our own Prime Minister to see that certain provinces which were otherwise not so energetic might put forth fresh efforts. I will give you the response that we have got from the provinces. I had to send a senior officer of the department to Assam to try to understand the transport difficulty and find out the ways and means how that could be overcome. - He contacted the Prime Minister, he contacted the Governor, he contacted the Minister in charge and the other officials concerned and as a result of those discussions the situation is entirely different. We are going to get from Assam, 65,000 tons in monthly allocations of 8,000 tons and the first small allotment of 1,000 tons has started by a roundabout route, while we are trying to negotiate a more direct route. So our internal surplus position with regard to Assam is going to improve by 65,000 tons.

East Punjab was a deficit province according to our plan and we felt that we would have to give something to East Punjab. Things have changed there: the crops have been better. The position is that during the last few months the East Punjab have informed us that they could easily spare 37,000 tons for us. This is only up to the month of March and they say that they expect to help us hereafter better, because they do hope that the prospects of the crops will be better.

The U. P. was a deficit province and it was felt that they would require some help from us. We went into the matter more fully and the U. P. realised that it is possible for them to spare 35,000 tons, which we otherwise were to give them.

Egypt is a country with which we were negotiating for rice in exchange for maize. That means that we had to give a certain quantity of foodstuffs to secure a certain quantity of rice. Egypt has recently entered into an agreement with Russia. That agreement is not on the basis of exchange of cereals but on the basis of exchange of rice for something else. We are now negotiating with Egypt for the 25,000 tons of rice which we otherwise were to receive as against maize which we were to give them and we hope to get those 25,000 tons without having to give our foodstuffs in exchange.

With regard to Orissa and also the Central Provinces, they are both surplus provinces. I had occasion to contact the premiers of both provinces and both of them assured me that far larger surpluses than they were able to declare, (on which we had framed our basic plan) will come from them. We had provided for only 4 lakh tons as the internal surplus and that is going to be exceeded, and possibly at least one lakh tons is going to come from both these provinces.

### Wheat Agreement

I therefore feel that instead of what we thought about a month ago, namely that our country will be able to spare only 4 lakh tons for Madras and other deficit areas, with the surpluses that these two Provinces are able to spare even up to this day we would be having 5½ lakh tons. And I have no doubt that as a result of further efforts the supply position in the country in the matter of food is going to substantially improve. If this is the position then our balance of 5 lakh tons remains.

May I draw the attention of the House to another important factor? We have just concluded what had not been concluded a month ago, and that is the Wheat Agreement through the international organization. Under this Wheat Agreement we are going to get, if we want, for the next five years 7½ lakh tons of wheat for each year of the next five years at very reasonable prices and proportionately falling prices as time passes. Part of it we are going to get in the course of the year because the Wheat Agreement to give months hence. It means that time for the remaining five months of the year from that time we have other sources to fall back upon and to build up our further supplies for Madras or our own reserves.

### Premiers' Conference

With regard to rice I cannot say any thing definite now. But it is possible that we may be also able to secure something if we want certain reliable arrangements with regard to rice, because Rice Conference is also due to start on the 5th of April. Whether these matters will be negotiated there or not it is not possible for me to say at present.

Then, may I say that so far as our internal supply position is concerned, it is definitely far better than it was a month

ago? Much that has been stated in the memorandum prepared a month ago would have to be re-written if we deal with the situation today. I do promise the House that the Food Ministry is not going to sit idle. We are having a Conference of all Premiers of the country, and Premiers of some of the leading States and the Food Ministers of these areas, probably just before the Constitutent Assembly sits. We propose to discuss with them further possibilities of help to all our defioit areas. I have no doubt that with the help of our Prime Minister, who is going to attend that Conference and who has been taking special and active interest in the matter, we are going to face the situation without dependence on outside help except to the barest minimum limit necessary.

## Madras Position

May I say with regard to Madras also specifically that I do want Madras also to share the feeling that we are going to pull ourselves out of the difficulty. I am afraid that the greater the talk of famine and starvation the higher will the prices go, the greater will be the risks of hoarding and the greater will be the trouble—again self-created and man-created I do wish that we should maintain our morale, maintain our self-confidence and face the difficult situation, with courage, determination and energy. I do wish to say this to Madras. Madras in 1946 had a cyclone difficulty in the north; at the same time it had failure of rains in the south; and though it demanded 15 lakh tons from the Centre it was able to tide over the difficulty with 7 lakh tons help from the Centre. I do not say that this is an indication of the help they will

get. They will get the utmost help possible from the Centre and I have no doubt that the Provinces which are surplus also will be able to help much more than they are able to do today.

We have given to Madras 92,000 tons as its quota for the existing quarter. Over and above this present quota of 92,000 tons we have given to Madras 99,000 tons more for this quarter, just to help it to build up its stocks. And our De partment is going to take steps from now onwards to divert such of the stocks as are available to Madras and keep them there so that they may be available at hand. It may be much more than may be needed for the particular quarter.

Madras is going to be one of our reserve centres, and deliberately, so that we may be able to handle the situation properly. I know that all this may not be needed during the time. But because I see that the psychology of the situation is an important factor that the morale of the agriculturist, the consumer, the seller and the Government has to be maintained, we want to follow this policy in accordance with the suggestion which was made by a friend from Madras a few days ago.

SHRIT. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTI-YAR: (Madras; General): What is the reserve that is kept in Madras?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI JAIRAM-DAS DOULATRAM: As I said, we sent a quota of 92,000 tons towards the first quarter. The exact figure I will be able to give the Honourable Member in due time at a later meeting.

May I say a few words now generally ?

# Selfless Service: Food Minister's Advice To Refugee Camp Officers

DDRESSING the officers of the Food Ministry, who had been appointed to be in charge of the food arrangements in various refugee camps in India on March 23, Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Food Minister to the Government of India, stressed the need for selfless service and shedding provincialism.

The Food Minister pointed out the special circumstances, namely, the need to supply foodstuffs to refugee camps which had necessitated the creation of their appointments and impressed upon them the need of their deporting themselves in such a way as to be of real service to the Government as also to the refugees for whose benefit they had been appointed. He advised them to forget that they belong to any particular province, viz., Sind, for that province did not exist in the Indian Dominion.

It was, therefore, imperative that they should shed their provincialism and identify themselves completely with the other citizens of the Indian Dominion. It was only when they regarded themselves as citizens of the Indian Union and shared the responsibilities of citizenship that they could look forward to their early absorption in the life of the Indian Union and thus help solve the problem of rehabilitation of refugees.

Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram advised Government servants to cease regarding them-

selves as rulers. They must discard their superiority complex and break down the wall that had been erected between the people and Government servants under the old regime. He emphasized the need for treating themselves as servants of the people and not as their rulers. It was only when they came to have this attitude of mind that they would be of real use to the Government and to the refugees who needed selfless service being rendered to them to enable them to start their life afresh.

The Government would judge its officers by the measure of such selfless service rendered and the degree of enthusiasm displayed by them in the discharge of their duties.

Those who were going to be in charge of Refugee Camps had to cultivate a cool temper and sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of the refugees. Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram appealed to the newly appointed officers to work hard and win the hearts of the refugees. He cautioned them that if any officer failed to reach a reasonable standard of efficiency or did not act up to the advice tendered to him, it would not be possible for Government to retain him in service. If, on the other hand, they made themselves useful in the way the Government wished them to be, they could look forward to their future interests being safeguarded by Government.

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I would really wish that we should not die before we are dead; we need not begin starving before we starved. I have no doubt that the time for starvation will not come if we maintain our morale and if the Provinces and the Centre act energetically in dealing with the situation.

#### Grow More Food Campaign

I will read out to you in just three or four minutes a few interesting figures which might explain to the House the difficulties with regard to the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that we have not made much progress with the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that many of the suggestions which they have made are worth being considered and executed. But there are certain experience which might be put before the House. We had, for instance, for the year 1947-48 a target of 9 lakh acres extra to be put under the plough. We planned a variety of methods first minor irrigation works which meant wells, surface wells, tube wells, pumping plants etc. For the implements we asked for only 3 lakh tons of steel and iron for agriculture generally.

But all the Provinces of India could get only 2 lakh tons instead of 3 lakh tons—and not for agriculture only but for all uses. So that, when we started the grow more food campaign, we found that though for that campaign we had budgeted for 30,000 tons of steel and iron for all these implements, tubes and pipes, etc., we got only 4,500 tons which is only one-seventh of the quantity on the basis of which the plans were made. Take fertilisers. For 1947-48 we budgeted for 3 lakh tons for the country. But the International Council-which still governs these thingsallocated only 50 per cent of the demand to us. With regard to actual receipts that was even half of it. So that, grow more food campaigns dependent on steel, iron and fertilisers had to face these difficulties.

Coming to technical material and staff, we wanted for these drilling machines which drill tube wells, five drilling engineers; we secured only one. We wanted thirty subordinate staff. We secured them from the Pakistan area and after partition most of them went away. Today we are hardly with any staff for the subordinate drilling purposes. We wanted 29 rigs for drilling wells; we got only eight. We budgeted for 6,000 feet of pipes for these wells we could not get any because the factory in Lahore went to Pakistan.

### **Land Reclamation**

Today we are applying to the Indian Hune Pipe Company or eleswhere for certain types as substitutes. These are illustrations of the difficulties of not only 'Grow More Food' Campaign, but our planning for agriculture. I have got with me a plan for reclaiming 10 lakhs of acros. We have reclaimed already 10,000 acres. Probably by the end of this month we would have reclaimed 10,000 acres in the U. P., but they have no facilities for carrying on further agricultural operations. They have to come to the Centre for help with regard to preliminary cultivation of land and we are going to do the best we can. We have a plan for reclaiming about 20 or 25 lakhs of acres of weeded land in Central India.

in Orissa and other parts of India where weeds grow and the land gives only 2 maunds per acre instead of 8. We have plans for reclaiming about 25 lakhs of scres which are not weeded and nothing is grown on them. Now of these 45 lakhs to be reclaimed, probably 5 lakhs-50 lakha is the estimate—of these require oil, tractors, highly technically qualified people, and so on. If we plan on long range, possibly all these needs will be there, but it may be that if we so plan our arrangements that we depend entirely on mechanical cultivation, tractors and oil and other things, we may find that as in the case of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign 1948, at the end of the year or at the end of the period we have not progressed as much as we should have

#### Mechanical Cultivation

I discussed with the Premier of Madras his plan, and after discussing wells he suggested that 'if the Centre could give us Rs, 3 crores a year, I could make Madras insured against famine permanently', and he suggested that hundreds of years ago our ancestors who ruled the country had built tanks which stored water. The banks were built long ago. The population increased. The need of more land to maintain that population increased. More area began to be cultivated from that limited source of supply and the tanks could not reserve water for 3 to 4 years as they used to do formerly. Whatever water there was began to be absorbed and consumed in a shorter period of time. He says 'I do not want iron and steel. I do not want tractors and diesel oil. I want money. My people are here: they are without food because they have no share in the grain because there was no grain: there were no imports: they have neither grain nor income: if prices rise, they have got nothing to depend upon, and his plan is that the Centre should give Madras Rs. 3 orores a year.

I am considering this plan and I have asked for details, and that is why I have suggested to the Foodgrains Policy Committee that in the second part of your

labours which deal with the question of making India self-sufficient, of making India produce as much as she needs, you must give us plans which are practicable. We can have mechanical cultivation to the extent that is necessary and possible, but we must depend upon our other resources and build up plans which we can implement within a reasonable measure of time. I cannot say today what those plans will be. On that committee are men who have handled big undertakings. There are men who understand agriculture because they are also agriculturists. On that Committee there are men who have handled these matters for a number of years, and besides there are others representing various political and other sections of thought. I do expect that within a reasonable time that committee will give us something which we can implement and carry out.

That report will be before the Assembly and before the public and all those who are interested in the subject: but I do suggest that unless the Centre has more powers, unless the Centre, subject to correct handling of these funds, is helped to put forward and carry out something big and definite, I do not think we will be able to deal with the situation satisfactorily. I therefore do hope that if I have not covered all the points that had to be covered, other opportunities would be available when I will explain to the members of the House in another capacity all that is being done by our department and all that has yet to be done by the department.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: May I know whether the recent rain has improved the Kharif crop?

THE HONOURABLE SHRI JAI-RAMDAS DOULATRAM: I received a telegram some time ago from the Madras Food Minister that the rains in January have improved the prospects of crops in Madras. I cannot today estimate in what quantity. These are matters which will be known in due time, but I do not want simply to build on that. I am building on our arrangements to meet any contingencies.

(Continued on Page 518)

## "Deal With Food Situation In Dynamic Way" -FOOD MINISTER

A plea to deal with the food situation in India in a dynamic rather than in a static manner was made by Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Food Minister to the Government of India, addressing food officials from Provinces and States in New Delhi on March 28. A Conference of food officials, particularly of the deficit Provinces, was held to discuss the proposed distribution of foodgrains for the quarter ending June 1948.

Deprecating a defeatist mentality in dealing with the food problem, the Food Minister said: "It must be our aim to find a remedy for each difficulty that may arise and tunnel our way through" and stated that if hoarding raised its head, it would have to be outlawed as one of the most beinous of crimes.

Appealing to surplus areas, Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram stressed the importance of dealing with the difficulties of the deficit areas as a common problem. We were citizens of a common country and what affected one part io

India had its repercussions on the others. As far as the Centre was concerned, they were determined to use every ounce of energy to deal with the food situation.

In conclusion, the Food Minister made two suggestions for the consideration of the Conference: Whether serious difficulties in any particular part of the country were due not so much because of an overall shortage in India as a whole as to its inability to go round promptly, and secondly if it was not possible for the permanent officials in the Provinces to establish a closer contact with the rank and file of the public, through monthly conferences with the poorer sections of the public.

Those who attended the Conference were food officials from Bihar, Bombay, Cochin, Gwalior, Travancore, the U.P. and West Bengal and the Regional Food Commissioners of the Central Government in Calcutta, the Central Region and Madres.

# PRODUCTION OF EUROPEAN TYPE June 1948. Even during this period is proposed to keep strict watch that OF VEGETABLE SEEDS

## Food Minister Opens Seeds Conference

we can supplement our cereal diet by a much larger produc-tion of vegetables in all parts of the country, we shall not only enrich our diet but also ease the cereal situation considerably. In order to increase production the first essential is to organise the vegetable seed industry on a solid footing," said Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister to the Government of India, opening on March 22 the Fifth Vegetable Seeds March 22 the Fifth Vegetable Conference at New Delhi.

Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram continued: In the past four similar Conferences, you have taken important decisions and the action taken in pursuance of those decisions has helped to improve the vegetable seed industry in this country. I expect that the mature judgment that you will no doubt bring to bear on your present deliberations will result in our achieving the immediate objective before us today viz., the greater production of one special type of vegetables in the country as part of a bigger programme of vegetable self-sufficiency.

It has been advised by nutritional experts that a properly balanced and adequately health-giving diet of our people should consist of 40 oz. per adult of which coreals will not form the major proportion and of which vegetables will constitute an important part. Our dependence on food imports which in a variety of ways is greatly hampering the economic development of the country can be remedied only by an all-out effort on our part to produce more cereals, vegetables, fruits, and other protective foods. At present, cereals are the staple food of our people. But if we can supplement it by a much larger pro-duction of vegetables in all parts of the country we shall not only enrich our diet but also ease the cereal situation considerably. In order to increase production the first essential is to organise the vegetable seed industry on a solid footing.

The problem of increase of vegetables in the country is a vast one. The present conference has not been called to consider that larger problem. Its functions are limited in scope. It is meeting to deal with a restricted question relating to one particular type of vegetables. We have many indigenous types of vegetables. These we may have to deal with fully on some other occasion. But a situation has arisen when the need has manifeeted itself of considering how best to evolve certain improved European types of acclimatised vegetables which have become popular among the people and now best to protect our country from competition by the foreign producers of the seeds of these types. These include canliflower, cabbage, carrot, beet, knot kohl, tomato, pera, beans, turnip, radish, lettuce and a few others.

There is of course no dearth of Indian types of vegetable seeds, but we have to

evolve new types for better quality and increased yields and create a vegetable seed industry of our own. Some good work has already been done in this direction, but this needs to be intensified. Regarding European types of vegetable seeds the major part of our require-ments before the last war used to be met by imports from foreign countries. During the war it became very difficult to get any seeds from abroad for various reasons. On the other hand the quantities required were much larger than before especially to meet heavy army demands and to push on the Grow More Food Campaign. To meet the situation, steps were taken to produce European types of vegetable seeds at Quetta and in Kashmir which were the two best sites for the purpose. The Government of India sanctioned about Rs. 80,0001- for these schemes during the last four years. Leading seed growers all over the country have also developed their production at much cost and labour. While this industry was being developed private individuals continued to obtain import licences.

As these imports tended to upset the arrangements for the healthy development of our infant seed industry the Government of India decided in April, 1944 not to grant any new licences for import. In April, 1915, it was further decided to freeze under the Defence of India Rules all consignments of vegetable seeds which came in the country. Further steps taken to discourage foreign imports were the requisitioning of such consignments by the Government, imposition of heavy penalties and confiscation. These measures resulted in almost complete stoppage of foreign seeds except very small quantities that came by parcel post. The position after the war and with further, development of the industry however, changed rapidly. While production in Kashmir and Quetta increased, the local demand decreased mainly owing to reduction of the army. Competition from foreign seeds also became a danger as Defence of India Rules were due to lapse on 30th September, 1946. The industry could not qualify for protection by the Tariff Board. In these circumstances protection by Import Control was continued.

#### Assistance by Centre

The situation changed completely after August last when Quetta which was a very important source of production was lost to us. The atuation with regard to Kashmir also became uncertain. The production there was not properly controlled with the result that with the exception of a few selected!growers, others could not be relied upon to make regular supplies. Transport has always been difficult from Kashmir and has now become an acute problem. In view of the above difficulties the previous import restrictions were relaxed in December, 1947, for a period of six months ending

the concessions are not exploited for any personal benefit but are used only to meet the emergency.

If we are to revert to a ban on foreign import we must ensure the required supplies of this type of seeds by developing sources of production in places like the Kulu Valley in Fast Punjab or other suitable places. The endeavour should be to grow this type of vegetable in all parts of the country but soil and other considerations may limit the scope of this programme. The vegetable seed industry is a provincial subject and we in the Government of India can be of service and help only in an indirect way by placing at the disposal of the Provincial Governments the results of such research and such technical advice as we possess. Besides the Provincial Governments it is the members of the trade who are primarily responsible for the future and without whose interest and vigilance nothing can be achieved. I hope and trust that such an effort will be forthcoming both from the Provincial Governments and the trade. This Conference is here to take counsel on the methods to be adopted for meeting the situation. If we succeed in our aim in this direction, we shall be solving a part of one of our big problems relating to food self-sufficiency.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The two-day session of the Vegetable Seeds Conference called by Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister to the Government of India, concluded in New Delhi on March after adopting several resolutions.

Among them are the following:-

- (1) That the Government of India should chalk out a long-term policy which will fully take into account and reconcile the larger interests of the country with those of the seed growers and with the necessity of maintaining foreign markets established during the last few years.
- (2) That under the conditions aused by partition, a Central Vegetable Breeding Station on a permanent basis to set up immediately to produce mother seeds. It is desirable to have regional seed breeding stations.
- (3) That the multiplication of the European type of vegetable seeds be encouraged under private enterprise in suitable areas approved by the Government and that the Central and Provincial Governments should assist in this, so that production is quickly organised and distribution arranged on the basis of quality standards prescribed by the Government.
- (4) That as sufficient seeds are available in India, the exports of home-grown flower and vegetable seeds be permitted and
- (5) That since the Government's policy is to make India self sufficient in vegetable seeds, no imports of vegetable seeds except mother seeds of vegetables and flowers be permitted. The imports of these latter should be allowed both from dollar and non-dollar areas.

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# LAND RECLAMATION SCHEMES: AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ON GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

"If the provision relating to agriculture' under the new Constitution is to be given effect to, the responsibility for food production must be placed fairly and squarely on the Provincial Governments. This is all the more necessary because under the policy of decentrol, the Centre will very soon cease to be responsible for the supply of grains to deficit provinces under a Basic Plan". This was the view expressed by Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary to the Government of India, speaking on March 16 at the inauguration of a 10,000 acre land-reclamation scheme at Khurai, in the Saugor District of the Central Provinces. Two units of 15 tractors each have been supplied by the Central Tractor Organisation of the Agriculture Ministry for the reclamation of 10,000 acres of kans infected lands.

Referring to the responsibility of the Centre, Mr. Sen said: "Certain aspects of food production can best be done by the Centre and here I am expressing my own personal views. These are schemes of irrigation and drainage which affect more than one Province, co-ordination of supply of essential materials such as iron and steel, cement, coal, chemical fertilisers etc., planned irrigation by tubewells served by electric power except when a Province has the experience and organisation to deal with the complex organisational and technical problems involved, and lastly land reclamation.

#### Increased Food Production

As regards the Grow More Food Campaign Mr. Sen said that it was started in 1942 as a purely emergency measure to offset the loss of supplies from Burms. It was in the midst of war when the Government of India had in effect assumed direct responsibility for the administration of India in all subjects irrespective of the sphere of provincial autonomy.

The Campaign included all measures big or small, which promised increased food production. The basic principle of the scheme was the Centre's ofier to share half the additional expenditure with the Provincial Governments.

The following general conclusions can be drawn from the statistics of the results of the campaign which are available: (a) If the outturn per acre on an average is taken at one third of a ton, it is clear that the production figures have been very largely vitiated by seasonal factors. (b) Though in 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, considerable areas of marginal land in addition to those diverted from non-food crops appear to have been brought under food crops, since 1945-46 additional acreage under food crops appears to be limited to the land diverted from non-food crops. (c) The increase in production effected during these years amounts roughly to about 2 million tons a year. This increased production of 2 million tons is again roughly the production from the land diverted from non-food crops. Other schemes relating to irrigation and draniage, manures, improved seeds etc., appear

on the whole to have contributed very little to the increased production.

The unsatisfactory results have been ascribed to (a) a succession of bad seasons for either or both of the two main crops wheat and rice (b) large-scale damage to crops by pests e.g., to rice in Bengal in 1943 and to wheat in the Punjab in 1940 (c) inadequate supplies of easential materials like coal, cement, iron and steel and fertilisers.

### Central Responsibility

While these factors were no doubt largely responsible, one important contributory facior appears so far to have been over-looked. The campaign practically coincided with the assumption of res-ponsibility by the Centre for controlled distribution of all available grains, whether procured internally or from abroad, to meet the deficits of the different provinces. The natural effect of this assumption of overall responsibility by the Centre was the weakening of Provincial responsibility both for production and distribution of food. The urge for increased production on the part of individual cultivators in the Provinces was also affected to some extent by the policy of control of prices which at best was unscientific in character as it did not deal with all prices whether of food and non-food crops or of other essential items which entered into the cost of living of the cultivators. The system of financial assistance from the Centre had some of the characteristic effects of unemployment doles in U. K. The result was that the Centre and the Provinces impeded each other's efforts.

However justified the obliteration of Provincial responsibility in the matter of food production was during the war years, it seems clear that such a policy can hardly be allowed to continue in the post-war period as a normal feature of administration. The emergency under which the campaign was started in 1942 was expected to last not more than two or three years after the end of the war. To convert that emergency measure into a scheme for "covering the existing deficit in the country on the present rationing scales"—as is the basis of the present campaign to produce an additional 4 million tons over a period of 5 years beginning from 1947-48-is to make the smae kind of mistake as was done by the British in India when emergency measures to deal with political unrest became the permanent feature of their administration.

The problem of land reclamation is one on which neither the Centre nor the Provinces appear yet to have sorted out their ideas fully. Till 1946, the policy of the Central Government was for increased outturn and not increased acreage. The present land reclamation schemes are actually the result of the accident of our coming into possession of tractors and other equipments which were used by the Americans on the construction of the Ledo road.

If we decide seriously to take up the reclamation of lands now out of cultiva-

tion or going out of cultivation, we shall have to do a lot more thinking about the ancillary problems than we have done in the past. It is estimated that there are 2 to 3 million acres of land now out of cultivation. The main causes are stated to be malaria, lack of drainage and at places lack of irrigational facilities. If these areas are to be reclaimed, these problems must be simultaneously tackled. The area which is goingout of cultivation owing to kans infestation is also estimated at 2 to 3 million acres. In these areas the follow up cultivation must be sustained if the kane is not to make its appearance again. If the Centre is to take the responsibility for reclamation schemes, the question which arises is whether the present arrangements under which the Centre only ploughs up the land while the other problems are left to be dealt with by the Provinces can be regarded as satisfactory.

A suggestion has been made that for dealing with all the problems simultanelously, the Centre should set up an "Authority" under Sec. 135 of the Government of India Act which will be replaced by a 
similar provision in the new Constitution. Such an Authority if set up will require 
powers to take over under its own 
control notified lands for reclamation, 
to demand the services of the Provincial 
Staff to make surveys and enforce antimalarial and other health measures, and 
to induce labour from outside as may 
not be locally available. The success 
of any such Authority will however 
depend very largely on the willing eooperation of the Provinces.

#### Settlement Schemes

Another aspect of the problem which requires careful consideration is the settlement of the land reclaimed. One of the greatest impediments to increased efficiency in agricultural production in India is the uneconomic nature of holdings. Should the reclamation of new lands be not made the basis for experiments in co-operative farming in India? Should not similar attempts be made even in the case of kuns lands also though these lands are now divided into small holdings? It has to be admitted that none of the Provinces where reclamation has been taken up so far appear to have examine these matters fully.

# STUDENT TRAINEES TO U. N. SECRETARIAT

The Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations have received a number of queries concerning the scheme of recruitment of student trainees to the United Nations Secretariat, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 16. The scheme is at present in its initial stage, and the details are being worked out by the United Nations Secretariat.

It is believed, however, that a competitive examination will be conducted by the United Nations to select a limited number of trainees in each geographical sarea. A further communique will be saued as soon as the scheme matures and full particulars are received from the United Nations Secretariat. Meanwhile no queries concerning this scheme can be entertained.



The need for expanding the Central Agricultural Research Institute to take in more trainees was emphasized by Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister, while inaugurating a Conversazione at the Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi on March 27

# MORE TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR AGRICULTURE

to think of agricultural progress of 35 crores of the Indian people by having one central agricultural institute where about a hundred persons are trained every year. If weare to make our agricultural masses healthier and happier, we should aim at having one huge central institute where thousands can be trained", stated Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister to the Government of India inaugurating on March 27 at the Agriculture Research Institute a Conversazione.

The Agriculture Minister stated that it was necessary to arsess the value of the Research Institute in relation to India's future development of agriculture. They should deal with it in a constructive manner so that it could fulfil the people's needs. He on his part would strain every nerve to see that the Institute developed and that quickly. Towards this end he would seek the co-operation of the Assembly and the people.

#### Conversazione

Earlier, Dr. J. N. Mukherjee, Director of the Institute, explained that the Conversazione was intended to give scientists an opportunity to explain to visiters their contributions to scientific

knowledge and the usefulness of their work to society. Scientific research was the ultimate source of all applied research and technological advance. The interrelation between fundamental and applied research and practical improvements, continued Dr. Mukherjee, was most evident in agriculture. It signified the exploitation by man of the climatic, soil, water, vegetation and annual resources of the land. The scientific background of agriculture was thus provided by ecology, the science which deals with the effect of the environment on life and its adaptation to the former.

These studies were of a long-term nature and often it was not possible to promise quick results. That did not however mean that it was not possible to plan research with practical objectives. For this, it was necessary to formulate programmes of research, in which immediate, short and long-term aspects are correlated.

The Agriculture Minister was taken round the different divisions dealing with agricultural engineering, agronomy. botany, entomology, mycology and chemistry.

## PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENTS FOR GALLANTRY

In token of his appreciation of the work of the Balak Sena—the Youth organisation set up by Brig. Usman in Naushahra—the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, has sent to Major General Kalwant Singh, Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir Force, three wrist watches for presentation to three members of the Sena, who distinguished themselves in the battle of Naushahra early in February when 2,000 raiders were killed. Their names have been inscribed on the watches.

When bullets were whizzing past all over the place in the Naushahra sector, boys of the Balak Sena acted as messenger boys, often at the risk of their lives, to carry messages from the Indian troops' headquarters to forward pickets.

#### UNITED STATE OF MATSYA

(Continued from Page 493)

Addressing the parade, Rajpramukh, the Maharaja of Dholpur, declared that the four States of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli were today embarking upon a new era as the United State of Matsya and were undertaking their new burdens and responsibilities jointly. He noped that the infant State of Matsya would grow and prosper within the Dominion of Free India and contribute in no small measure to the glory of our free and independent motherland.



Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Food Minister, presided over the Annual Convocation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi on March 29.

The Minister presents a certificate to a successful student

# FOOD MINISTER'S ADDRESS AT I. C. A. R. CONVOCATION

It is impossible to build our India, it is impossible to raise our country unless those who are in varied branches and sections of Governmental departments feel literally one with the people," said the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Doulatram, India's Minister for Food and Agriculture, presiding over the Annual Convocation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, held in New Delhi on March 29, for awarding certificates to successful students of the Council's training courses examinations in statistics.

Continuing Mr. Jairamdas said that those of us who hankered after jobs abroad and took pride in getting elected to some committee somewhere outside India betrayed a trace of inferiority complex which had grown as a result of 170 years of foreign rule. There was plenty of work to be done in this country. There was no reason, considering the past record of our contribution to the world's progress, why we could not now and in the future do bigger and greater things for the good of humanity.

## In True Proportion

Concluding the Food Minister stated, "Let us feel proud when we look upon the past, but let us not be content with our present bank balance. Those few who have learnt statistics must add to their knowledge and be adding to their knowledge and continue to add to the knowledge of the world. I do hope that you will measure things in their true proportion. You may be scientists or you may be Government servants

but never forget that the country is looking to you for service and help."

The Vice-Chairman of the Council, Sir Datar Singh, giving an account of the large-scale sample surveys for estimating crop yields at present in progress in India said, "For the first time almost all the Provinces are trying out a uniform method of random sampling under the direction of the Statistical Adviser of the Council". The results of the researche in the sampling technique carried out by the Council, he said, have been very encouraging and have won universal recognition. He added that the Council was trying to set as high a standard as possible for the training of professional statisticians.

# REVISED TRUNK CALL RATES FROM APRIL 1

With effect from the midnight of March 31, the basic charge for telephone trunk calls between any two exchanges belonging to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department will be increased by 60 per cent except for Press trunk calls for which the basic charge will be increased by 40 per cent only, says a Press Note issue 1 by the Directorate-General Posts and Telegraphs on March 30. The existing surcharge will be abolished from the same date.

# COMPOST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In view of the present unsatisfactory food position in the country and the need for mobilising all available resources in the matter of manure supply, the Government of India have appointed "The Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee", says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on March 20.

The Committee consists of Mr. Jairandas Doulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister to the Government of India as Chairman and the following members:—Sir Datar Singh (Vice-Chairman); Shrimati Mira Behn, Hony. Agricultrual Adviser to U. P. Government, Rishikesh; Dr. J. C. Kumarappa, All India Village Industries Association, Wardha; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Editor, Krishi Sansar, P. O. Bijnor, U. P.; Dr. B. N. Lal, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, United Provinces; Dr. K. G. Joshi, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces and Berar; Dr. M. R. Madhock, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, East Punjab;

Dr. S. V. Govinda Rajan, Agricultural Chemist, Department of Agriculture, Mysore; Mes.rs. M. N. Basak, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, West Bengal; Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, Bombay; K. Gupta, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, Bihar; Madhob Agriculture, Bihar; Madhob Patnaik, Provincial Biochemist, Compost Scheme, Department of Agriculture, Orissa, M. S. Siva Raman, Director of Agriculture, Madras; M. S. Randhawa, Deputy Commissioner, Delhi; T. C. Kochunni Pillai, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Travancore; V. Subrahmanyan, Professor of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore: A. P. F. Hamilton, Inspector General of Forests, Government of India and a representative each of the Ministries of Finance, Health, Education and Transport, Government of India. Dr. C. N. Acharya, Chief Biochemist to Government of India, will be Secretary.

The Committee will review periodically the progress of compost production and allied schemes in India; work out detailed plans for increasing the rate of compost production in the country, so as to cover the whole of the refuse materials available in the rural and urban areas; consider such other schemes and plans as may be entrusted to the Committee by the Government of India from time to time; review the work done and frame a programme for the next 6 months; organize Provincial Compost Development Conferences and Committees in different areas, for the purpose of coordination and intensification of work, and undertake and organize intensive propaganda for securing complete development of local manurial resources.

# CHINESE DELEGATE EXPLAINS RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

NTRODUCING the draft resolution on Kashmir in the Security Council on March 18 the Chairman Dr. T. F. Tsiang (China) said:

I have the honour in the name of the Chinese Delegation to place before the members of the Security Council a draft resolution on the Kashmir question. I wish first of all to make a few preliminary remarks about this draft resolution.

The draft resolution is very tentative. Although during the past week, I have had conversations with the delegations of India and Pakistan and with several members of the Security Council, pressure of work has prevented me from seeking these consultations to the extent that I would desire. The problem is very complicated. I do not presume to have that degree of knowledge to propound a solution that would cover all aspects and cover them satisfactorily. Therefore, in considering this draft resolution I certainly would welcome suggestions, amendments and changes. The draft resolution is placed before the members of the Security Council for discussion.

#### Spirit of Fraternity

In the course of discussion on this question, the delegations of India and Pakistan have expressed an earnest wish to find a peaceful solution. In framing this draft resolution I have kept the spirit of the draft strictly within that spirit of fraternity. Therefore, the language and methods recommended here are all within Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. There is no hint of Chapter VII.

In earlier discussions of this question it was pointed out and rightly that plebiscite was of strategical and central importance. I remember the representative of the United Kingdom telling us that the plebiscite should be free and impartial and even more than that should appear manifestly and obviously free and fair to everybody. That observation later on emphasized by several other representatives has always been kept in my mind in preparing this draft resolution. So much for preliminary remarks on this draft resolution.

I shall now refer to the draft resolution itself. I do not need to read the preamble. However, the preamble does have an importance in that it calls attention to two great aspects of the problem, one, plebiscite and the other, early restoration of peace and order. In other words, I assumed that if we could provide satisfaction with regard to these two problems, the problem of plebiscite and the problem of restoration of peace and order, we should have this question solved.

The main body of the draft resolution consists of "articles of settlement". I have divided the articles into three parts. Part A relates to "restoration of peace and order," Part B relates to "plebiscite" and Part C consists of "general provisions", which have to do also with both plebiscite and restoration of peace and order,

In Part A relating to restoration of peace and order, we have bilateral undertakings. The Government of Pakistan undertakes to use its utmost endeavours to bring about (A) (B) and (C).

So far as concrete details in Part A are concerned, I think there can be no objection if we achieve our objective, restoration of peace and order. I shall not proceed to read the material contained in that part, since the text of the draft resolution is before representatives, on the Security Council.

### Withdrawal of Troops

Part A—paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (a) is an undertaking by the Government of India to withdraw its troops from Jammu and Kashmir progressively consistent with their function of maintaining defence and security.

It might be asked why we should not provide a time table in regard to the withdrawal. I thought that at such a distance and without intimate knowledge of the local situation, it would be unwise for the Security Council to place a time table in the resolution. I think that the matter might well be left to the faith of the Government of India as well as to the discretion of the Commission of the Security Council on India.

As representatives will see, later on in this draft resolution, the Commission which the Security Council has provided by its earlier resolution, has the authority to investigate and mediate with regard to all terms of the settlement. In this matter, too, our Commission on the spot can legitimately make representations to the Government of India as to whether this draft resolution is rightly interpreted by the Government of India and whether it is faithfully carried out.

The draft resolution goes on to provide for stationing the remainder of the troops. It may be that the purposes of defence and security make it impossible for the Government of India to withdraw its army entirely from Kashmir. Perhaps certain portion must be left there. In that case, this draft resolution provides that stationing the remainder should be at such points as not to afford any intimidation or appearance of intimidation to inhabitants of the State.

#### Plebiscite Administration

In the implementation of that paragraph, the Commission on India will again be there to offer its good offices and its mediation. That is all for restoration of peace and order.

I shall now refer to Part B which relates to the plebiscite. In this Part, representatives will see that I have attempted to work in every possible guarantee that I can think of in order to make the plebiscite free and impartial.

Paragraph 3 of Part B says:

"The Government of India undertakes to establish in Jammu and Kashmir a Plebiscite Administration with the sole and full authority to administer the plebiscite on the question of accession of the State".

Therefore, there will be a special independent department of the Government charged with this one task and given full authority to administer this one jeb.

Paragraph 4 is divided into subparagraphs (A) (B) and (C). Subparagraph (A) reads as follows:

"The Government of India agrees to appoint six nominees of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be Director and Assistant or Regional Directors of the Plebiscite Administration".

Top officers of the Plebiscite Administration shall all be neutral international personalities. They are to be nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this respect, of course, we have several alternatives. The Security Council might nominate or our Commission might nominate. After careful consideration I have decided that it will best serve the purposes of the Administration by asking the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate six top officers.

The work of the Plebiscite Administration is to be of strictly technical and administrative nature. It has nothing to do with politics or war and I felt that the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the large experience he has had in forming the International Secretariat here could well be trusted with the task of selecting top officers in building up a really independent and impartial administration to administer the plebiscite in Kashmir.

#### Respect for Sovereignty

Sub-paragraph (B) reads as follows:

"The Director acting as an officer of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall have the authority to nominate his subordinates and draft regulations governing the plebiscite. Such nominations should be formally appointed and such draft regulations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir".

This paragraph for one thing provides for all respect for the sovereignty of a member State. Though naminated by the Secretary-General, the Director and Assistant or Regional Directors shall consider themselves for the time being as officers of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. However, they are authorized to keep their entire administration impartial because they have the authority to nominate their subordinates and frame regulations governing the plebiscite.

In order to respect the sovereignty of a member State we say that such nominations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sub-paragraph (C) goes on to deal with the terms of service. That involves enumeration of the status, privileges.

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Inmunities and even the period of service I have felt that that matter should form the subject of separate negotiation between the Secretary-General and representatives of India.

Paragraph 5 says: "The Government of India undertakes to prevent any threat, coercion or intimidation on voters in the plebiscite and shall cause this undertaking to be known to all concerned as an international obligation binding on all public authorities of Jammu and Kashmir".

In this paragraph the Government of of India accepts the obligation to free the plebiscite from any threat, coercion or intimidation. It undertakes more than that, to make this undertaking known to public authorities in Jammu and Kashmir and known to them as an international obligation binding on them, which they cannot disregard.

#### Paragraph 6 says:

"The Government of India shall themselves and through the Government of Jammu and Kashmir cause it to be known to all concerned that all inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir regard-less of creed, caste or party will be safe and free in expressing their view and voting on the question of accession of the State".

Whereas Paragraph 5 is addressed to public authorities. paragraph 6 is addressed to the people of the State to assure them that they will be perfectly safe in expressing their preference for this State or for that State, and will be safe and free in voting for accession to India or for accession to Pakistan and that the ludian Government and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir undertake to make it widely known among the inhabitants.

#### Indian Nationals

Paragraph 7 says: "The Government of India shall use and shall request the Government of the State to use their best endeavours to effect the withdrawal from the State of such Indian nationals not normally resident therein as have entered it for unlawful purpose on or since August 15, 1947".

I think this paragraph and its purpose are evident. I do not need to say anything except in regard to this phrase "unlawful purpose". People coming for legitimate purpose are allowed in every country. But that does not mean that everybody who is there for lawful purpose shall be entitled to vote in the plebiscite. Who shall be entitled to vote will form the subject of the regulations which the Plebiscite Administration will determine.

## Paragraph 8 reads as follows:

"The Government of India shall urge upon the Government of the State to take all possible steps to ensure that

- take all possible steps to ensure that
  (A) all citizens of the State who have
  left it on account of the disturbances
  are invited and are free to return
  to their homes and exercise all their
  rights as such citizens;
  - (B) there is no victimization;
- (C) all political prisoners of the State are released; and

(D) numerities in all parts of the State are accorded adequate protection".

That paragraph is I think self-explanatory.

Paragraph 9 reads:

"The Commission of the Security Council as provided in its resolution of January 20, 1948 shall at the end of the plebiseite certify to the Council whether the plebiseite has been really free and impartial".

I regard hat paragraph as being quite important. Although we have in earlier paragraphs piled guarantee on guarantee that the plebiscite shall be free and impartial, nevertheless at the end of it the Commission has the right to tell the Security Council whether the plebiscite has been really free and impartial or not. That places the final word in the hands of the Security Council. Anybody who tries to run the plebiscite or part of it in his way against the provisions which have been set will be undermining the validity of the plebiscite. That is a serious matter which I cannot inagine that Government authorities or the people would think likely.

#### Interim Government

Finally, we have Part C—General Provisions—Paragraph 10: The Government of India undertakes to use its best endeavours to ensure that in the composition of the Interim Government of Jammu and Kashmir provision is made for adequate representation of all major political groups in the State.

I admit that Paragraph 10 has been the most difficult phase of this problem. We have to consider the anxieties on the part of Pakistan as to the influence of the Interim Government on the plebiscite and as to the general confidence that the Interim Government might inspire in the population in the state. We have also to consider the sovereign rights of member States and their constitutional structures. After careful consideration of this problem I have placed before the members of the Scourity Council the present draft. Again in connection with this paragraph, as in connection with all paragraphs, the Commission will be there to offer good offices and mediation.

We hope that the Interim Government will not be considered to be an influence preventing the realization of a free and impartial plebiscite. I believe that we can realize that minimum achievement under paragraph 10.

#### Fulfi'ment of Obligations

Paragraph 11 states: "The Government of India agrees to appoint an official of high standing to be stationed in the State during the interim period, who shall have the power to cause to be fulfilled by the State Government all international obligations arising out of the present articles of settlement".

It is the Government of the Dominion of India which contracts this international obligation. The execution is on the spot in one of the States. To give execution of this international obligation sufficient weight and importance I thought it well for the Security Council to ask the Dominion Government itself to designate

the Commission can deal and whom the Commission can hold responsible for the fulfilment of these international obligations.

Finally, the last paragraph states:
"12. The Security Council instructs
its Commission to offer its good effices
and mediation in the implementation
of the present articles of settlement"

The meaning of this paragraph is that our Commission is concerned with the implementation of all articles of settlement.

That concludes my commentary on the articles of settlement: From preliminary conversations which I have held with the parties I know that this draft is not satisfactory to both sides. I beg them to consider that in a case of this type every nature of the problem does not permit of a solution which would be one hundred per cent. satisfactory to both sides.

I also request that representatives of India and Pakistan should keep in mind the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. We cannot settle these problems in any arbitrary manner. It is necessary that we should observe the Charter. The Security Council while endowed with great powers has limitations both in regard to procedure and substance.

I have satisfied myself that under the present circumstances we could not do more for either side than is presented in the articles of settlement.

# INDIAN ENVOY'S VISIT TO EAST INCONESIA

An enthusiastic welcome was accorded to India's Consul-General Mr. Raghvan on his first visit to East Indonesia, in the last week of March.

Indians residing in many scattered islands of this part of Indonesia were overjoyed to meet the first official representative of Free India. The authorities of East Indonesia State cordially welcomed Mr. Raghvan.

At Makassar, the capital of East Indonesia, the entire Indian community including the Muslims arranged a big reception in Mr. Raghvan's honour and pledged loyalty to India. Makassar's Grand Hotel where he stayed flew the Indian tricolour as a mark of respect to India's Consul General. A representative of Prince Sukawati, President of East Indonesia State, and the local Chinese Consul saw Mr. Raghvan off from Makassar on March 24.

At Denpasar all Indian houses and business premises were tastefully decorated and Mr. Raghvan received a cordial welcome from the Indian community and the local officials.

After his visit to Sourabay Mr. Raghven concluded his eight-day tour of East Indonesia and returned to Batavia on March 30.

# THE DRAFT RESOLUTION New Record in Employment

Dr. T.F. Tsiang presented the following resolution to the Security Council on the Kashmir dispute on March 18:—

The Security Council

Having considered the statements of the representatives of India and Pakistan concerning the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

Noting with satisfaction that both India and Pakistan desire that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratio method of a free and impartial plebiscite;

Being strongly of the opinion that the early restoration of peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir is essential;

RESOLVE to recommend to the Government of India and Pakistan the acceptance of the following Articles of Settlement:

- (A) RESTORATION OF PEACE AND ORDER:
- (1) The Government of Pakistan undertakes to use its best endeavours:—
- (a) to secure the withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir of intruding tribesmen and Pakistan nationals.
- (b) to prevent any further intrusion into the State by denying transit through and the use of any bases in Pakistan territory and by forbiding the furnishing of military and other supplies to all element engaged in hostility or violence against the State.
- (c) to persuade all intruders that the present articles of settlement accepted by India and Pakistan provide full freedom to all inhabitants of the State regardless of creed, caste or party to express their views and to vote on the question of the accession of the State and that therefore they should cease fighting and co-operate in the maintenance of peace and order.
- (2) The Government of India shall arrange:—
- (a) for the progressive withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir of such of its troops as are not required for the purposes of defence and security, and,
- (b) for stationing the remainder at such points as not to afford any intimidation or appearance of intimidation to the inhabitants of the States.

#### (B) PLEBISCITE:

- (3) The Government of India undertakes to establish in Jammu and Kashmir a Plebiscite Administration with the sole and full authority to administer the plebiscite on the question of accession of the State.
- (4) a) The Government of India agrees to appoint six nominees of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be the Director and Assistant or Regional Directors of the Plebiscite Administration.
- (b) The Director acting as an officer of the State of Jammu and Kashn.ir shall have authority to nominate his

subordinates and draft regulations governing the plebiseite. Such nominations should be formally appointed and such draft regulations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir

- (c) The terms of service of the Director and Assistant or Regional Directors shall form the subject of separate negotiation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.
- (5) The Government of India undertakes to prevent any threat, coercion or intimidation on the voters in the tlebiscite and shall cause this undertaking to be known to all concerned as an international obligation binding on all public authorities in Jammu and Kashmir.
- (6) The Government of India shall themselves and through the Government of Jammu and Kashmir cause it to be known to all concerned that all inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir regardless of creed, caste or party will be safe and free in expressing their views and in voting on the question of the sacession of the State.
- (7) The Government of India shall use and shall request the Government of the State to use their best endeavours to effect the withdrawal from the State of such Indian nationals not normally resident therein as have entered it for an unlawful purpose on or since August 15, 1947.
- (8) The Government of India shall urge upon the Government of the State to take all possible steps to ensure that—
- (a) all citizens of the State who have left it on account of disturbances are invited and are free to return to their homes and to exercise all their rights as such citizens.
  - (b) there is no victimization.
- (c) all political prisoners of the State are released.
- (d) minorities in all parts of the State are accorded adequate protection.
- (9) the Commission of the Security Council as provided in its resolution of January 20, 1948, shall at the end of the plebiscite certify to the Council whether the plebiscite has been really free and impartial.

#### (C) GENERAL:

- (10) The Government of India undertakes to u.e its best endeavours to ensure that in the composition of the Interim Government of Jammu and Kashmir provision is made for adequate representation of all major political groups in the State.
- (11) The Government of India agrees to appoint an official of high standing to be stationed in the State during the interim period who shall have the power

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Placings
he fifth month in succession, the

For the fifth month in succession, the Employment Service in India have set up a new record in the number of persons placed in employment, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment on March 20. During February, 1948, 17,153 applicants, of whom 6,191 were exservicemen, were found jobs by the 54 Employment Exchanges.

The number of displaced persons from Western Pakistan also rose; 5,248 such persons were placed in employment in February, bringing the aggregate total. since the inception of the scheme, to 20,098. This gives a placing percentage of 17.9.

The total number of persons placed in employment since the inception of the Resettlement and Employment Organisa tion upto the end of February. 1948 was 3,11,086, of whom 1,90,978 were ex-Servicemen. The placement figure gives an over-all percentage of 22.8, which is a definite improvement over the position a year ago when the percentage of placings to registrations was 18.8.

During the month of February, 1948, 2,861 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 274 training centres in the Dominion of India, bringing the total number selected and posted upto the end of that month to 48,596. The postings included, 2,783 ex-Servicemen posted to vocational and technical training centres, and 78 disabled persons posted to training centres for the war-disabled. The total number of persons under training at the end of the month was 11,680, including 1581 displaced persons.

A Technical and Vocational Training Scheme for the benefit of the refugees has been sanctioned, and is now in operation; 2,272 seats have already been sanctioned for this purpose. Further extension of these facilities is under active contemplation with the object of raising the capacity to 10,500 seats for the displaced persons. One hundred and fifteen seats have been provided for refugee women and girls and it is proposed to add more seats to train 300 women at a time.

The trades and occupations in which training is given to refugees are engineering and building trades, such as blacksmiths, carpenters, fitters, motor mechanics, bricklayers, masons, plumbers, commercial and clerical occupations; cottage and small-scale industries; and miscellaneous occupations such as tailoring.

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to cause to be fulfilled by the State Government all international obligations arising out of the present Articles of Settlement.

(12) The Security Council instructs its Commission to offer its good offices and mediation in the implementation of the present Articles of Settlement.

## "FAIR ATTEMPT" TO SOLVE KASHMIR ISSUE

## Indian Delegate On Chinese Draft Resolution

CPEAKING on the Chinese Drait Resolution on the Kashmir problem in the Security Council, Mr. Gopalswami Ayyangar, Leader of the Indian Delegation, said:

I desire in the first place to invite the attention of the Security Council to the Ifact that the Indian delegation equally with the delegation of Pakistan has not had time necessary for a thorough study lof the draft resolution which the President has placed before the Security Council this afternoon.

draft resolution tries to deal with important matters at issue in this controversy and these are of the greatest significance to us. Before we can formulate our final views on the contents of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of China it is necessary that we should have adequate time to study its terms and digest all implications of the different Paragraphs of this draft resolution and come to a considered conclusion as to how far it can be acceptable to us.

I wish at the outset to express my great sense of obligation and gratefulness to the President of the Security Council for the great trouble he has taken to understand the respective points of view of the two delegations on this controver sial matter and place before the Security Council the draft resolution which in my opinion attempts, in spite of any suggestions or modifications we may have to make at a later stage, a fair solution of the points in controversy. That doe not mean that we accept here and now all that is contained in this draft resolution. The President has himself described it as a very tentative draft resolution. The President has asked his colleagues to take this draft as the basis of discussion and expressed himself as being willing to welcome amendments, suggestions and modifications which could improve the drast resolution in the direction of making it acceptable to both parties.

That being the nature of the draft resolution that we have to consider today, I wish at this stage only to indicate my initial reactions to it.

#### Amicable Settlement Desired

The President is pefectly right in pointing out that in spite of differences between the points of view of the two delegations on matters which have been in controversy, there has been through an undercurrent of feeling in what has been said on behalf of both delegations that we should make every endeavour to arrive at an amicable settlement. I take it that the President's effort in this connection is bona fide and honest and if I may say so a fair attempt to solve this problem.

It has been a matter for some disappointment to me that this draft resolution has not received at the hands of the leader of the Pakistan delegation of the appreciation I had hoped it might have received. But I do still entertain the hope that after he has given the content. of this draft resolution his full consideration he will see more in it to accept and he will be more able to see eye to eye with the points of view the President has tried to stress in this draft resolution than he has been able to do today.

The draft resolution tackles three essential points on which it has not been possible for both the delegations to agree in the past. The first of these points refers to the question of withdrawal of armed forces of India from the State. The second point refers to the suggestion for setting up an impartial neutral Government in the State and the third point refers to the machinery to be employed for the conduct of the plebiscite.

#### Undertaking from Pakistan

However, as a condition precedent to the consideration of what should be done for the taking of the plebiscite it is necessary that Security Council should recognize that the first thing to do is not to blind its eyes to the obvious fact that those who fight the Governments of Kashmir and India today have received assistance on Pakistan territory, both material and otherwise, which has enabled them to carry on this fighting up to today. It is still going on, it will go on even in future unless we take a decision here which will put an end to this fighting.

The first fact has to be recognized and before the Security Council does anything by way of blessing the agreements on the question of plebiscite it has become necessary to obtain from the Govern-ment of Pakistan an undertaking that it will do its utmost to prevent this assistance being rendered on its territory to the people who are invading and fighting in Kashmir.

So far as the plebiscite is concerned, I have mentioned to the representatives on the Security Council the three points on which there has been the greatest controversy.

In the matter of the withdrawal of troops from the State I take it that the Security Council recognizes that even after the fighting has stopped and in order to secure that maintenance of law and order which is so necessary for the taking under proper conditions of the plebiseite, the presence of an army in the state is absolutely essential and that army in the circumeatness that exist today can only be the Indian army.

The withdrawal of this Indian army has been pressed in debate on this question before the Security Council only for the purpose of ensuring that no coercion, no intimidation and no

undue pressure is exercised upon those who have to cast their votes at the time of the taking of the plebiscite.

This draft resolution therefore apparently proceeds on the premise that while the Indian Army has to remain, every precaution should be taken and every safeguard given for the purpose of ensuring that that army will not exert any undue pressure on the voters. That I take it is the intention of the President in the particular suggestions he has made in this draft resolution.

The leader of the Pakistan delegation has not attacked the merits of the safeguards suggested in this draft safeguards suggested in this resolution for this purpose. He has gone back to the telegram of the 8th November from India to Pakistan which has been read to representatives on the Security Council a number of times already. It is true the Prime Minister of India said that after the fighting stops and normal peace and order has been restored troops of India would be withdrawn.

We have to take account also of what happened after the 8th November. In a previous speech I drew attention to the negotiations which took place between the two Dominions at which it was admitted and conceded that Indian army had to remain, but that conditions should be imposed which would confine it to certain places and perhaps reduce its numbers, in order to see that what is retained in the State is retained only for the purpose of discharging the constitutional obligation of the Federal Centre for the defence of a unit of Federation and for going to the aid of civil power when it was absolutely necessary that an army should intervene in putting down civil disorder.

#### Troops' Stay Essential

That was more or less conceded. And why is it that in the Security Council itself on occasions on which this particular aspect of the matter has been debated suggestions have been made that some other kind of army might be stationed there— British Forces, Commonwealth Forces, international force or a sort of combined force onsisting both Indian and Pakistan units? All are recognitions of the fact that an army has to remain because the State's integrity has to be protected and law and order has to be safeguarded in the last resort with the army available whenever its assistance is necessary. That is the reason why any army should stay and that army n the present constitutional position can be no other than the Indian Army.

So far as the Indian delegation is concerned, on the last occasion that I spoke on this matter I made this position porfectly clear. But I added that if any member of the Security Council made any suggestions for the purpose of ensuring that this army shall not improperly interiere with the voting we should be prepared to consider the suggestions in that regard. Here I find in this particular resolution that a suggestion has been made that the Government of India should so arrange that such portion of the army as has to

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be retained in this State should be stationed at such points as would not permit it to exercise any kind of intimidation or appearance of intimidation of the inhabitants of the State. I am prepared to give the assurance to the Security Council today that the Government of India without anybody prompting offered a plebiscite and offered subsequently also the conduct of the plebiscite under international auspices. That Government is as interested as anybody else in ensuring that the vote cast at the time of the plebiscite is free and unfettered and that Government will take every step possible for ensuring that its army which is stationed in Kashmir will not act in such a way as to negate this objective of its own Government.

#### False Allegations

Towards the end of his remarks, the representative of Pakistan drew attention to the speech which has been made by Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, a leader of Kashmir Muslim Conference; who was released from prison under orders of Sheikh Abdullah's Emergency Administration. Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas is reported to have made a speech in which he charged the Indian troops in the State of Jammu and Kachmir as having been guilty of atrocities and unmentionable outrages. I think that if he made such a statement it was a calumny on a force which by the accounts of all right-minded persons have been praised for the way in which thas conducted itself towards the population of Jammu and Kashmir. Particularly, it has been praised for the protection it has given to the Mulim population of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I challenge any impartial inquiry in this matter. Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas is supposed to have challenged the Indian Prime Minister to order an inquiry into this matter by any authority which he might nominate for the purpose. I ask that the Commission which it is proposed to send to the State of Jammu and Kashmir should make most thorough inquiries into this matter and report to the Security Council whether there is even an iota of justification for this calumny on a force which has not only won laurels in the field but elicited approbation and praise as regards the manner in which it has dealt with the local civilian popula-tion in this state. I do not wish to say more on this question of stationing of the Indian Army.

There is only one small matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the President. In paragraph 2 of Part A, sub-paragraph (A) of paragraph 2 refers to the progressive withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir of such of Indian troops as are not required for the purpose of defence and security. I wish only to suggest that this particular sub-paragraph must be conditioned by one fact and that is that this question of progressive withdrawal can arise only after the fighting has stopped and the hostilities have ceased in the State.

The Security Council listened to the terms of the telegram of the 5th November which the representative of Pakistan

quoted a little while ago. In course of that telegram reference was made to the suggestion made by the Governor-General of Pakistan that the withdrawal of Pakistan and Indian troops should be simultaneous with the withdrawal of raiders and invaders. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, very properly pointed out in answer to this suggestion that there could be no question of the Indian army being asked to withdraw before the raiders had withdrawn and the fighting had stopped. That is a very necessary preliminary to the commencement of the withdrawal of such of our troops as may not be required for defence and security.

The whole argument of impropriety of Indian troops remaining in Kashmir was based upon the statement of Chaudhry Ghulam. The fact that this statement appeared in a Hindu newspaper means nothing either way, because newspapers whether Hindu or Muslim have got to report speeches and press conferences. If that argument is based only upon that consideration then I put it to the Security Council that it is based upon an allegation which I contend it would be impossible to prove as regards Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Assurance to Security Council

We as a Government responsible for the conduct of those troops give the Security Council the assurance that not only has no such thing happened in the past but we shall see to it that no such thing takes place in the future.

In any case if there is misbehaviour ou the part of our troops the Commission of the Security Council will be there to bring it to the attention of the Security Council. It is the duty of the Commission to certify whether or not the plebiscite is conducted impartially. It would be open to that Commission to bring any acts of misbehaviour on the part of our troops to the notice of the Security Council at the time it has to judge the nature of the plebiscite that has been held.

In regard to the question of an impartial administration we have debated it so many times in such fullness that it seems unnecessary for me to go into detail again on this matter.

After all, what is the ground for asking Sheikh Abdullah to be ousted from his position in the present administration and for substituting in his place someone who is impartial, neutral and colourless and so on? Is not the main ground for making this demand an argument that otherwise the plebiscite that will be taken under the auspices of such a Government could not be held to be impartial? On the last occasion that I spoke of this matter I referred to the considerations that must be weighed in coming to a decision. I begged the Security Council not to press on us this suggestion of pushing Sheikh Abdullah out of an office in which he at present has the support of what we hold to be a great majority of the people of theS tate, both Mulsims and Hindus. On the same occasion I said that if the Security Council thought that his possible influence in connection with the plebiscite should be reduced practically to nil and if it had any suggestions to make for ensuring this, we should be quite prepared to consider such suggestions. I stated that if any suggestions were made for ensuring that the administration of the plebiscite was placed in hands which could act independently and which would act with authority derived from Kashmir Government, we should as a matter of course be quite prepared to consider them.

In the draft resolution placed before the Security Council by the President, the suggestion is made that the authority to conduct the plebiscite hould be headed by a Director with five assistants who will be nominees of the Secretary-General of the United Nations but who will formally be appointed by the Kashmir Government. They will frame the regulations for the conduct of the plebiscite and those regulations will be promulgated with binding force under the authority of the Kashmir Government. They will have the right to make reports to the Secretary-General direct.

In addition, I find that the draft resolution of the President contains the suggestion that the Government of India might place an officer of its own in Jammu and Kashmir State wnose duty it will be to see that this authority receives all help that is necessary for the purpose of conducting the plebiscite and to ensure its efficient administration so far as the conduct of the plebiscite is concerned.

#### Abdullah to Remain Premier

This means that while Sheikh Abdullah will be the Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers in Jammu and Kashmir State and will run the ordinary administration of the State, the organizing conduct and completion of the plebiscite will be in the hands of men who are nominees of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

That being so, is it necessary for the Security Council to commit an encroachment on the sovereignty of a Statelike Jammu and Kashmir and oust a Government which is acceptable to the people of the State in order merely to appear before the world as having set up an administration in which Sheikh Abdullah has absolutely no influence?

We are willing to eliminate the influence of the administration practically in all respects in regard to the conduct of the plebiscite. That is about the utmost that I think the Security Council can afford to request in this respect.

It was suggested that placing of this officer in the State by the Government of India for the purpose of seeing that the obligations created by these articles of settlement are properly implemented might even have the reverse effect, the argument being that the officer concerned might advise Jammu and Kashmir Government to do something against the recommendations of the Committee. What would happen then would be that if it were minded to do a wrong thing, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir

would have the support of the officer of the Government of India against the Commission sent out by the Security Council. I think this is a suggestion which on behalf of the Government of India I must repudiate with all my might.

As I have said, the Government of India is as keen as anyone with regard to impartiality of the plebiscite. It conceded plebiscite on its own and agreed that it should be taken under international au pices so that it is only natural it should agree to the further guarantee which the Precident of the Security Council has demanded, namely that it should place an officer in the State with the duty of seeing impartiality ensured to the maximum possible extent.

#### India's Responsibility

After all, the President is right in demanding that the responsibility for seeing that the plebiscite is held impartially should be shouldered by India which is member of the United Nations, more so since the Covernment which has to implement this particular obligation is not a member and is certainly in a position to take and set upon the advice which the Government of India might give.

I do not -ish to take up very much more of the Security Council's time this afternoon. I shall consider it my duty to ask for the modification of certain details in this draft resolution, perhaps at a later stage. But I think that the President's object today is to obtain from me the initial reactions of my delegation to his proposals on the main issues which arise for consideration. I am prepared to concode at once that the proposals are worthy of serious consideration. While as I have indicated we may have something to say about the details, about the manner in which certain clauses are worded and the order in which some of them appear in the draft resolution and about the contents of the preamblewhich to my mind seem to admit of improvement the attitude of the Government of India on the substance of what has been proposed, so far as I am able to interpret it to the Security Council, is such that it would be quite prepared to consider the draft resolution on its merits and will have nothing very serious to propose by way of authorization or modification.

I say this fully recognizing the fact that the proposals mean further concessions from our side. I do not blind my eyes to that fact. But we are anxious that we should reach a settlement and we are very keen that the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir should cease at the earliest possible moment. If the substance of this resolution clothed in a language slightly more acceptable to us than it is now will produce the effect which we have in mind, we shall be glad to welcome it after the modifications to which I have referred been effected.

The following is an extract from the speech of M. Parodi, representative of France:

As regards the substance of the question I think there is one fundamental import-

ant point in difference between the parties. This point relates to the presence of Indian troops in Kashmir during the time of plebiscite. I would say I quite understand the anxiety expressed by the representative of Pakistan in this connection. But it seems quite clear that if we had some other authority who could guarantee impartiality and the proper contact of the plebiscite it would perhaps be preferable to have resort to some other authority than that envisaged.

#### Use of Indian Troops

I do not see any practical possibility of our making use of any other force to maintain order and ensure impartiality of the plebisoite than the force that is already there on the spot. We must remember that the area has been desolated by a good deal of violence, life has been lost and property damaged on a large scale and the violence is, in part at any rate, due to the invasion from outside territory. It is difficult, I think for us to disregard altogether the possibility of resumption of such activity unless proper care is taken for the maintenance of law and order. For this reason the territory I think must clearly be provided with

forces necessary to guarantee the maintenance of law and order.

Another point is the question of an interim administration, which it is feared might not be neutral or impartial. But here too we must take account of the necessities of the case. It is necessary that order should be maintained in the territory. Experience shows that in the past where plebiscites have been held they have not been held successfully in territories without any kind of authority or administration to maintain order and without any kind of government or authority. Experience seems to me to show that a satisfactory plebiscite can only be held where there is an authority and a force to ensure public order.

I wanted to state my view in this connection, at this present stage of the debate because I thought that representatives or parties in considering this matter further should direct their attention to the importance of our holding an impartial plebiscite despite the fact of the presence of Indian troops in this area, rather than consider the possibility of depriving the territory of all forces for the maintenance of law and order.

# Prime Minister's Statement Ex-I.N.A. Personnel

The Prime Minister made the following statement about the former Indian National Army in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on March 29:

The Government have given earnest consideration to the cases of ex-I. N. A. personnel, both Officers and Other Ranks. These cases were considered by the previous Government over two years ago. It was then decided that INA personnel hould be divided into three categories; White, Grey and Black, and that certain steps should be taken in regard to the three categories. "Whites" were permitted to remain in service, "Greys" were discharged, and the "Blacks" dismissed and/or convicted.

The new Government brought a fresh view-point to bear on the whole question so that no stigms should attach to anyone by virtue of the fact that he was a member of the INA. Immediately on the Government assuming office in August last, officers and men, who had been convicted and imprisoned, were released. Government have now considered other aspects of the matter. They have come to the conclusion that orders of dismissal passed on INA personnel should be set aside and replaced by orders of discharge from the Army, so that no stigms should attach to the members of the INA. The result will be that the previous classification will not hold good any longer and will not be a bar for service of the state in any capacity. Whether any person should be employed de novo would be judged on individual merit and suitability.

The question of reinstatement in the Army of the INA personnel is full of difficulty. In the normal course, a large

number of these members of the INA would have been out of the army for many years and there has been a long break in service. They have thus got out of touch with the Army and any attempt to reinstate them would lead to many complications, both practical and psychological. At a time when the Army has been exposed to considerable stress and strain, consequent on its reorganisation after partition, the unity of the Army which is so essential, might be affected. Government have therefore come to the conclusion that ex-INA officers and men should not be reinstated in the Army.

Government are, however, anxious to afford ex-INA personnel opportunities of service. It will be open to them to join the Home Guards, the State Forces, the Armed Constabulary, the Police and like Services as well as the Civil Services, subject always to merit and suitability. The Central Government and the Provincial Governments will give every help to them to find such employment.

The financial loss which the ex-INA personnel have suffered is not easy of assessment. While serving overseas our Armed Forces were a charge on the government of the United Kingdom, family allotments continued to be paid in India. A large measure of support was also obtained from public funds.

Government however realise the hardships which the INA personnel have suffered. They have decided to arrange for payment of pension wherever due. They have further decided to set aside a sum of rupees thirty lakhs for distribution among the ex-INA personnel on an equitable basis. Widows and dependents of those who died and disabled persons will also be entitled to help from this sum.

# ECONOMIC POLICY: PLEA FOR GRADUAL EVOLUTION

## Finance Minister's Statement

REPLYING to the debate on the motion for reference of the Indian Finance Bill to a Select Committee, the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister for Finance, said on March 18 in the Dominion Parliament:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate during the last two days has naturally covered a very wide field and I might, if I may, congratulate the House on the level of the debate. A good deal of impatience was in evidence at the fact that Honourable Members did not find the main structure of this Budget very different from the Budget of previous years. It was asked: How has Independence brought a change in the life of the common man? How has this Budget benefited the rural masses? Where is the socio-economic programme in this Budget?

I think my Honourable Friend Dr. Pattabhi really struck the right note when he said that in this Budget he saw evidence of the nervousness of the crew on the first voyage of a ship. I think that sums up beautifully the position of this Government. This great ship of State was handed over to us on the 15th of August in mid-ocean. The Captain that took charge of the ship is one trusted and beloved of the Nation; he can be relied upon to steer this ship safely to the next port at any rate in spite of the storm that overtook the ship within the first few days. He entrusted to me the task of looking after the worn-out engine of the ship and he commanded me to keep it in good order and use the limited fuel at my disposal with prudence and care until the ship reached the next port and we had some time to look round about, overhaul the ship and re-fuel it. I think, Sir, I have, to the best of my ability, carried out this responsibility in this

#### New Economic Order

I frankly admit that I was not attempting to present a Budget which would embody all those great ambitions and dreams that every one of us cherishes. I had to make my proposals on the basis of the existing economic structure. What the future of that structure will be, I am not in a position to say. Some Honourable Members very rightly demanded that it was high time that the Government should, in clear language, enunciate its economic and industrial policy. That matter is now engaging the most earnest attention of the Cabinet and I am hoping that within the next few weeks the Government will publish a considered statement on industrial and economic policy. When we have that picture clear in our mind, it will then be for the Government as a whole and the Finance Minister in particular so to adjust his Budget, his whole financial structure. that the objective will be achieved, and achieved without bringing about any violent shake-up of the existing system.

I take it for granted, Sir, that there are not many in this House who would like to build a new economic order by completely demolishing the existing structure of society. If there are those who believe in that method of approach, then I can respectfully say that I am not equal to the task. But I think I am right in assuming that whatever might be the objective of our economic policy, our implementation of that policy should be in gradual stages, suited to the needs of the country, so that the change-over to the new order may be brought about by peaceful and non-violent methods. After all, the greater part of the world is even today functioning on a system of economy which really took concrete shape since the Industrial Revolution of the early 19th century. Excepting the Soviet, I am not aware of any Government in either of the demispheres which has built up a new economic

order by completely demolishing the old. In England, with a socialist Government not merely in office but in power, it has not yet been found possible to bring about any radical changes in the economic system of that country.

Now, Sir, the explanation is not far to seek. The Soviet system is the result of the teachings of Karl Marx and Engels. When Karl Marx initiated his philosophy of the econimic society and social justice. he saw around him an industrial age just in its birth, full of exploitation of the weaker sections of society. He naturally came to the conclusion that social justice could be established only by demolishing that class. But we have made considerable progress in the technique and mechanism of economics since the days of Karl Marx. Karl Marx and followers were not aware of the mechanism of control; they were not aware of the technique of taxation; they had not the slightest conception of the operation of anti-trust laws and labour legislation. And with our advanced knowledge of these four fields, socialist countries like the United Kingdom have come to realise that it is possible to build the new order of economics on the existing basis, with suitable adjustments.

After all, what is it that was fundamentally wrong with that economy which

# Unified Scales Of Pay: New Concessions

The Government of India have further examined the question of fixation of pay of persons on the 'unified scales' which were provisionally introduced during the war, under the revised scales sanctioned on the Pay Commission's recommendations, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on March 20.

Under the present rules a person on the unified scales of pay will have his pay fixed in the prescribed scale not on the basis of his present pay, but with reference to the pay he would have drawn in the scale applicable to the post but for the introduction of the unified scales and he will merely be allowed to draw as personal pay the difference between his pay in the unified scale and the pay fixed under the Revision of Pay Rules.

Although the Pay Commission's recommendations are logical, Government have taken into consideration the adverse psychological effect on the persons concerned of having to wait for several years on the same pay, especially as this result was not anticipated when they entered service, and Government have accordingly decided to liberalise the rule.

It has been decided that pay should be fixed on the basis that pay in the unified scales (excluding the local element in them) should be treated as permanent pay, so that in no case will a person draw pay in the prescribed scale at a stage lower than the one next above his present pay in the unified scale, provided that for the purpose of this concession employees on the unified scale will be deemed to have come on to it at the points of entry

relevant to Class II towns, i. c., Rs. 45, 60 and 100 for C, B and A grades respectively, and the difference in the point of entry for Class I towns (Bombay and Calcutta), namely Rs. 10, 20 and 20 respectively for C, B and A grades, will be treated as personal pay to be absorbed in future increments.

This slight modification is justified because the higher points of entry for Class I towns were conceded purely as a local element in pay for those admitted to the unified scales. The difference was indeed intended to compensate for the higher cost in Class I towns.

With the introduction of uniform all-India scales of pay for posts in all towns as a result of the recommendations of the Pay Commission, and the grant of compensatory and local and house rent allowances for costly areas, the perpetuation of this local element in basic pay, which will result in the grant of a double benefit, will not be justified.

As regards the particular new scale of pay to be made applicable to persons and the unified scale, the Government of India have decided that the scales fixed for particular offices on the recommendations of the Pay Commission should prevail, and they see no justification for fixing a uniform scale for all offices merely on the ground that as a war time expedient a unified scale of pay was sanctioned for temporary employees for a brief duration and for a limited purpose. The Government have accorded more than generous treatment in the case of such persons by the grant of the concessions explained in the preceding paragraph.

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we always call the "capitalist economy"? That economy was based on free enterprise with freedom to exploit the masses. The economic doctrine prevalent in Europe in those days was the doctrine of laissez fairs. The State considered itself purely as a Police State, not concerned with the economic welfare of the people at large and the fond hope was entertained by the economists and statesmen of that age that if only you allowed the free laws of competition, supply and demand to operate, all economic and social forces will naturally find their adjustment. But that policy did not succeed.

The inheritance that we have from the British is really a Police State. In the last 150 years, the main preoccupation of the British rulers in India was to keep internal peace and to protect the country as far as possible, from external danger and to exploit the economic resources of the country only in so far as it was a complement to their own economy. It was within the last twenty years that, due to considerable pressure of public opinion in the country, the Government of India applied their mind to the problem of the State taking a hand in the economic and social development of the people of this country. In essence therefore, we inherited on the 15th of August a predominantly Police State, with the economic system based more or less on the out-dated capitalistic notions of economy.

Sir, I very respectfully submit that a change in such a system, a change in the mechanism of such a State cannot be brought about within a few months by a new Government. As I said, Honourable Members must really, to do justice themselves and to this Government, give some little time, so that we might have a clearer conception of what the goal of our economic and social policy is going to be and how we are going to achieve that goal.

My Honourable friend Prof. Shah very rightly remarked that he did not find in this Budget any evidence of all those great schemes of social insurance. He is perfectly right. This Bill does not contain any such evidence. I will not be satisfied, Sir, with any Budget of the National - Government of this country in the future unless I find in it ample provision for social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance and old age pensions. I am free to contess that I am not in a position even to make a beginning in this direction in this year and I doubt very much whether we shall be in a position to begin even in the next two or three years. The entire resources of the Central Government were devised in the Constitution Act of 1935 on the basis of a certain conception of the functions of the Central Government and those functions were still understood to be more or less Police functions.

It was on that basis that certain definite sources of revenue were allocated to the Centre and certain other sources were allocated to the provinces. It a radical change is to be brought about in the sphere of activity of the Central Government, then the whole system of the allocation of sources of revenue between the Centre and the provinces will have to be re-examined and re-studied;

we are likely to commit a great blunder in this quest for a Central Government strong enough to shoulder directly the responsibility for the welfare of the masses of this country. After all, it should not be forgotten that our Constitution is not a unitary Constitution, and from the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, I find it is not the intention of the Constitution-makers to frame a unitary constitution for this country. We are aiming at a federal system of constitution it is an inevitable corollary that direct schemes of welfare must necessarily be undertaken by the units and not by the Centre.

#### Centre Must be Strong

The Centre must be strong, and my honourable friend Mr. Sidhwa rightly asked: "What is the meaning of your being a strong Central Government, if you are not in a position to help the rural masses?" Sir, the strength of the Central Government is not to be judged by the ability of that Government directly to influence the every-day life of the rural masses. The Central Government should be strong in the sense that it should be able to defend the country, that it should have ample resources to discharge that obligation. The Central Government must be strong in the sense that it should have an overall control in planning the economy of the country. These are the two matters in which the Central Government should be strong. The Central Government should again be strong in the sense that it must have a real and effective voice in controlling the financial structure of the country, so that the provinces directly or through the Centre get adequate resources for meeting their oldinations. According to my conception of a strong Central Government, these are the methods in which the strength of the Centre must lie. I therefore with this conception of the functions and duties of the Central Government naturally thought that in the first National Budget, I must create those conditions which would keep up the economy of the country unimpaired, which would practically keep up the present system of economy until it is substituted by something different.

A number of Honourable Members levelled a charge against me that I have given relief in an undue measure to the richer classes. Sir, my proposals for reducing the limits of supar-tax and the various other measures for reducing the burden of indirect tax are not to be considered as measures of taxation relief at all. My proposals in these matters were intended to redress the great mistake that was done in the last annual budget. I have no hesitation in saying that whatever might have been the motive of my predecessor, who presented that budget, its result has been most disastrous on the economy of our country and until I was sure in my own mind that I had undone that mischief and restored confidence in the markets, I would not have laid the foundations on a proper footing of our future economy. I think I have: and the evidence is already in sight. The share markets went down as soon as my budget proposals were published and since then people have begun to have a

better appreciation of the implications of my proposals and the market has now rallied and has now become steady. In fact, I am not in the least sorry that I did not create a bullish tendency in the share market on the eve of my budget. I consider a spectacular budget as an evil; a budget should not be spectacular, it should be prossic; it should be solid; it should be cold; and I for my part was not in the least worried at the news I received on the 28th night that the share market reacted very unfavourably on my budget.

Every spectacular fall or rise in the share market means suffering and loss to thousands and tens of thousands of the poor and middle-class investors. Until we remove this cancer of speculation in our country, we are not going to create conditions of safety for the middle class investors. In fact the next task which I am going to apply my mind is to present to this House a comprehensive Bill which will put a stop to this evil. My taxation proposals, therefore, should be studied from this angle; there is no use applying to them a standard which I frankly confess I did not have in mind.

### **Indirect Taxation**

With regard to my proposals for indirect taxation, there again, I plead that the proposals that I have made cannot be considered to be an undue burden on any class in the context of the existing state of affairs. After all it is a hard fact that for a long time to come until the whole nature of our economy changes, the Central Government will have to depend a great deal on Excises. Whether we like it or not, it is a hard fact. As our industrial development advances, as we increase our import duties step by step, the revenue from Customs must decrease year after year and the only source from which we can make good that loss is by levy of Excise duties on homemade articles. Honourable Members seem to be under the impression that indirect taxation is a peculiar device of a capital them, Sir, that in Soviet Russia practically the whole scheme of taxation is indiret. The greatest source of revenue to the Soviet Government is what they call the turnover tax, a tax directly levied on the sale of commodities.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: But the workers there have complete control over production and distribution and there is no private enterprise.

THE HON BLE MR. R. K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: The workers in India also might have complete control over production and distribution. But it does not take away the essential fact that in Soviet Russia the system of taxation is predominantly an indirect system of taxation. So far as the function of workers in our economy is concerned there cannot be any difference between Professor Ranga and myself. I am prepared to go the whole hog.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Let us have economic self-government.

THE HON BLE MR. R. K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: I put it to him. Sir, are the labour troubles today due to the fact that labour is asked to work in an economy of private enterprise? Well, if this is so, how do you explain the attitude of labour in this country?

MR. B. DAS: (Pointing to Prof. N. G. Ranga) Give an answer.

PROF. SHIBBAN LAL SAKSENA; Because the State is capitalist-controlled.

#### State Ownership

THE HON'BLE MR. R. K. SHAN-MUKHAM CHETTY: In any case today the labour trouble in India is not predominantly due to the fact that they are asked to work in a capitalistic economy.

In fact the demand made on the employer is at its maximum in the case of those enterprises which are owned and controlled by the State. It is not therefore fair to infer from the existing state of affairs that if only you transfer private enterprise to State ownership and State enterprise all these labour troubles will vanish. I submit, Sir, that we must do everything that lies in our power to make labour realise that it is an effective partner in the productive and distributive system of this country. At the same time so long as we are working on the basis of the present economic structure we must also ensure that free flow of money into investments that can come only by creating a surplus, and therefore a surplus of capital in industry. And my justification for the changes in the supertax structure and the reduction in the business profits tax is that I feel that but for these measures you will not have that free flow of investment which will create capital that will produce the surplus. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more on this general aspect of the question.

My Honourable Friend Pandit Kunzru did a great service in calling our attention to the fact that today we meet under the shadow of the message of President Truman in the Americam Congress. I hope Honourable Members will realise the implications of that message. It might mean that we might have to have a re-orientation of our entire outlook in economics, in politics and in international relationships. We were banking on receiving capital goods, specially from the United States, for our reconstruction programme. What are going to be the implications of the President's message? If the United States of America has to switch over to a semi-wartime economy all hopes of our getting the capital goods are gone. At such a time for us to rush on, without being clear in our own mind as to what the future is going to be and what should be the steps that must lead us to that future, would be a matter of the deepest and gravest concern.

#### Joint Hindu Family

Sir, a great many individual points were made in the course of the debate. I will first take the joint Hindu family so that I might not miss it at the end of my time. A joint Hindu family is recognised as an entity for the purpose of our income tax law. It is inevitable so long as the joint Hindu family is not merely a social but a legal entity in our

country. I fully concede that the joint Hindu family should be treated somewhat differently from the individual. In fact this is one of the problems that I am remitting to the Income-tax Investigation Commission for their examination. Commission—Honourable Members might remember—has been constituted merely for the purpose of making investigations about tax-evaders but for advising us on the revision of our incometax law. There are a great many ways in which effective relief might be given to the joint Hindu family. For instance, in the case of an individual or an undivided family the exemption allowed is only for Re. 1500. I think it will be perfectly justifiable to argue that an exemption of Rs. 1500 in the case of a joint Hindu family should be given for every adult coparcener. I am also prepared to concede that the limit of the super-tax exemption should be higher for the Hindu undivided family than for the individual. These are matters which we will certainly take up for examination. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari drew my attention to the difficulties that the Hindu family has to encounter with the income-tax authorities in cases of partition. He is perfectly right in his complaint; such complaints have been brought to my notice even as a private citizen. I myself in my Hindu family narrowly escaped the teasings of the income-tax officers in that way. The point of the complaint is this. When a Hindu undivided family produces evidence before the Income-tax Officer that the members have become divided in status, the Income-Tax Officer again goes into the question whether actually the fact of partition has been established. I have now asked the Central Board of Revenue to give clear instructions to the Income-tax Officers that if a Hindu family produces any evidence about separation in status which would be admissible in a law-court, the Income-Tax Officers also must admit that evidence without any further consideration. The way in which section 25 has been applied to the great harassment of members of the Hindu family will, I hope, not occur in future.

My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari again asked why the Salt Department should have been transferred to the Industry and Supply Ministry.
The Department of salt was part of the
Central Board of Revenue because the main interest of Government in salt was only the revenue; Government did not in the least care whether really salt in sufficient quantities was available to the people or not. Now that the salt duty has been abolished it would be an anomaly to retain the Salt Department in a section of the Finance Ministry which is purely concerned with the task of collecting revenue. The problem of salt supply in our country has now become rather serious on account of the loss of some of our resources in Pakistan Government have now taken in hand the question of the manufacture of salt on a large scale. In fact if you compare the per capita consumption of salt in this country with other countries you will find that it is a very small quantity indeed. We have to increase our output of salt enormously, and in connection with our

heavy ohemical industries again the question of the manufacture of salt will assume very important proportions. Obviously if it is conceded that there is need for building up a gigantic salt industry in this country, that should be looked after by a department which interests itself in industrial development. It is with that object in view that we have transferred the administration of the Salt Department to the Ministry of Industry and Supply. In fact even before that transfer was made the question of setting up a semi-sutonomous Salt Board, somewhat on the lines of the Railway Board, was under the considera-tion of Government; and a member of the Central Board of Revenue was specially deputed to give a report on that question. We have passed on that report to the Ministry of Industry and Supply; and I am hoping that before long that Ministry will set up a really effective Salt Board which will build up our salt Industry on a really worthy and adequate scale.

### Question of Economy

Some observations were made on the question of economy, and more specially my lump-sum cut of 21 crores which I indicated in my budget speech. My Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru asked whether this 21 crores was intended to be a target. I had explained even in my budget speech that it was not in tended in any manner to be a target at all. Why I imposed that lump-sum cut was because I wanted the problem of economy to be tackled immediately by each department before the report of the Economy Committee is available. I am hoping that the Economy Committee's report will be available to us at a very early date; and it is my earnest desire that economies on a very substantial scale should be effected in all the departments of the Government of India. Here again I have got serious difficulties. One of the problems of economy and retrenchment is the retrenchment of the surplus staff in various departments. In some of the departments thousands of people were recruited purely for war-time work. That work has now ceased and there is not the slightest justification for this Government to pay these men the money of the taxpayer as salaries. And yet, when I am engaged in this unpleasant, but inevitable task, I get deputations led by Honourable Members of this House, threatening me with dire consequences if I do not listen to them.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA: Then, why go on increasing unemployment?

#### Sterling Balances

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: That is the indication of the various conflicting problems we have to deal with. Today is the 18th. It is the dead-line date on which something disastrous may happen to me if I do not stop all this retrenchment. I do not want to mention the very threatening letters that I get anonymously, on this subject.

There was a reference in the discussions in the last two days about sterling balances. My honourable friend. Prof. K. T. Shah was quite vehement on this subject. In fact, Sir, I share that spirit

to some extent myself. It is certainly very annoying to say the least that you should be told by your debtor that you should set according to his dietation: that you should receive payment according to his convenience. He wants you to feel that he is really doing you an obligation when he thinks of repayment. But unfortunately that is the position in which we find ourselves. But I may give this categorical assurance that I will not be a party to any scaling down of the sterling balances.

As I mentioned in a press conference soon after the first agreement was made, the sterling balances are not an intergovernmental debt. It is not a debt which the U. K. Government owes to the Government of India. The sterling balance represents the deposit which the Reserve Bank of India has made with the Bank of England, and we have been told, Sir, and the world has been taught to believe that the Bank of England is an eternal rock, and if there is any default in the payment of these sterling balances, it means the bankruptcy of the Bank of England. In fact, the bankruptcy of the Bank of England, I think, would be a greater ignominy than the bankruptcy of the British Government itself. I feel confident that those in charge of the Bank of England, with all their sensitiveness about their reputation for solidity and solvency, will never think of asking us to soale down these sterling balances.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: The " Economist" has done it!

THE HONOURAPLE SHRI R K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: That does not matter. The Economist is not the Bank of England. Therefore, I would suggest to Honourable Members that we need not import any idea of scaling down in our discussion with representatives of the British Government.

I have taken it for granted that no

question of scaling down arises at all. SHRI B. DAS: What about scaling up!

THE HONOURABLE SHRI R.K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: My honourable friend Mr. T.T. Krishnamachari also asked me to say what was my view with regard to the small savings schemes. It is true that the small savings scheme is now moribund. To some extent it is an inevitable aftermath of post-war conditions. I am trying, however, to put life into it. I am now devising a scheme of saving certificate, which I hope will be more attractive to the small investor than the certificates that have so far been issued. I am reorganising the entire machinery of the small savings schemes and I am hoping that within the next three or four weeks I will be able to announce that scheme. The success of that scheme will depend entirely on the 00-operation of the Provincial Governments, and I might remind Honourable Members that each of us in his own way can contribute very substantially to the success of that scheme.

Speaking of small\_savings schemes, I must remind the House that all our schemes of development and expansion very largely depend upon the success of our future loan programmes. The budget of a modern Government, as I mentioned the other day, is not to be judged purely from the revenue and ex-

penditure budget, but from the capital budget. It is comparatively easy to balance your budget or to produce a surplus. But as my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru said it is only when your in the capital budget. It is comparatively easy to balance your budget or to produce a surplus. But as my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru said it is only when your economy is balanced that you can get satisfaction in the balanced nature of your budget. In fact we attach so much importance to produce a balanced budget because in its turn it is an instrument to create a balanced economy and to cure a deficit economy. It was because I was so anxious to prepare the ground for rectifying the unbalance in our economy that I was so anxious to balance the budget.

Having done that, I am hoping that the investor in this country will respond. In future the Indian investor must realise that in subscribing for Government loans, he is not merely investing his money with a view to earning some interest but he is doing a patriotic duty to his own National Government. If only our middle class investors take this view of Government loans, I, Sir, will not in the least be worried about any bullying or black-mailing attitude of any operators in the share market. After all, when you raise a 150 or Rs. 200 crores loan the greater part of it must come from people who are not professional speculators, but who are interested in investing their money in some safe security. And if only our people will realise their duties and responsibilities in this matter and co-operate in the Government's borrowing programme, I look forward to a period when we might have laid the foundations on which we can build the economy about which we dream.

Having considered the claims of the Alloy, Tool and Special Steels industry, the Tariff Board has held that this industry qualifies for the grant of protection, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 16.

It has recommended that the existing protective duty should be enhanced on the following alloy, tool or special steel rods or bars (including precision ground and polished bars, blue reeled bars and silver steel finish bars);

- (1) High speed steel containing more than 13 per cent tungsten;
- (2) Stainless and heat-resisting steels containing more than 11 per cent. chromium; and
- (3) Other alloy steels containing any of the following and not included in categories (1) and (2); 0.40% or more of chromium or nickel; 0.10% or more of molybdenum, tungsten or vanadium; or 10.00% or more of manganese.

The Government of India have accepted recommendation of the Board and have accordingly decided to increase existing protective duty on U. K. manufactures of the above categories of special steel from 12 per cent to 30 per cent. and the standard rate from 24 per cent to 42 per cent.

# EXPORT POLICY TO BE FURTHER LIBERALISED

WITH India's export drive making and manure, raw home and woolien progress, the Government is beprogress, the Government is be-lieved to be considering the bility of further liberalising advisability export policy.

Provisional figures covering a wide range of important exports from the three major ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras for the first two months of this year are substantially higher than those for the corresponding months of 1946 and 1947. For instance, the export of oilseeds was eight times as great as it was in January-February, 1947. Oils also recorded a considerable increase, the most striking rise being in the export of castor oil—5,500 tons against 266 tons in the first two months of 1947. Export of linseed oil and groundnut oil totalled over 10,000 tons against a mere 700 tons in January-February, 1946.

Export of jute manufactures in January-February, 1948 showd an increase of more than 30 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1946 and of about 15 per cent over the figure for 1947, the tonnages being, respectively, 158,000 118,000, and 138,000.

Other items in which increases were recorded include lac, magnesite, bones

In assessing the true value of these higher export figures, one must take account of the fact that the previous years' returns included exports from the now non-Indian ports of Karachi and Chittagong.

#### Decontrol

In order to achieve and, if possible, exceed the export target for this year (about 20 per cent above last year's) it is understood that the Ministry of Commerce has under consideration the question of further liberalising export policy by decontrolling more commodities and by adopting a more liberal licensing policy where immediate decontrol is not feasible. Export quotas for commodities for which overall quantitative limits operate are also being raised as far as possible. Thus, the cotton piecegoods export quota has been increased to 200 million yards for the current half-year from 150 million yards for the corresponding period of last year.

Steps are also being taken to stimulate exports to hard currency areas, and, according to a Commerce Ministry spokesman, every effort is being made to ensure that all applications for export to hard currency areas are handled "expeditiously and sympathetically".

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INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1948

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## GOVERNMENT'S LOAN PROGRAMME

# Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty's Appeal For More Support

The Dominion Parliament on March 29, the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister for Finance, replied to the debate on the motion that the Finance Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideraton. He said:

The debate on the last stage of the Finance Bill has again covered a very wide range. Except for the last speaker, no one made any reference to the actual proposals as they have emerged from the Select Committee. From that I draw the natural inference that the House on the whole is satisfied with the Finance Bill as it has been shaped by the Select Committee. That will make the task of consideration of the clauses tomorrow comparatively more easy.

My honourable friend Mr. Karimuddin has repeatedly mentioned on the floor of this House that my economic ideology and programme are in conflict with those of the Honourable the Prime Minister. He has repeated this charge on more than one occasion, and I must therefore take this opportunity of entirely repudiating that suggestion. We are inclined to attach too much importance to mere ideologies —not that I minimise the need for a man having ideologies, but when a statesmen puts his hand to the task of governing a country he must mould his ideology to the practical necessities of the situation and the time. If that is the task of those entrusted with the Government of this country, then I claim that as a loyal colleague of the Honourable the Prime Minister it will be my constant endeavour to translate into action all those ideologies for which he stands. If I had any objection to carry out my task in that spirit I would not be sitting on these benches. Let us not therefore hear any more criticism about these so-called differences in ideology amongst Members of the Cabinet.

MR. NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: But the House criticised the Honourable Minister very severely.

THE HONOURABLE SHRIR. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: We in the Cabinet are working as one united team with a common, determined purpose to serve the country to the best of our ability.

## 1947-48 Budget

I think it was my honourable friend Mr. Karimuddin who on a previous occasion compared my budget proposals with the budget proposals of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan in the 1947-48 budget, and pointed out how I had gone back on the ideal of that budget which was supposed to be in the interests of the poor man. After August 1947 Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and his colleaguer had an unrestricted field to practise their ideology, and I would invite Honourable Members to examine the latest Budget of

the Pakistan Government to find if the ideology that was forced down our throats in 1947 by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan is being practised in their own state. In fact, my honourable friend will be surprised to know, if he does not already know, that the Government of Pakistan have gone to the extent of proclaiming that for five years they will not tax any new industries that come into existence. It is all too easy to try experiments at somebody's cost. There is a proverb in Tamil which says that a woman wanted to find the depth of a well and she got hold of her neighbour's baby and dipped that baby into the well to find the depth of the well. I am not prepared to use my own baby to find the depth of the well, nor am I prepared to use my neighbour's baby for that pur-

If I wanted to find the depth of the well, I would find it out by more straight forward means. I made it perfectly plain on the previous occasion that I did not in the least attempt to translate in this Budget all those ideals for which many of us stand. I conceived my task primarily as one of clearing the ground, as it were, for the building up of our economic structure. In the very first year of our existence as an independent State when the credit of our country was likely to be shaken in the eyes of the world, it was the primary duty of the Finance Minister of the Indian Union so to regulate the national finances as to inspire confidence not merely amongst the people of India but amongst people abroad, and I claim with some pardonable pride that the presentation of our financial position that I have made in the last Budget has very considerably achieved that object. I have cleared the ground, as it were, on which we might construct the superstructure of the economy according to the pattern that Prof. Ranga and others have in mind.

#### Taxation Structure

I contend further that even with the limitations under which I was working, we have placed our taxation structure in such a manner that there can be no concentration of wealth in a few hands. If a man earns one lakh of rupees earned income, we will take away from him by way of tax Rs. 48,344. If a man earns Rs. 10 lakhs, we will take away from him 8 lakhs and 99 thousand by way of tax, and if a man is unfortunate enough to earn an income of Rs. 30 lakhs per year, we will take away from him Rs. 28 lakhs and 37 thousand by way of tax.

MR. NAZIRUDDIN AHMAD: But there is tax-evasion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY: Under our tax-system, therefore no lionest man who pays his tax can become a millionaire. People in our country can become milli-

onaires and multi-millionaires only by dishonest means, but that is a different problem altogether and it is a problem in the solution of which we must all put our heads together; and in that tark you will not find any Member of Government, whether he is a capitalist or a socialist, lagging behind even the most arduous socialist in this House.

#### Middle Classes

I welcome the offer made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga that the middle classes will now be prepared to help their own National Government to raise the public loans necessary for our developmental schemes. That is exactly the psychology that I want to create. Unfortunately, all these years we have depended far too much on a few rich people and a few banks for finding all the money that we want by way of loans. We must now broad-base that structure. After all, in our country, we have not got many rich men. Here are some interesting statistics. The total number of assessees who have got an income of Rs. 2 lakhs and over per year is only 415 in the whole country in a population of 320 million-I am of course excluding the Companies: I am talking of individuals and firms- and the total number of Hindu undivided families in this category is only 68. Now these 415 people have got together an annual income of 19 crores of rupees and out of that we take away Rs. 11 crores and 66 lakhs by way of taxes. Now, why should we depend upon these 400 people for the hundreds of crores of public loans that we want? Analyse the picture from a different point of view. Take the number of people whose annual income is between Rs. 3000 and Rs. 10,000—what I might call the middle classes. They are 1,75,436. Their total income is Rs. 95 crores and we take away from them by way of tax only 5 crores and 86 lakhs per year. Therefore, we are leaving with this class which is the backbone of society a considerable margin of saving which we must tap to meet our requirements of public expenditure by way of loans. I do hope that the next loan programme that the Government will be launching in the near future will be marked by this special feature that the response will come from this large volume of the middle classes who are really the backbone of the country, and if orthy we can bring about that change in the psychology of the people, then we would have laid the foundations of a sound economic structure of the future.

#### Gandhian Socialism

My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga spoke about the tenets of Gandhian socialism. I will not attempt a detailed answer to him as to how far I am a believer in those tenets and principles, but the hard fact remains that—whether you like it or not-the force of economic and political circumstances in the world force us to adopt some at least of the Gandhian tenets of socialism. Take, for example, the emphasis on cottage industries and small-scale industries. In spite of all our ambitions for the large-scale economic and industrial planning of our country. the condition of the world today is such that with all the efforts in the world that we can put forth, there are very considerable limitations to the realisation of this large-scale industrial programme. The

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## Exports To U.K.

A list of the article which may now be exported to the U. K. under the Board of Trade's Token Import Scheme is published herewith, tays a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 2. Exports will be limited to 20 per cent of the each exporter's trade with the U. K. in the years 1936-38.

Exporters who wish to take advantage of this scheme should submit information in the prescribed form, which can be obtained from the Export Trade Controller at the port of export, regarding their trade with the U. K. in any of the listed commodities in the years 1936-38.

On the basis of this information the Export Trade Controller will intimate to the Board of Trade his estimates of 20% of the applicant's trade in the years 1936-38. The Export Trade Controller will also inform the exporter the quota that has been allotted to him. When a trader wishes to ship any goods under this scheme, he should apply to the Export Trade Controller at the port who will issue a token shipment voucher when he is satisfied that the goods in question are in fact the property of the trader who has been granted the quota. Token shipment vouchers should be sent to the U. K. customer who will attach it to his application to the Board of Trade for an import licence.

### A Warning

Exporters are warned that the commodities included in the scheme are subject to certain restrictions as regards prices and specifications and they are advised in their own interest to ascertain full particulars from the importers in the U. K. before shipping the goods to the U. K.

It should be understood that trade with U. K. is not restricted to the articles coming within the token import scheme. Commodities classed as essential by British Government such as, jute, groundnuts, tea, oil seeds, hides and skins, and other raw materials are not effected by the token import arrangements and can be exported within the limits of any general export/import quotas that may be imposed by the Indian or British Covernments from time to time.

List of Articles.—Works of Art, Boots and Shoes, Cordage and tope of vegetable fibre, Magnesium chloride, Furniure and Cabinetware, Instruments, Apparatus and Appliances and parts thereof, e. g., musical instruments, Jewellery, Lac manufactures, Leather manufactures (excluding Boots and Shoes), Provisions and Oilmen's stores, e.g., pickles, chutnies, and condinents, Silk manufactures, Wool manufactures, Tobacco manufactures, sports goods and toys, Manufactures, sports goods and toys, Manufactures of wood other than furniture and cabinetware, Mats and Matting (except coir and rubber), Locks and Padlocke, Bushes and Brooms, Cottage Industrial Ploducts (table lines, buttons, combs, ets.), and howery.

## LORD MOUNTBATTEN VISITS U.P.



Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Mountbatten recently visited the United Provinces. These pictures show (above) Lady Mountbatten with H. E. Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, U. P. Governor and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier, at the Amausi Aercdrome, and (below) Major-General Nathu Singh, General Officer Commanding, United Provinces Area, being presented to Lord Mountbatten at the Aerodrome



### IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL POLICY

THE main object of the Government of India's import control is to make the best possible use of our limited foreign exchange resources. With this end in view, articles are divided into three categories: those which are freely licensed, those which are not licensed at all, and finally those which are licensed only up to certain monetary values. The industrial and economic needs of the country are taken into account in making this grouping. Thus, capital goods and certain industrial raw materials are for the most part licensed freely, while consumer goods are either restricted by monetary ceilings or else not licensed at all. Certain industrial raw materials are also restrated by monetary reilings, but in the case of these the reasonable needs of industry are taken into account at the fixing or the ceilings.

Since January 1, 1948, the import licensing policy has had to take into account growing difficulties in making adequate dollar exchange available for imports. Imports from dollar countries, se well as from other had currency countries such as Sw.tzerland, Portugal and Sweden, have had to be severely restricted. An announcement was made on March 4, 1948, detailing those articles which alone will be licensed for imports from dollar and hard currency countries.

Further restrictions on the licensing of imports were first imposed in July 1847. Certain old licenses were however allowed to be ourned torward up to the end of 1447. It may be emphasized that importers usually place their contracts after obtaining import licences. The licence itself allows them a period of six m n'hs or one year acourding to the nature of the article, for obtaining shipment from a foreign country. Allowing for a period of two months for transit and clemance, actual goods against the licence come into the country only some six or eight months after the issue of licences. Large quantities of consumer goods which now appear in the market have been imported against licenees which were issued before the restrictive policy was introduced on the 1st of July. The result of the restrictions placed becomes visible only after an interval of 6 to 8 mouths.

Applications received for freely licensed goods are now being disposed of within a period of two weeks of their receipt. Similarly, where applications are for the import of articles on the banned list, letters of refusal are generally being sent out within a period of two weeks. As for those articles restricted by monetary ceilings it is not possible to deal with the applications so expeditiously. the total amounts up to which licences can be issued are limited, it is essential first to collect all application: received for the import of a particular item, select those which are considered to merit the issue of licences, and make an equitable allocation of the ceing on the basis of the information available from the applieations. In making this distribution, preference is given to imports of industrial raw materials required by manufacturers for their own use, and also to importers who have established trade connections in foreign countries and have in the past imported these articles over a period of years. In certain cases, such as paints, chemicals, drugs etc. the essentiality of the particular article and the prices quoted by foreign suppliers are also taken into consideration in making the decision.

#### Consumer Goods

A slightly different procedure is followed in the case of consumer goods. These goods are mostly licensed at the ports by the Import Trade Controllers who receive the applications and allocate a quota on the basis of the value of past imports of similar articles. The quota percentages differ from article to article and are based on the volume of past imports and the monetary ceilings fixed for the article during the current half-year. These percentages are communicated to the Import Trade Controllers and announced by them. Any importer who has past imports to his credit can obtain a licence on the basis of this quota percentage on production of adequate evidence of past imports.

Export control was established during the war for the following purposes:

- (a) conservation of supplies required for the prosecution of the war.
- (b) prevention of essential commodities reaching the enemy and
- (c) conservation of essential consumer and other goods in short supply in India.

Although with the cessation of hostilities, the first two considerations lost their importance, the third continued to remain as valid as at any time, at least in respect of a large number of commodities which were in short supply. Moreover, some items continued to be scarce the world over and the distribution of these had to be regulated excefully with a view to ensuring an equitable distribution of available surpluses among importing countries.

Nevertheless, with the end of the war in August 1945, Government felt that the time had come for a comprehensive review of export policy with a view not cally to rebuilding the former export trade but also to develop and cultivate new markets. The object was not only to revive the pre-war trade in agricultural products but also to market abroad, particularly in the adjoining countries, the products of industries developed in India in more recent years.

As a result of this review, numerous items were freed from control from November 1945. It was also decided to allow exports of many others much more freely than was the case in the past. In

soarce commodities, it was decided to permit rimited exports, if on general grounds auch a course was considered necessary for maintaining contacts with India's natural or old markets. Besides, several commodities, the export of which was totally prohibited before, were transferred to control and small quantities were allowed to be exported. Chief among them were agar agar, becawax, candles, cinematograph films, cutlery, glue, footwear and leation suitcases, stationery, carpets and floor rugs. Some of these items have since been decontrolled. Advantage was also taken commodities controlled by other Departments to the Commerce Ministry. These items included many kinds of drugs, hops and hop products and abrasives, etc. In respect of these and other items, a more liberal export policy was formulated.

In pursuance of the policy to relax control over export consistent with the supply position in the country, Government made further reviews from time to time, and upward of 150 items have been removed from export control since the termination of hostilities. Export policy continues to be under constant review and other articles will be added to the free list as soon as supply condition permit, taking advantage of the export probabilities available for India particularly in respect of manufactured goods.

Apart from removing various commodities from the operation of export control or liberalising the quantum of their exports, Government have also removed various restrictions on the prices at which certain commodities can be experted. The only restrictions now remaining in this regard are for export of cloth to Australia, East Africa and the Sudan. Those have been kept in view of our agreements with those countries for the import of toodgrains and cotton.

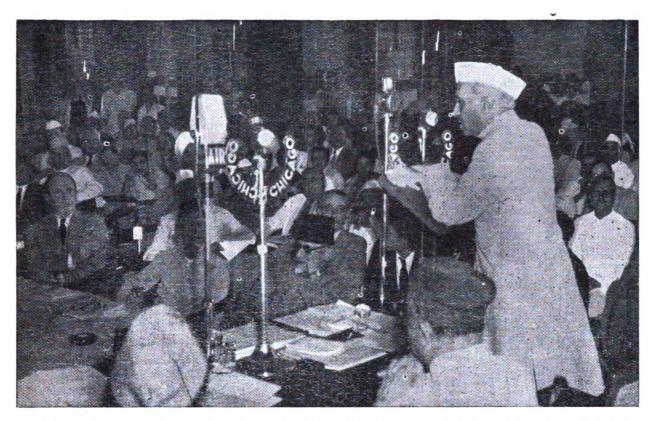
In another direction, however, there has been an extension of export control. The Partition Council decided that movement of goods between India and Pakistan should be allowed freely, as before partition, up to February 29, 1948, unless a Trade Agreement was reached between the two Dominions. No such agreement could however be reached, and with effect from March 1, 1948, our trade with Pakistan has come within the purview of the export and import control regulations imposed under the Imports and Exports Control Act, 1947.

#### Quota System

Global quotas are a feature of the policy under which important commodities such as cloth, oilseeds and oils, jute and jute goods are exported from India.

The procedure for allowing exports varies with different commodities. The general tendency in this regard however is to allow exports on a besis approximating pre-control conditions. In the early days, export was allowed on the Established Shippers system i.e., quotas were granted to an applicant on the basis of his shipments of the commodity concerned to the destination concerned in a period fixed for the purpose. This system was strongly criticised by traders as it

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Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on March 28

denied facilities for export to new firms. It was therefore decided to reserve percentages of total quotas to newcomers. This system still applies in the case of the export of cloth and bones.

There are, however, several important commodities, the export of which is not now restricted to any eligible category of exporters e.g., non-essential vegetable oilseeds and oils and jute and jute goods. In regard to such commodities applications are invited from intending exporters, and licences are granted deserving applicants on the basis of firm sales done by them. Over and above the evidence of firm sale, further evidence in regard to the status of the applicant as well as availability of foreign exchange is also required in considering the applications. Thus, for example, in the case of oilseeds and oils, applicants are required to produce either a Letter of Credit or a certificate from the importer's bank that a Letter of Credit will be opened if a licence is granted to him or a similar certificate from an official of the import in Government. Moreover, preference is given to crushers for the export of oils. In the case of jute and jute goods successful applicants are required to produce Letters of Credit within 15 days of the issue of the provisional quota and if no such Letters of Credit are produced, their quotas are cancelled.

In order to assist the rehabilitation of refugee traders from Pakistan, quotas for export from Indian ports are granted to such traders, if they were securing them in the past. Thus those evacuee merchants who were being allotted quotas for export of cloth from Quetta to Iran

have been granted quotas for the export of cloth from Bembay to Iran. Evacuee merchants who were not in the export business in the past are also eligible to apply for quotas under the new comers' scheme. If the evidence produced by them in their applications is satisfactory, they are given preference provided they were, in the past, connected in same capacity with the trade in the commodity which they wish to export. For example, wholesale cloth merchants in Pakistan are treated favourally if they apply for a quota of cloth under the new comers' scheme.

Applications for quotas are received and checked by the Export Control authorities at the ports, but the final decision is taken at headquarters by the highest officers of the Ministry of Commerce.

Following are export quotas for some important items:

Groundnut	111,700 metri 19	c ton	s (for
Groundnut oil	77,320	,,	,,
Linseed	36,925	,,	,,
Linseed oil	8,025	"	,,
Castor Seed	14,625		••
Crushed	40,000		
bones	(the	eame	quan-
	tity	has	been
		isional	lly
	fixed	for	1948).

Cotten piece 210,000,000 (for first half goods and yarn yards of 1948)

Raw Jute 100,000 (half year ending June, 25, 1948.)

Jute Goods 443,195 tons

#### Geneva Maritime Conference

The main object of the Maritime Conberence which was convened in Geneva in February by the United Nations was to consider the establishment of an Inter-Governmental Organisation to deal with questions affecting shipping. Maritime questions have, in the past, been handled ad hoc by various international agreements and conventions. The technical and other developments which have taken place in recent years in regard to telecommunications etc., and problems of co-operation between shipping and aviation, particularly in regard to rescue operations, have made nations realise the importance of having a permanent body in the field of shapping as there is one for aviation. The experience gained during the war of co-operation among nations by the establishment of the United Nations Maritime Consultative Council led that I ody to recommend the establishment of a permanent Inter-Governmental Organisation and it prepared a draft constitution for such an organisation. It was this draft which was the main item on the agenda of the Geneva Conference.

When the United Martine Countitative Council's draft was first prepared, India had many points of criticism to urge against it. Although these point did not find acceptance at the early stages, before the wiler forum of the Geneva Conference it was possible for India to secure many and substantial changes in the U. M. C. C draft to make it more acceptable to countries which, like India, had yet to do a great deel for the development of their national shipping.

#### India's Proposals

The main changes in the scope and conventions of the organisation which were proposed by India were

- (a) recognition of the right of Member Governments to assist their own shipping in the interest of their national economy or in the interests of security, and
- (b) Consideration by the organisation of various untair practices which are sometimes adopted by purely shipping combines.

Both these points were accepted in principle. There were, however, differences of opinion as to whether the right to assist national shipping should be completely unfettered, and it was pointed out that unrestricted freedom might well be abused. Instances have not been unknown in the past where some countries helped their shipping to such an extent and in such a way as to make virtually impossible for the shipping of other countries to compete with them. To meet this point, the final draft recognises the right of Governments to assist their shipping provided such steps are not designed to restrict the freedom of shipping of all flags to take part in international trade.

In regard to unfair restrictive practices by shipping concerns, the original draft had made no mention of the subject at all, and here again India's point of view was accepted and a specific provision has been made in the constitution of the organisation to consider matters concerning such practices.

There were various other matters in the draft in connection with which the Indian Delegation urged many changes and almost all of them were accepted and incorporated Prima facie, the changes made in the constitution of the organisation appeared to be satisfactory to the Indian Delegation, and the Indian Delegation, therefore, signed the convention which ultimately emerged from this Conference subject to ratification by the Government of India. The name of the organisation will be the Inter-Governmental Maritime Concultative Organisation and its headquarters will be in London. This convention will now have to be examined by Government, and if they are satisfied with the result, they will communicate their acceptance by the deposit of an instrument of ratification with the Secretary General of the United Nations. When at least 21 States of which 7 shall each have a total shipping tonnage of not-less than one million have similarly become parties

(Continued on Page 525)

## NEED FOR RAILWAY PRIORITY CONTROL

#### Dr. John Matthai's Statement

Moving that the Bill to amend the Railways (Transport of Goods) Act, 1947 be taken into consideration in the Dominion Parliament on March 19, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways and Transport explained at length the need for railway priority control. The aim of the Bill, which has been passed, is to extend for another year the life of the Act.

The Hon'ble Minister said: Sir, the present Act under which the system of priorities is being worked will expire on March 25 and the Bill that I have placed before the House seeks the approval of the House for the extension of that Act for another year. The main consideration on which this Bill is based, the main consideration on which we are asking the House to extend the duration of the Act, is that we are still in this position that the existing transport facilities are not sufficient for moving all the traffic that is offered. In other words, there is a relative shortage of transport capacity.

#### Special Factors

The general principle on which controls are instituted is that when there is shortage in an essential commodity, it is necesary that there must be some arrangement for regulating the distri-bution of that commodity. But that, of course, is not a decisive consideration. There are certain special factors which make it important that we should retain a certain amount of power for regulating priorities in regard to railway traffic. First of all there is this very important consideration that Government with the approval of the House have accepted a policy of gradual decontrol of commodities. Now, our experience is that when you have adopted a policy of physical decontrol, it is necessary during the initial stages during the transition period, that there must be a certain amount of control over movements.—In other words, it is not possible, unless you are prepared to face serious disorganisation to introduce simultaneously a physical decontrol programme and also a decontrol of movement. One must follow the other.

I might perhaps illustrate this point by what is happening in regard to the movement of various classes of foodgrains today. As the House is probably aware, since we have gradually begun to decontrol foodstuffs, it has become necessary to provide railway facilities for large movements on private or trade account. When large movements occur on trade account, the movements are not necessarily intended for the transport of goods to where these goods are needed most and along routes which would provide the most economical transport. In other words, what the trade a.ms at doing, quite naturally, is that the goods must move to the places where the largest margin of profit can be secured, whereas in the public interest what is required,

assuming a shortage of transport capacity, is that these goods must move to points where they are required most urgently.

There are also other special considerations which make it important that we should retain a certain amount of control. Take, for example, the situation which has arisen in the Madras Presidency. In that province we are expecting a serious shortage of foodgrains. In consultation with the Ministry of Food, I have been drawing up a programme for the movement of foodgrains to that Province from the beginning of May, probably extending up to September or October. As far as I am able to judge from the figures given to me, it would mean that the Ministry of Railways would have to move over a period of about 3 to 4 months somewhere about 10 to 15 special goods trains a day.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA (West Bengal: General): Every day?

THE HON'BLE DR. JOHN MATTHAI: Yes, every day. That is going to place a very considerable strain on our limited transport facilities. We shall not be able to do that unless we have a certain amount of power to regulate general movement of traffic.

Then there is the question of the rehabilitation of our refugees. Large schemes are being worked out in Provinces like the Punjab and Bengal for the rehabilitation of refugees, which involves the construction of houses, the construction of various kinds of works of public utility. The materials required for these public works, it is necessary, should be moved as quickly as possible.

#### Features of Bill

Also, there is the question of Kashmir. If unfortunately the Kashmir position continues to be in the pre.ont fluid and somewhat difficult stage, it would be necessary for us to conserve our transport facilities, so as to be able to move whatever is required in the way of supplies for strengthening our position in Kashmir. For all these reasons, therefore, I feel it is important that we should have the power to regulate and to conserve our transport capacity.

Sir there are certain new features which have been embodied in this amending Bill. First of all, in deference to the prevailing feeling in the House that we should restrict control where necessary to the minimum, we have taken care in this Bill to cut down the number of articles included in the Schedule for priority purposes from 99 to 18 that is to say, only the most essential classes of articles will be included in the Schedule and control of priorities, therefore will be restricted to that extent.

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## KURUKSHETRA CAMP—A CITY OF TENTS

THE Hon'ble Shri K. C. Neogy, Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation, accompanied by Shri S. K. Kirpalani, Secretary in the Ministry, and Shri Jivraj Mehta, Director-General of Health Services visited Kurul shetra on March 18. On arrival Shri K. C. Neogy met the Camp Officers and discussed matters pertaining to welfare of refugees. He received a deputation of Town No. 4 and assured them that Government was mindful of the plight of those who had been evacuated from Pakistan at a late stage and in particular these who had come from Bannu and other places in N. W. F. P.

Later, owing to sudden indisposition, unfortunately, Shri K. C. Neogy could not carry out his tour of inspection of the Camp and address the mass rally of refugees which had specially collected to greet him and hear him.

Shri Jivraj Mehta proceeded to make a tour of hospitals and inspected medical and sanitary arrangements. One very heartening feature of the work for rehabilitation of women is the class of 100 young girls who are being trained as nurses. In their blue and white uniform these erstwhile "Orphans of the storm" locked bright, smart and cheerful and they are determined to take up the noble profession of nursing.

Shri Kirpalani also toured the Camp and was particularly pleased with the excellent work that is being done in the Vocational Training Rehabilitation Centre which has made remarkable progress under the guidance of Shri T. C. Dey, Technical Adviser to the Ministry.

Kurukshetra now presents the aspect of a well laid out and efficiently run City. There is electric street lighting, excellent supply of chlorinated water, efficient sanitation and medical arrangements that perhaps even Delhi cannot boast of. The hospitels have 1,000 beds for indoor patients and they are manned by highly skilled physicians, surgeons, lady doctors and nurses.

#### **Vocational Centre**

The Vocational Centre has over 250 refugee workers and some 450 trainees. It is humming with activity in earpentry, tailoring, soap making, weaving, basket making and classes have been started in motor engineering and foundry work. The retail shop of the Centre which deals exclusively in goods produced by the Centre is doing business of nearly a hundred rupees a day.

In the afternoon Shri Kirpalani and Shri Jiviaj Mehta along with all the Officers of the Camp attended the mass rally of refugees. The refugees were in good cheer and raised repeatedly the national slogan of 'Jai Hind'. Refugee girls sang national songs which were much appreciated.

Surrounded by milling throngs of refugees, Shri Kirpslani listened patiently to their problem and individual tales of woe. He replied to their queries affably and assured them that all officers had come

together once again to maintain the living contact with them. Inhabitants of all the four towns of the Camp had mustered in full strength at the meeting ground amidst a setting provided by the city of tents.

Addressing the gathering Shri Kirpalani declared that Government was fully aware of the need of every displaced family for some kind of home and productive occupation. India was a great and glorious country with resources and tradition. The task was big but not too big for the combined efforts of the people of India and the People's Government.

Evacuation, he continued, had almost been completed. Nearly 60 lakhs of displaced non-Muslims had crossed the borders of Western Pakistan. Some more still remained, particularly in Sind, who wanted to come away, but clearance of pockets is also in progress in West Punjab, N. W. F. P.. and Bahawalpur. They would also be evacuated, he hoped, within the next few weeks. The Military Evacuation Organisation of India had accomplished the major task of evacuation with speed and efficiency which commanded admiration.

Nor had the Government ignored the work of providing relief and shelter to those who have come to India. Each displaced person had found some sort of shelter in India, in a refugee camp or outside. Lakhs of clothes had been rushed to them in various camps. Blankets and quilts had been provided in sufficient numbers to protect them against the rigours of biting winter and there had been food for all—the same ration as for anybody else in India.

#### Food and Shelter

It is possible, Shri Kirpalani said, that here and there, the food and shelter provided might have been inadequate. But he reminded the refugees of the brotherly feelings of the people of India when evacuees were in Pakistan awaiting transfer. "Then your brothers and sisters in India", he said, "cooked food for you with their own hands which was flown to you in specially chartered planes. They sympathise with you as much now in your sufferings and are as ready to lend a helping hand as ever".

Shri Kirpalani said, "You will concede that in some ways you are better off than your refugee brethren in Delhi; sanitary arrangements are better here: there are no flies in Kurukshetra and arrangements made for maintenance of health are admirable. There has been no outbreak of epidemic of any kind here or in any camp in the country. No doubt your hardships will increase with the approach of summer because of crowding in tents but it is your duty to face the situation bravely for the sake of your motherland. Most of the cities in India are already overcrowded. Any further unplanned influx into these cities will merely add to the difficulties of your friends and your Government ".

Referring to the increasing impatience about the pace of rehabilitation among

the refugees, Shri Kirpalani said, that the task of rehabilitating about 60 lakhs of refugees who had come over to the Indian Union was stupendous. It was not a task which could be accomplished within a few months but might easily take a few years. Assuming that each family consisted of five or six persons on the average, over the ten lakhs families had to be rehabilitated. Ten lakhs of houses had, therefore, to be found and ten lakh jobs to be provided. Mr. Kirpalani assured the audience that the Government were determined to do everything possible in this direction. There was recm for every one in India but the refugees them. selves had to face the situation bravely and help the Government. He was aware of their hardships and the boredcm which the camp life must impose on them. The Government were bent upon absorbing them in the economy of the country in the most expeditious manner but, he added, even hurry takes time.

#### Appeal for Co-operation

Next, Shri Kirpalani referred to the anxiety of refugees over the women and children who had been abducted and the anxiety they have generally experienced over the property left behind in Pakistan. He assured them that everything possible was being done to recover abducted women and children and restore them to their families. In regard to property he explained that negotiations with Pakistan were proceeding and whenever a settlement was reached an announcement could be made without delay. But the matter was not easy. Those in camps need not think that their property would be overlooked simply becuse their claims had not been registered.

Concluding, Shri Kirpalani made a fervent appeal for co-operation with Government officials engaged in the task of relief and rehabilitation. He said, "I am a Government official but above all I am your servant. Every Government servant is here to serve you. It is up to you to let them work unhampered, eschewing bitterness and rancour from your hearts".

#### CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY LOST IN PAKISTAN

Claims regarding property lost or left in Pakistan may now be filed by post with the Registrar of Claims, Delhi Province. This procedure has been adopted to avoid inconvenience to claimants who were till now required to present the claims personally to the Registrar, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rel.ef and Rehabilitation on March 18.

The claims must be properly filled in on the prescribed form which may be obtained on application from the Registrar of Claims, 'P' Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi. The claimants are required to have the form attested by two witnesses on page two of the prescribed form. It is not necessary, as previously required, that a claim should be attested by a Gazetted Officer, a member of the Constituent Assembly or a member of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

On receipt of the claim form, the Registrar of claims will issue an acknowledgement to the claimant at the address given by him in the form.

### Rehabilitation Of Displaced Lawyers

The question of rehabilitation of displaced legal practitioners from Western Pakistan has for some time past been engaging the attention of the Government of India and various steps have been taken to facilitate their rehabilitation, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 20.

Lisplaced lawyers have been made eligible for rehabilitation loans up to a maximum of Rs. 3000. Besides, the Ministry of Home Affairs have addressed Provincial Governments suggesting that High Courts should be moved to relax their rules so as to enable refugee lawyers to practise in those High Courts and in Courts subordinate to them and also to exempt them from the enrolment fees.

In a recent communication to all Provincial Governments, States and Chief Commissioners of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have recommended assistance to displaced lawyers. It has been suggested that the number of Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors in each district should be increased. This, it has been pointed out, will not mean extra cost but, on the other hand, may result in a decrease in the income of the Prosecutors already appointed in case they are paid on the basis of the number of cases handled by them.

It has also been suggested that displaced legal practitioners should be appointed as Receivers and given other work on behalf of Government wherever possible.

The Provincial Governments have been asked to instruct their local officers to give displaced lawyers any help which they may require for establishing themselves, such as securing office and residential accommodation.

The Government of India hope that the local Bar Associations would readily agree to the sacrifice which such assistance to displaced lawyers might entail. It is pointed out that thrown into entirely new surroundings these lawyers will naturally take time to build up a clientele, and in the initial stages they will require assistance from Provincial Governments.

#### Request to Indian States

The Ministy of States have written to Indian States that in the process of modernisation of administration now proceeding, there is considerable scope for useful employment for displaced lawyers. Many of them, it is pointed out, are well wersed in modern jurisprudence and can do good work in judicial or administrative posts.

The Ministry of Railways have asked all the Indian Government Railways to give preference to displaced lawyers while making direct recruitment to the posts of Railway Litigation Inspectors and Railway Claims Inspectors, or to any other posts in which lawyers' qualifications and experience may be found useful.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has written to Provincial Governments requesting them to con.ider sympathetically applications from displaced lawyers for Government employment. A list of different types of employment for which they may be suitable has also been circulated. Domicile rules have been relaxed in favour of refugees in most Provinces so that there should be now no difficulty on this score.

The East Punjab Government have employed a number of displaced lawyers in posts in connection with rehabilitation. They will be also eligible for rehabilitation loans under the Ordinance which has been promulgated. The East Punjab Government have given an assurance that they will be glad to give such assistance as may be possible in order to rehabilitate members of the legal profession.

Private organizations like the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been approached by the Government of India asking them to consider sympathetically applications received from displaced lawyers.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation itself has employed 104 displaced lawyers in the Ministry as well as in various offices under it.

Every effort is thus being made to facilitate the early rehabilitation of displaced legal practitioners. Like other classes they have been uprooted from their surroundings and their permanent rehabilitation is a process which will take some time.

## TRAINING FACILITIES FOR REFUGEES

With a view to facilitating their resettlement in life, the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, have sanctioned a scheme for the technical and vocational training of adult male refugees from Western Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Resettlement and Employment on March 24.

In addition to the centres already open to them in East Punjab and Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, sixteen additional training centres, with an aggregate capacity of about 1,500, have been thrown open to them, in the United Provinces and the Bombay Presidency. These centres will be located at Almora, Bahjoi, Benares, Bareilly, Dayalbagh, Itawah, Haldwani, Lucknow (two), Maholi, Meerut, Dhulia, Kolnapur, Poona (two) and Ratnagiri.

Candidates for training will be selected by a Selection Committee. They will receive the usual allowances and other concessions regarding workshop, clothing and travelling. The period of training, as usual, will vary from trade to trade and individual to individual, but with a view to making it more effective it has been extended from six months to maximum of one year.

### Concessions To Refugee Businessmen

Refugee firms which were carrying on export and import business in Pakistan and had to migrate to India will be accorded full facilities to resume their respective trades, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 29. In this connection, firms which used to get quotas for export from the Export Trade Controllers, Karachi, Quetta or Peshawar are being granted quotas for export from India.

Those firms which did not receive any export quotas while in Pakistan are advised to apply for these quotas to the appropriate export control authorities when applications from newcomers are invited. Such applications will be given due consideration, particularly if the applicants were, prior to their evacuation, connected with the commodity for which export quota is applied for.

Satisfactory proof of the extent of their previous import business is, however required from refugee firms or individual refugees who claim to have been doing import business in Pakistan. In view of the present monetary restrictions, it is not possible to issue import licences to all and sundry. Refugee firms which did not import goods in the past will, therefore, be treated as newcomers. The fact that they are refugees will, however, be taken into consideration if other factors justify issue of import licence.

No discrimination will be shown against refugee firms in respect of the articles which are licensed on a free basis as listed in Appendix A and B to the notice issued by the Ministry of Commerce in the Gazette of India dated 12th Dec., 1947.

Attention is also invited to Public Notice dated Jan. 22, 1948, issued by the Chief Controller of Imports where in procedure for grant of licences to importers who had previous import business in the Ports of Karachi and Chittagong has been laid down.

Overseas mail addressed to Hindus and Sikhs in West Pakistan has been detained in Bombay since a large number of the addressees have migrated to India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Reliet and Rehabilitation on March 19. The accumulation of such mail requires early clearance and the Director, Foreign Post, Rombay, desires that those Hindus and Sikhs of West Pakistan who are now in India and expect mail from foreign countries should furnish him with their new addressee as early as possible.

To receive valuable articles, the addressees should have to identify themselves at the local post offices before such articles are delivered.

## Lady Mountbatten Opens Home For Destitute Women and Children

Her Excellency Lady Mountbatten performed the opening ceremony of the Home for women and children at Shamshad Manzil, Roshanara Road, Delhi on March 13. The Home which shelters over 200 women and children who have come from Western Pakistan and have been rendered destitutes, is run by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Sh. Rameshwari Nehru, Women's Section welcomed Lady Mountbatten and the Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and thanked them on behalf of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for their co-operation in the matter of care of such destitute women and children. Mrs. Nehru stated she started the work towards the end of November when the task seemed to be a huge one and required great imagination from the point of view of humanitarianism. Mahatma Gandhi had pointed out to her that it was her duty to take up the task of bringing comfort to these unfortunate women and children. This was a call for service and the inspiration she got from Gandhiji had given her tremendous strength. But when Gandhiji was no more, she did not know what to do and it seemed she was surrounded by darkness all round. However, Gandhiji's soul was not dead and his teachings were a heritage left for the Nation to carry out.

#### Training Centres

Mrs. Nehru said that there were two training centres in operation, one for children and the other for women. She added that the children were being trained in Nayi Talim method inspired by the teachings and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. The Children's Training Centre is residential and meant for 150 children. At present there are 156 children under training. Children from three to ten are admitted. They will be given full basic education course which extends for seven years. The training centre for women is meant to produce village social workers and will be on the lines of education evolved by the Kasturba Trust. There are seats for 150 women but only 34 have been admitted. Mrs. Nehru complained that there was dearth of the right type of women to work since they would not like to go to villages after the completion of two years' course.

Sh. Nehru thanked the Minister incharge of Relief and Rehabilitation and other officers of the Ministry who had given her utmost co-operation and worked with her as a team for this great cause.

Lady Mountbatten in a short speech thanked the organizers of the Women's Home and the Director of Women Section for all they have done for the destitute women and children. She thought this achievement would be a fitting reward of all their sufferings. She also praised the various departments of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for their work in connection with the refugee problem. She hoped that an

institution like the one she was opening should be a permanent one.

The Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, speaking after Lady Mountbatten, said that success in the mission of bringing relief to the unfortunate women and chidren would be something good out of the evils and destruction which have rendered them destitutes. She hoped that these womer, and children will be trained up so that they might be able to stand on their own legs and will be up to the ideals which Free India stands for. She also hoped that such an institution would also be self-supporting. The Health Minister referred to Mahatma Gandhi whose life was dedicated to truth and ahimsa which thould always be borne in mind. Muhatma Gandhi had left this world after doing his service and 'let us not forget the teachings he has left behind for us'. She stressed that Nayi Talim with charkha should be utilised in all training institutions.

Mrs. Jaikishori Handoo, who is incharge of the Women's Home, announced that a shop will be opened on lst April at Connaught Circus where handicrafts produced by the inmates of the Home will be displayed for sale. She requested the citizens to place orders for such handicrafts on the Home and make liberal purchases. At the Home for women and children at Roshanara Road, 97 women and 22 children have benefited from the Industrial Classe. and schooling provided there. The scheme for a Producer's Co-operative will be introduced which will guarantee to the workers the full profit accruing from their labour. The Home has succeeded in placing several girls and boys in the local schools. It also maintains a Marriage Bureau.

About 30 children of the Home gave a display of drill which was appreciated by all present there.

Later, Lady Mountbatten and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur were taken by Shrimati Ramesl. wan Nehru to the exhibition where a large number of handicrafts made by refugee women of different camps in Delhi were on display.

### Registration of Refugees in Delhi

All refugees who have been registered in Delhi are not eligible for rehabilitation benefits in this Province, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 19.

It has been decided that refugees from West Punjab who were registered in Delhi after December 10, 1947, and refugees from N.-W.F.P., Sind, Baluchistan and Bahawalpur, who were registered after February 29, 1948, will not be eligible for rehabilitation benefits in Delhi Province.

Registration does not confer any claim for rehabilitation in Delhi. It is improbable that every one of those who were registered in Delhi within the prescribed period will be rehabilitated in Delhi. The possibility is that even when new extensions and projects are completed not more than two to two and a half lucs of people will be rehabilitated in Delhi Province.

Refugees from Jammu and Kashmir, being State subjects, are not eligible for rehabilitation benefits. They will be sent by Government for care and maintenance to a special camp set up for them at Chunnar in the United Provinces, if they would apply to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Delhi.

No more refugees will be admitted into relief camps or any other camps of the Central Government in Delhi Province. Those who are staying outside the camps with friends or relations or in other premises lawfully occupied, can stay where they are, unless they can make other arrangements of their own in or outside Delhi. Those refugees in relief camps and other camps in Delhi, who were registered after December 10, 1947, will be sent by Government to other camps outside Delhi. In case they prove to the satisfaction of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Delhi, that they have now actually secured a job or other gainful occupation,

they will be permitted to continue to live in the camps. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Delhi, however, cannot accept responsibility for finding such refugees any accommodation outside the camps. If they lose their jobs or cease to be employed in gainful occupations, they will be removed to Central Government camps outside Delhi.

## MORE STATES TO ENLIST REFUGEE CONTRACTORS

More Indian States have agreed to enlist refugee contractors and offer them concessions to undertake work in their territories, says a Press Nete issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on March 20. These are Palanpur, Jaora, Bundi and Nahan.

Palanpur is in need of a number of contractors. Persons interested should immediately apply to the State authorities. Jaora State wishes to employ a good refugee contractor in its Public Works Department. Bundi is willing to relax the condition of cash security and to advance money to a limited number of refuzee contractors on production of some security. Similarly, Nahan is willing to enlist refugee contractors to work for its P. W. D. on the usual terms and conditions.

Other States which have already agreed to give special concessions to refugee contractors are:—Baroda, Bikaner, Rewa, Kapurthala, Nabha, Benares, Alipura, Datia, Rajgarh Darbar, Narsinghgarh, Jhalakher, Kotah, Rajkot, Dharangdhara, Indore, Banswara, Ratlam, Suket, and certain small States in Orissa and Chhattisgarh States Agency.

## POSTAL CONCESSIONS TO REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN

THE Government of India have decided that persons who have migrated from Eastern Pakistan and have not been able to transfer their savings bank accounts or holdings of cash or other certificates to post offices in India, will be allowed the following concessional treatment, says a Press Note issued by the Office of the Postmaster-General, Calcutta on March 24.

- (1) Depositors in post office savings banks who can produce their pass books will be allowed to withdraw half of the balance at the credit of their accounts on Aug. 14, 1947, or on the date of application for withdrawal, whichever is less, subject to the maximum of Rs. 500 on proper identification and up to Rs. 1,000, if supported by a bond of indemnity with two sureties. No further transaction will be allowed until accounts have been formally transferred. The above limited withdrawal will be allowed from any head or departmental tub-post office in the Dominion of India.
- (2) Cash and other certificates registered in post offices in Eastern Pakistan prior to Aug. 15, 1947, and tendered for transfer at any post office in India will be treated as provisionally transferred and holders will be allowed to encash these certificates up to a limit of Rs. 500 on proper identification. Payments in excess of this amount will only be made on the execution of a bond of indemnity with two sureties.
- (3) Those depositors or holders of certificates who have applied for transfer of their accounts or certificates from post offices in East Pakistan to post offices in India and who have not received back their pass books or certificates or who have lost their pass books or certificates should submit claims in prescribed forms which can be obtained at any head or sub-post office free of charge.

## EMPLOYMENT OF REFUGEES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Employment of refugeess in Government and other offices is secured through the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour and the Special Empoyment Bureau, recently set up by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 23.

The work of these three organisations is well co-ordinated and whenever a post has to be filled in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, the Selection Board invites the names of suitable candidates from these three organisations. This system obviates the need for personal interviews, in the first instance, and discounts direct or indirect canvassing.

The system also avoids the inconvenience experienced in the past by refugees seeking employment. All that they are required to do is to get themselves registered with the appropriate organisation, with whom they should leave all

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## Cottage Industries Exhibition in Delhi: Important Stage in Production Campaign

THE Cottage Industries Exhibition in New Delhi opened on March 29 by His Excellency Lord Mountbatten marks an important stage in the production campaign launched in India by the Government and the people. The Exhibition which includes several hundred categories of goods representing the contribution of the various Indian Provinces and States besides that of Burma and Nepal, has been organised with the assistance of the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

The Central Government's interest in small-scale and cottage industries dates, according to a recent memorandum of the Industry and Supply Ministry, from wartime, when arrangements were made by the Central Government to order goods for war requirements from small-scale and cottage industries through Provincial Co-operative Departments, while the Directors of Supplies were instructed to provide raw material, finance, technical guidance and general supervision to enable the industries to execute the orders. "It is necessary and proper", says the memorandum, "that the maintenance of such industries developed during the war and the extension of the activities of these productive organisations on rational lines should receive consideration by Governments, Central and Provincial."

#### Problems to Solve

Among other cottage industries, which are generally classified according to their respective raw material requirements the most important are the textiles, brass, copper and aluminium-ware, furniture-making, toy-making, wood-carving, leatner industries, tile-making, ceramics, bangle-making, paper-making, etc. Besides these, there are small-scale industries, which are (a) either auxiliary to large-scale industries or (b) engaged in providing repair services and small engineering workshops or (c) are engaged in the manufacture of finished goods such as cutlery, hosiery, printing press, etc. The Industrial Panels appointed by the Ministry of Industry and Supply have reported whether and to what extent the various Industries with which they are concerned should be developed, as in Japan, on cottage industry basis.

The problems confronting these industries relate mainly to (i) provision of raw materials, (ii) technique of manufacture, (ivi) finance, (iv) marketing and commercial intelligence and (v) competition against goods produced by other methods, whether imported or locally

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particulars which will help in the.r selection for the final interview by the Ministry concerned They need not go to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in search of employment. Individual officers in the Ministry will not give interviews for the purpose of appointments

produced. These and other problems can be solved, according to a recommendation of the Asian Conference of the I. L. O. by organising these industries specially on co-operative and tederated lines, so that small and autonomous undertakings can benefit from the financial, technical and commercial advantages normally enjoyed by large undertakings in a concentrated industry.

The Industries Conference took the view that while the size and nature of these industries made it unavoidable that their proper development must remain the responsibility of Provincial and State Governments, the Central Government should investigate how far and in what manner these industries could be co-ordinated and integrated with large-scale industries. As the healthy expansion of cottage industries depends on the provision of raw material, technical advice and organised marketing of their produce, the Central Government was asked to establish an All India Cottage Industries Board.

A special Committee appointed by the Conference, whose recommendations have now been published, suggests that this Board may be developed on lines similar to those of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and that it might be given a substantial sum by the Central Government to utilise for its own work and to distribute among the Provinces.

It is also recommended that Central Emporiums of cottage industries goods must be set up in all Provincial Head-quarters and in foreign countries for purposes of exhibition and marketing. The Government of India may also, it was suggested, send a special mission abroad, particularly to such countries as Switzerland, Crechoslovakia, Germany and Japan, where they can study the working and organisation of cottage industries and from where they can secure experts for employment in India for limited periods.

#### General National Objective

Among other recommendations made by the Committee may be mentioned an important one which describes the general objective of the campaign for cottage industries in India. For according to that recommendation, so far as the basic needs of food and clothing are concerned, it should be the aim in India to attain self-sufficiency primarily through the development of cottage industries.

In this connection the Prime Minister's recent statement at the 21st session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi is significant, as it reveals the new impetus that cottage industries may receive at present. For referring to the uncertain international situation and consequent uncertainty of imports of capital goods from abroad, Pandit Nehm indicated that in the present context one of the most important ways of meeting the crisis was the immediate development of cottage industries.

## MEDICAL AID FOR MASSES: HEALTH MINISTER'S APPEAL TO DOCTORS

66 TT has hurt me not a little during these past few months to find among our displaced doctors, both men and women, no or little desire to restart their medical life in villages or even in small townships. A miserable room in a city like Delhi attracts them more. This is a wrong attitude and while Government must share the blame to the full in not having made the village attractive and liveable, educated and trained persons in every walk of life, more especially in the noble professions of teaching and doctoring and nursing have got to be pioneers and migrate to the villages and become one with the villagers if India is to rise to her full stature", said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, in her Presidential Address delivered at the Lady Hardinge, Medical College Founders' Day Celebrations in New Delhi on March

The Health Minister added: "It is not the surgeon or the physician who achieves success in a well equipped hospital with all the instruments and appliances and nursing and other ancillary staff at his elbow who will be doing the greatest work but the doctor who will save life in a hovel with, perhaps, and improvised operating table and with nothing but his own skill and spirit of service to help him".

#### 31-Year-Old College

Following is the full text of the address:

Young Friends, I am delighted to have been given the opportunity of being present with you all this afternoon. This institution was founded 31 years ago as a result of the public appeal for funds for a Women's Medical College and Hospital launched in 1912 by the woman whose name it hears. Indeed, we owe the whole conception of medical aid to woman in this country, in the first instance to a former Vicerine whose name will always be remembered with gratitude. Perhaps it was only natural that woman's heart should have been touched to the quick by the sight of suffering and preventible suffering which the women of India had to bear and bore and still continued to bear with that fortitude, patience and uncomplaining silence which are, perhaps, the greatest attributes of our sex, as a whole and certainly of Indian womankind in particular.

I am aware of the uphill struggle which the Lady Hardinge College and Hospital have had to face ever since their inception. I am aware of the handicaps under which they labour today. But what, after all, is 31 years in the life of a nation that has been struggling for its freedom throughout that period and it is only through battling against odds that pioneer institutions can become worthwhile themselves and blaze a trail for others to emulate. Therefore, when you think of the thousands of women and children whose lives you have been



Raikumari Amrit Kaur

the instruments in God's hands of saving, the lakhs of human beings whose sufferings have been mitigated through your ministrations and, above all, the hundreds of young women that have been trained here, whether as doctors or nurses, you have every reason to be proud and to look forward with abundant hope to the future as far as your growth and opportunities for further service are concerned.

It is a tragedy too deep for tears that today we stand lowest in the whole world in the domain of health. The figures for mother and infant mortality, the high incidence of disease in every shape and form, the low expectation of life, the devastation wrought by malaria and tuberculosis, that we continue to have epidemics of diseases like cholera and plague etc., all these facts appal one and more terrible than all these is the stark reality that we have to face that we have not enough doctors, nurses and other ancillary staff to cope with the growing menace. I say "growing" advisedly for our capacity for providing adequate aid and relief is not increasing pari passu with the growth in population and nor can we cope with the lack of food, poverty, bad housing and crass ignorance of the masses of our people, which are the main causes of disease. Here in Delhi itself our hospitals have daily to refuse indoor patients because of lack of room, our outdoor patients have to wait for hours to get proper attention, they may even have to go away without any and this is our Capital City. But what about the vast areas of our land where no hospitals exist, where no medical aid or relief of any kind is possible? These truths must make us all pause and think. But that thinking must be positive. And positive thinking knows no fear. It spurs to action.

#### Terrible Upheaval

This, young friends, is your first annual celebration in a free India. Your leaders have brought you freedom from the foreign yoke. But that freedom has also brought with it heavy responsibilities for each one of us and, in particular, for the educated and trained youth of this land. Perhaps it was only natural that political freedom when it came to us should bring in its wake an upheaval though none of us could have foretold what a terrible upheaval it would be. We in Delhi have seen much travail. You of this Institution were privileged to serve during those dark days when hatred and violence were wounding and killing not only the physical bodies but the souls of innocent victims of mob fury. You rose to the occasion then and I am sure those tragic days will remain for you all and for each one of us a rich experience. As if those terrible happenigns here and elsewhere were not enough the Almighty. in His infinite wisdom, has called upon us to bear yet another grievous calamity under whose dark shadow we still linger and grope for light.

Gandhiji, however, could not be killed by the foul assassin's bullet. The manner of his passing was the hour of his greatest triumph. He has joined the ranks of the great immortals and his soul shines for ever and will continue to becken us to rise to the heights to which he longed for India to rise. But we have to ask ourselves as to why some amongst us had sunk so low as to have connived at the death of one of the greatest men the world had ever produced. For Socrates the poisoned cup, for Christ the Cross, for Gandhi the bullet. Must it ever remain so? Has the world progressed not a whit since creation's dawn? the cult of violence which has undoubtedly raised its venomous head once again in our land going to poison us? This is the question we have to ask ourselves. If we want to build an India that is worth-while we must eschew violence. We must eschew communalism which is the sport of little minds. There must be ample room for all to grow and serve in our land. Man learns from fellow man. The moment he ceases to think for himself he dies. Those of us who think of this land in terms of a Hindu State are contributing to its destruction.

This is indeed a testing time for us and whether we come through it or not depends wholly on ourselves whether we have the moral fibre, the vision, the wisdom to understand, the richness of Gandhiji's sacrifice and to cling to the only anchor that holds—the anchor of Truth and Love. In the building of this India women have a most important part to play. I believe that we can make an enormous contribution to the bringing about of communal harmony. The training of children is in our hands. If we can instil into their minds the virtues of Truth and Love we shall start to build aright.

You have graduated in the art of healing, you have joined one of the noblest professions which a human being can join. What greater service to fellow human beings can there be than to ease their sufferings? You have an enormous field of such service open to you. The greater the need the greater the oppor-tunity for service, the more one has the more one has to give. And it is for that selfless service that I hope your education here will have trained you. I have dwelt on the need—the immense need-for the curative side of medicine and surgery in our land. I speak as a layman but I do feel that up till now the preventive side of disease has been sadly neglected. I am sure that more than half our ailments are due to the lack of knowledge of how to live. We disobey the laws of nature and nature has her revenge on us. We shall not have touched the fringe of the question of providing better health for our masses until we lay the stress that should be laid on health education.

And when I speak of the masses I mean the villagers with whom we who live in towns are hopelessly unacquainted. They are the ones that need your help. I do hope that village India will call vou. It has hurt me not a little during these past few months to find among our displaced doctors, both men and women, no or little desire to restart their medical life in villages or even in small townships. A miserable room in a city like Delhi attracts them more. This is a wrong attitude and while Government must share the blame to the full in not having made the village attractive and liveable, educated and trained persons in every walk of life, more especially in the noble professions of teaching and doctoring and nursing have got to be pioneers and migrate to the villages and become one with the villagers if India is to rise to her full stature. I believe that calamities are best overcome if we try to learn the lesson they are meant to impart. I have that even some of the displaced doctors, having suffered griev-ously as they have, will be tempted to pass the remainder of their lives in the service of the needy villagers.

In this way we can turn evil into good, It is not the surgeon or the physician who achieves success in a well equipped hospital with all the instruments and appliances and nursing and other ancillary staff at his elbow who will be doing the greatest work but the doctor who will save life in a hovel with, perhaps, an improvised operating table and with nothing but his own skill and spirit of service to help him. He will perhaps have to be physician and surgeon and nurse and dispenser all rolled into one. Of such stuff are pioneers made and I hope that to many of you will be given this strength and the missionary spirit of adventure and service.

#### Unpopularity of Hospitals

Another thought I would like to share with you is my unhappiness at the unpopularity, generally speaking, of our hospitals in the minds of the poor. There is no denying the fact that bribery and corruption, callousness and lack of sympathy do exist to an appreciable extent from the lowest rung of the ladder upwards in these institutions. I receive complaint after complaint. They hurt me. Hospitals are meant to serve, to heal, to bring relief to all, regardless of whether the patient is rich or poor. I do not grudge the labourer his hire. Indeed I am sad at the low salaries many of the lower grade servants of hospitals, doctors in rural areas and nurses get. That state of affairs must be remedied. But I do also feel that money-making does mar the beauty of this noble pro-fession. There is talk in many countries of nationalising medical aid. Why? Is it not because the medical profession has failed to rise to its full height? If those who belong to the profession were to serve in the right spirit they would surely belong to the nation as no one else can.

Here in India we have had the tradition of free medical aid to the community. There was State patronage in the old days for the Vaidya and Hakim and he was accessible to all. However, impracticable this may be today, because

### Institute For Technical Training

With a view to improving the efficiency of the instructors employed at the training centres, training of new instructors to meet the requirements of the Central and Provincial Governments, and to providing a refresher course for instructors for keeping them conversant with the latest methods of teaching and production, the Ministry of Labour has decided to establish a Central Institute for the training of instructor, which will be the first of its kind in India, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment on March 17.

The Institute will be established at the Combined Technical and Vocational Training Centre, Koni Camp, Bilaspur, Central Provinces, and will train 200 instructions at a time. The duration of the course will be five and a half months. Training will be provided for

blacksmiths, carpenters (including pattern-makers), draughtsmen (mech.), mechanics (general), tin and copper-smiths, turners, manufacture of foot-wear, cutting and tailoring, calico-printing, knitting with hand machines, electricians (including electrical artificers, wiremen, linemen, and armature winders), mechanics (motor), machinists, welders (gas-electric), moulders, electroplaters, instrument mechanics, hand weaving, soap-making, basket and willow work.

The Advisory Committee on technical training, representing Government, employer, labour and engineers had, in its report submitted in 1945, advocated the establishment of a "Training Centre for Instructors", the short supply of which it anticipated to be the real bottleneck in the future development of industry in India.

of lack of money which alsa hampers our progress in the field of medical aid at every turn. It is to the ideal of giving of your knowledge and talents to those in distress without desire for reward that I wish to turn your attention. Moreover the doctor and the nurse have to give not only of their skill but they have also to give themselves. Sympathy, personal interests, human understanding are no less contributory factors to the well-being of patients and their ultimate recovery than the knife and medicaments. The psychological bond between the doctor, the nurse and the patient may not be ignored. This side of service should appeal specially to women doctors and nurses for women's hearts, if women are true to their sex, should be most tender and responsive to suffering.

There is no doubt that there was, generally speaking, a definite deteriora-tion in our standards of integrity during the war. Black marketing and corruption in every sphere of life came in and have not yet been stamped out. The setting and demanding of standards of morality in both private and public life are essential if happiness and wellbeing are to follow in the wake of freedom, as they should. Gandhiji, soon after I was called to work in the Health Ministry, wrote and asked me whether I was incharge of the bodily health of the people or of the moral also. It seemed to him that the latter was even more important today. You doctors and nurses and all others in the medical service can set such standards as will raise the moral tone of society. If you are true to the high calling of your profession you will by your personal example purify medical institutions so that the people may flock to them in confidence and find friends in you and in our hospitals havens of refuge from pain and suffering, both physical and mental.

#### Concrete Suggestions

I would also like our women doctors to turn their attention to the vast field of research that lies open to them. They have not been attracted to it, in large enough numbers so far. The indigenous systems of medicine have languished largely because their practitioners have ceased to do research. There must still be drugs lying unexplored in Indian herbs. Just as I feel that Vaidyas and Hakims should drink deep at the fountain of knowledge of Allopathy and be grounded in science so do I feel that our Allopathic doctors should do vigorous research in indigenous drugs and contribute to the proper development of what is scientific in the ancient system of medicine of this ancient land.

The Bhore Committee have given many concrete suggestions which are worthy of being brought into being straightaway. Alas! that we have not the wherewithal to do so today. But the ideal is there and I feel it is in the hands of enthusiastic members of the medical profession to create an irresistible demand for more rapid progress. I do hope that a beginning will very shortly be made in the matter of an All India Medical Institute

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in Delhi. I should like to see a children's hospital in Delhi manned largely by women doctors. I trust your immediate needs of air conditioning of your operation theatre, extension of your Nurses hostel, more accommodation for Assistants and House Surgeons and an internal telephone system for the hospital may soon be fulfilled.

I congratulate those of you who have gained degrees. One of your dreams has been fulfilled. I hope you will leave the portals of your Alma Mater or serve her here as the case may be with the full sense of responsibility that should be yours as daughters of a free India. The humanity that you serve will judge you far more strictly than the examiners who have considered you worthy to be graduates. And it is according to how you fare in the university of life, according to how much happiness and well-being you are able to contribute by means of your scientific knowledge and your human relations with your patients that you will contribute to the country's weal. I wish you all every success in your future career and pray that for each one of you your degree will not only mean an entrance into a profession as a means of livelihood but a vocation whereby you may be privileged to serve the sick, suffering, sad and miserably poor humanity of this land in the highest and truest sense of the term.

## PENSIONS FOR R.I.N. RATINGS

Pensioned ratings of the R. I. N. or heirs of deceased ratings eligible for family pensions, who have migrated to India from Pakistan or from Jammu and Kashnir, should send their applications in writing, together with the pension certificate or a true copy thereof, to the Controller of Naval Accounts, Bombay. Those who have lost their pension certificates should apply in writing to the Captain, R. I. N. Barracks, (Pension Office), Bombay. Applications should be sent by registered post.

Particulars of the official number, Ship-Establishment, of the applicant (or of the deceased rating in case of family pensions), name of the treasury from which pension was last drawn and the date up to and for which the pension was last drawn must accompany the application. Applicants must specify their present address, the treasury serial number, if known, the rate of pension and the name of the treasury office from which they desire their pension to be drawn.

The applications must be supported by an identification certificate in duplicate, signed by a magistrate or a civilian gazetted officer, or a King's Commissioned Officer, or a King's Commissioned Indian Officer, or an Indian Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army or a serving Viceroy's Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army or a Commissioned R. I. N. Officer.

Any one of these officers or the Secretary, District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board, must certificate the true copy of the pension certificate where it is enclosed. The identification certificate must contain an undertaking from the pensioner that he will repay any provisional payment to which he is not entitled.

## PLEA FOR SOCIALIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICE

AF, as is envisaged, the State should make itself responsible for a well developed health service serving all sections of the community throughout the country it seems natural to conclude that, eventually, an independent medical profession will hardly have a chance to survive," said Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, in his inaugural address delivered at the Second Gujerat and Kathiawar Medical Conference held in Rajkot on March 27.

Dr. Mehta added that a socialised medical service will have many advantages including the provision of equal attention to the rich and the poor alike and the extension of health services to sparsely populated regions which prove unattractive to private practitioners.

The following is the full text of Dr. Jivraj Mehta's address:—

I am grateful to the organisers of the 2nd Gujerat and Kathiawar Medical Conference for the opportunity given to me to participate in its deliberations. Gujerat is undergoing today a transformation of great importance resulting in the emergence of a politically homogenous structure, which should help to promote social, economic and cultural developments of a far-reaching nature in the coming year.

#### **Duty of Doctors**

We of the medical profession have also a share to contribute towards this task of moulding the life of the community in a manner designed to improve the health, happiness and productive capacity of the individual. In attempting to do so I feel that our profession will have to take a broader view than in the past of our duties and responsibilities towards the public and conscioully guide ourselves to play our part not only in preventing ill-health and affording relief to those who are sick but also in assisting the people to live a fuller and richer life through an integrated functioning of their physical, mental and emotional faculties. These varied duties can be performed by the medical man only when he combines in himself a high standard of professional attainment with a cultural background rich in the knowledge of men and of affairs. Our forefathers in the days of glory for Ayurveda largely attained this level of achievement through the deliberate acceptance of a life characterised by plain living and high thinking. India's ancient traditions show the medical man at his best, a student of nature, intellectually alert and ready to learn by observation and experiment, and trained, in so far as professional ethics are concerned, to disdain to use his great talents for healing sickness and for ministering relief to suffering patients in order to amass wealth or add to his material comforts purely in the worldly sense of the term.

But the present-day practitioners of Ayurveda have unfortunately lost their scientific approach having learnt to lean unduly on the authority of the ancient masters of their science and they have also tended to fall away from the high standards of professional conduct they had inherited from the past. Nor are we, who profess to practise modern scientific medicine fulfilling in any large measure the requirements of a scientific practice of medicine or bringing to bear, in our professional work, that community outlook, as apart from the interests of the individual patient, so essential for the promotion of the public health. health. I realise that this state of affairs applies to both types of practitioners, ayurvedic as well as allopathic, and unless we get out of that mentality, largely influenced no doubt it is by modern conditions of life, there would be very little left of that nobility of the medical profession about which we so often boast. I feel, that the profession will fail to do its duty towards itself and the public if it fails to take stock of the situation periodically or to bring to bear the weight of its considered opinion on all relevant matters in order to promote

#### Our Health Problem

I should therefore like to refer to the part which we of the medical profession should play in improving the health of the country. Before doing so I may, however, survey briefly certain aspects of our health problem. These aspects should be taken note of in assessing the part that the medical men will play in the future health programme of the country.

(a) In the past the emphasis has been on the provision of adequate facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of disease rather than on preventive health work.

The basic need for expanding treatment facilities will no doubt continue and, in present-day India with the acuteness and extent of its morbidity problem and the extreme inadequacy of existing arrangements, it is obvious that a marked advance in this field must form an important part of the country's health programme. The complexity of modern medical practice has made it necessary to have, in an appreciable proportion of cases, laboratory, consultant and specialist services for diagnosis and treatment. In America and elsewhere the develop-ment of "group practice" by a body of medical men has taken place in order to meet this need. In Great Britain the new National Health Scheme will provide for the establishment of Health Centres where all such facilities will be made available by the State to all the doctors working under the scheme. In India Governments will have to make themselves responsible for the provision of these facilities if the requirements of its large and scattered population are to be met.

(b) Side by side with such developments in the curative field a parallel expansion of preventive health services is equally necessary. Without it existing

sickness and mortality rates can hardly be reduced to any marked extent. A preventive service dealing with the control of insect vectors of diseases such as mosquitoes, flies, fleas and lice, improvements in environmental hygiene so as to provide safe water supplies and better housing conditions and the provision of adequate nutrition will probably reduce sickness and death by well over 50 per cent.

- (c) In India the most urgent need is to carry medical aid and preventive care as much as possible to the rural population, who are numerically six or seven times more than the inhabitants of urban centres and who have been greatly neglected in the past.
- (d) While medical men and women will no doubt form the beckbone of a national health service we must remember that the part which non-medical men can play is continually expanding. Control measures against insect pests, sterilisation of water supplies and preventive inoculation, for instance, can be carried out effectively by non-medical workers with appropriate training and with adequate supervision. Similarly, in the field of medical research, it is being increasingly recognised that team work is essential and the medical man is finding that highly trained scientists in other fields, e.o., biochemists, entomologists, cytologists and statisticians are as necessary as himself for a co-ordinated attack on the problems of health and disease.
- (e) Apart from the provision of adequate medical care, curative and preventive, there should be a sustained effort to train the individual in the hygienic mode of life and to assist him or her to develop an integrated personality designed to promote continual adjustment to the stress and strain of daily life. This programme of education, while it is to be sedulously pursued in a manner to influence every section of the community and persons at all ages, will be particularly productive of results in the case of children in the formative years of their life and, in such a scheme of education. attention will naturally concentrate on mothers and children. Maternity and child welfare activities and school health work, particularly their preventive and educational aspects, must therefore assume a degree of importance hithertounrecognisd in the health administration of the country.
- (f) It is clear that the duties which the doctor of the future will be called upon to perform will increase in scope and change in quality. In addition to the carrying out of curative and preventive measures in respect of the sick and the convalescent, he will find himself increasingly concerned with the healthy members of the community also.

  "Medical supervision of work and play, of the food that people eat, of public provision for rest and recuperation as well as periodical medical examination and the rectification of faulty modes of life will be some of the many new duties that the physician of the future will be called upon to undertake". Professor Henry E. Sigerist has well described the physician of tomorrow in the following words:—

"Scientist and social worker, ready to co-operate in teamwork, in close touch with people he disinterestedly serves, a friend and leader he directs all his efforts towards the prevention of disease and becomes a therapist where prevention has broken down, the social physician protecting the people and guiding them to a healthier and happier life".

This brief discussion indicates the need for a wider conception of health service than in the past. If we are to accept, as is the trend in other countries, that adequate health protection is one of the "national minima" which the citizens have the right to demand from Governments, it is clear that a wide expansion of ourative and preventive health service will be necessary and that such expansion must particularly take note of the needs of the rural population. In the past, owing to a variety of causes which include lack of amenities and inadequacy of educational facilities for children, health workers of all types, medical and non-medical, have been unwilling to go to the rural areas. Every effort therefore have to be made to induce these workers to cater to the needs of the rural population. Another factor to reckon with is that the doctor in the rural areas will have to combine within himself both curative and preventive functions if he is to discharge his duties satisfactorily. It is the practice in India and other countries to prohibit private practice in respect of medical officers employed on preventive health work. It will therefore seem to be likely that the rural health service that will be developed in the future will consist of wholetime salaried medical officers who will be prevented from taking up private practice and will, at the same time, be given adequate scales of pay.

#### Advantages of Socialization

If, as is envisaged, the State should make itself responsible for a well developed health survice serving all sections of the community throughout the country it seems natural to conclude that, eventually, an independent medical profession will hardly have a chance to survive. This does not mean that initiative and enterprise need be killed in a Statecontrolled organisation of the type we are envisaging. The fear is widely entertained that the security of tenure and graded system of promotion which public service provides may lead to an impairment of efficiency. The only way of counteracting such a tendency would be for the State to regulate the conditions of service in such a manner as to emphasize efficiency as the sole criterion for promotion in order to provide the necessary stimulus for good work. It may also be pointed out that the provision of facilities for study tours and for research as well as a system of awards in public recognition of sound work will help to ensure that stagnation as the result of apathy is reduced to the minimum. The advantages of a socialised medical service for the community are (a) the provision of equal attention to the rich and the poor alike; (b) the creation of an integrated curative and preventive service; (c) extension of health services to sparsely populated regions which prove unattractive to private practitioners and (d) the training of medical men and other health personnel in numbers sufficient to meet the requirements of the country

and not in the haphazard manner in which it takes place today.

This is the long-term picture, as I conceive it of the health organisation that will eventually come into being in the country. In the immediate future, while it would seem desirable to establish, as far as possible, a full-time salaried service with prohibition of private practice for the rural areas, the utilisation of part-time and honorary workers from existing private practitioners in the State health organisation is evidently desirable, particularly in the larger towns and cities. As the State health services expand, increasing numbers of these private practitioners are bound to get absorbed into public service. The development of an efficient and contented state of health service will of course depend on adequate emoluments being given to the staff, these being sufficient to attract to the medical profession intelligent men and women in competition with other services, industry and various sources of employment.

Lastly, it may be emphasized that the medical man of the future will have to be a person with a wide range of culture if he is to fulfil his functions adequately and if he is to be a social physician to lead the people to a healthier and happier life. He may not be able to amass large income as some of the leaders of the profession do today. He should, however, be assured of a comfortable salary and will be free from the anxieties of the early years of struggle in a world of

## RELEASED INDIAN EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Released Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers and officers of the A.I.R.O. are eligible for the grant of the following types of commissions in the Indian Army; (a) One year's Short Service Regular Commission under Army Instruction (India) 3/8/48; (b) Three to five years' Short Service Regular Commissions under Army Instruction (India) 16/8/46; and (c) Permanent (India) 16/8/46; and (c) Permanent Segular Commission under Army Instruction (India) 374/46 read with A.I. (I) 244/47, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on March 19.

These Instructions can be consulted at the nearest military unit, formation or Recruiting Office. Officers, who are eligible and desirous of commission of any of the above types, are directed to make applications to the "Selection of Officers Section" Organization Directorate, Adjutant General's Branch, Army Headquarters, India New, Delhi, GHQ P. O.

Mr. P. C. Mukerjee, Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, is appointed to officiate as General Manager, Bengal Naspur Railway, in place of Mr. S.J.P. Cambridge, who proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement from April 22, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on March 19.

### EVERY WOMAN MUST DO SOCIAL SERVICE that there is a high maternal mortality rate in this country. The spend of

### Lord Mountbatten's Convocation Address

would urge that girls should give at least two or three years' service as teachers before they marry. If, however, a girl feels she must marry before she has been able to give this service to her country then I hope she will do her best to persuade her husband to allow her to continue to give as much service as possible after marriage", said His Excellency Lord Mountbatten in his Convocation Address to the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, on March 19.

His Excellency said:

I realise it is a great privilege for a mere man to be allowed to enter these portals. I believe that some of my A.D.Cs would have liked to be given similar facilities to enter the College and visit some of the beautiful students whom I see collected before me, and in this respect I feel I have been luckier than them.

But joking apart I have another and much more important reason for being glad to have the chance of meeting you all and talking to you today.

Some of you may have read in the newspapers the remarks I made at the Silver Jubilee Convocation of the Delhi University, and will have noticed how much I stressed the importance of the role which the Indian universities can and must play in the development of India. Now, Delhi University is only one of a number of universities and other educational establishments in India, but the Lady Irwin College is, so far as I know, the only college of its type in the whole of India.

Therefore everything I say about the importance of universities in general applies with far greater force to the Lady Irwin College, and I myself have no doubt that there should be at least one such college in every province.

#### Government Policy

As you all know, the policy of the Government of India is to raise the standard of living to the crores of your fellow countrymen and women less fortunate than yourselves. They now live in miserable hovels, ill-elad, undernourished and illiterate and the Government's aim is to ensure that they shall be able to earn enough to enable them to live in decent, modern, hygienic houses and cottages, to be adequately dressed, well nourished, in good health and educated. It is up to the Government of India so to replan the economy of India that this can come about and that there shall be enough houses, cloth, food, doctors, nurses and teachers to meet the demands that the new policy will produce.

It is clear that pioneers are required to spread the new policy among the masses, and those pioneers can only come from the fortunate few whose privilege it is to be in the great universities, colleges and schools of India.

Today I particularly want to talk about the part that the women of India can play in helping the Government policy forward. It is obvious that what we want is the greatest number of competent, enthusiastic women teachers to go out and teach other girls about domestic science and mothercraft. I have no doubt that those of you who qualify here at the Lady Irwin College can and will spread this knowledge, but there are already too few of you and as I have said we want many more colleges like the Lady Irwin College.

How then can we make the most of the output of this one college?

First I would urge that girls should give at least two or three years' service as teachers before they marry. If, however, a girl feels she must marry before she has been able to give this service to her country then I hope she will do her best to persuade her husband to allow her to continue to give as much service as possible after marriage. This should surely be a service of love for one's country and one's fellow beings which the personal love for one man should not be allowed to stop.

#### High Calling of Teaching

Then again I would like you all to consider whether it is not possible to continue in the high calling of teaching for a far longer period than I have mentioned. I am not suggesting that you should give up the idea of marriage; indeed looking round at the youth and beauty before me I realise that I should probably be lynched by the young men of India if I were to try and deprive them of the chance of finding their wives from among the girls who are probably going to make the best wives and mothers of anybody in India.

No, what I am thinking of is that your husbands might be prepared to agree to your continuing to help your country's development as teachers after marriage.

In my opinion a woman after she has married and particularly after the has become a mother, is obviously going to be a more experienced and valuable teacher in domestic science and mothercraft; it is in fact the very time in a woman's life when we do not want the country to be deprived of her service. On the other hand there are obvious difficulties in the way, for if a woman is to render public service for even part of the day, who is to look after her children? Creches, where the latter could be cared for during her absence on duty will be extremely useful and one way of solving the difficulty. Most working husbands do not need attention during the day for they generally have their midday meal in office. To plan one's day wisely is an art which needs to be cultivated.

I am sure I do not need to remind you that there is a high maternal mortality rate in this country. The spread o medical science and the nursing profession will help, but the knowledge of domestic science and mothercraft will do as much as any of these to counteract this high mortality rate. Is not this therefore a worthwhile cause to which to devote a part of your life? I am sure you will agree that it is, and that you will be proud to give that service.

There are also other ways in which the women who have been trained here can help. I know from my wife and others that here in the Lady Irwin College no trace of communalism has ever entered. Here in this College, the creed for which Gandhiji gave his life is automatically an everyday part of the life of the College. All of you who go out will be automatically taking with you this spirit of religious tolerance and communal hermony, and that I am sure in itself will be a vital service to the country which can be rendered by all of you whether you marry early or late and whether circumstances allow you to continue to teach or not.

#### Social Service

Too long has the education of girls in India been neglected. It is high time it had priority if this country is to rise to her full stature. The women who conceived the idea of and brought this college into being are to be congratulated on their vision. It is only right that the Education Departments both Central and Provincial should now take up the work they have begun and see to it that such institutions are established and fostered at the Centre and in evey Province at the earliest opportunity.

I am glad to learn that pari passu with your studies you devote a certain time to social service. This is as it should be and I was delighted to learn from my wife of how the staff and students helped so magnificently during the dark days of the disturbances sometimes by working all night in order to took "chapattis" to be dropped by air for hungry refugees. I believe the work of making, collecting, sorting, repairing, packing and despatching of clothes and blankets which come from all over India for the refugees is still going on.

I am also interested to learn from those responsible for the policy expansion of this institution of their ambition to have a children's school on the premises in which student teachers obtain practical experience. It is also hoped to have a handicrafts section, in addition to all your immediate requirements for more buildings. In view of the fact that the Indian Government has accepted the scheme of Basic Education for schools all over India, that is to say each child will receive training in a handicraft, I am quite sure that both these ambitions worthy and I hope they will be fulfilled in the not too distant future.

In conclusion may I congratulate all those who have secured their Diplomas this year. I trust these will inspire them to make full use of the opportunities of service that are bound to come to them.

My wife and I will continue to follow the fortunes of the Lady Irwin College with the greatest of interest and wish you all the best of luck.



## GOVERNMENT'S LABOUR POLICY Having regard to the diversity of conditions obtaining in India, it has not been an easy task and it was necessary to consult Provincial Governments. This was responsible for some delay. We have

### Minister's Statement At Press Conference

EXPLAINING Government's
Labour policy and programme of
Legislation, the Honourable Mr.
Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, stated
at a Press Conference held in New Delhi
on March 18.

The aftermath of the war has brought a spate of industrial disputes in all industrialised countries. India is no exception. In 1945 the total number of working days lost on account of industrial disputes was roughly 40,50,000. In 1947 it rose to as much as 1,53,00,000 (upto November only). Even in normal times strikes and lookouts may not be regarded as the only legitimate means of resolving differences between employers and their work-people, but the time are not normal now. We are faced with allround shortages of essential commodities-food, clothing, etc. These shortages have led to the widespread evils of black-marketing. Industrial disputes or any 'go slow' policy will only accentuate the evil. What is now necessary is more and more production to make good the shortages of essential commodities.

In the existing circumstances, a national Government could not possibly shut its eyes to the problems of production. And some means had to be found to overcome the desperate situation created by the prevailing industrial discontent. The Industrial Truce resolution which was adopted by the Industrial Conference in December last was accepted by employers' and workers' representatives who attended the Conference. It is true that they came in their individual capacity but there was every hope that they would carry their respective organisations with them Government are now proceeding to implement that resolution and with this object in view they are setting up a tripartite machinery at various levels, Central, Regional and Unit Committees, charged with the duty of giving effect to the various clauses of the Industrial Truce resolution. The procedure adopted by the Government of India is the one which has been made familiar to all by the International Labour Organisation. Experience has also shown that tripartite machinery of the kind contemplated is the best machinery for promoting harmony and all-round reasonableness. The Industrial all-round reasonableness. Truce resolution secures to labour honourpartnership in industry and full recognition of its rights. It, however. imposes in the larger interests of the country the obligation that its rights will be exercised in a reasonable manner and that when conflict threatens, every effort will be made to resolve differences through the recognised channels of conciliation and arbitration.

The Ministry of Labour do not merely intend to pursue the purely negative policy of resolving industrial conflict. We have already embarked on a positive programme of labour legislation which

represents a great advance on what has been attempted not only in India but in Asia. In fact, in many respects our programme of labour legislation brings us within measurable distance of the achievements of Western countries which were industrialised very much earlier than India. The main features of our programme are as follows:

#### Recruitment

The greatest curse of the Indian system of recruitment is the dependence of industrialists on middlemen, most of whom are in the habit of exploiting the labour which they supply to the employer. The second great curse of the Indian system is the haphazard method of employment, as a result of which no records of the worker are usually maintained. He may come or go, no body cares. To overcome these evils, Government have set up an Employment Service consisting of a network of Employment Exchanges, where records of recruits are maintained. The success of the Employment Service, will depend entirely on its efficiency and the support which it receives from the employers. In building up this service every effort has been made to adopt the up-to-date techniques of the most advanced industrial countries, the United States and the United Kingdom. The duty of the Employment Service is to get the right man for the job. In order to achieve this objective, the Employment Service has to undertake (a) Standardisation of occupational terms, (b) technical and vocational training of workers, (c) registration and maintenance of card indices. All this is technical work requiring skill and experience. We have secured the assistance of outside experts and we are now in the process of training our own men to do the job on their own.

#### Agricultural Labour

A very legitimate criticism of our labour policy is that we have confined our attention entirely to the industrial worker, ignoring the rapidly growing landless rural population, which works for others as agricultural labourers and also as cottage workers. These categories clearly come within the scope of labour legislation and this has been accepted by a ruling of the Permanent Court of the I. L. O. Whereas our industrial labour population may be in the neighbourhood of six to seven millions.
Agricultural labour will be at least ten times that number, and possibly very much more. About agricultural labour, we have remained completely in the dark, not caring to know as to how they live, how they work and what they get. In this state of ignorance, it is not possible for Government to do much agricultural labour and the first requisite is to know the facts. This we propose to do by our agricultural enquiry. A questionnaire is being prepared and we hope it will be finalised shortly.

Having regard to the diversity of conditions obtaining in India, it has not been an easy task and it was necessary to consult Provincial Governments. This was responsible for some delay. We have further brought pressure to bear upon the I. L. O. to undertake a special study of the conditions of agricultural labour. It is understood that specially qualified research officers will be sent out to the Delhi Branch for this purpose. In this connection, it may be mentioned that our Minimum Wages Act, which has recently been brought upon the Statute Book, provides for wage regulation in agriculture.

Connected with agricultural labour is plantation labour. Here too the conditions have been unsatisfactory since a long time. We have set up an Industrial Committee on Plantations and as a result of the first meeting there was an immediate increase in wages in Bengal and Assam. We have now had a wage census by Mr. Deshpande, the Director of the Labour Bureau, and a health survey by Maj. Lloyd Jones. Both these reports should prove invaluable as a basis for further progress. They will be considered at the next meeting of the Plantations Committee which is to be held on the 31st March and subsequent days. At this meeting we propose to work up the details of our proposed legislation for plantations.

#### Wages

In regard to wages, the attitude of the Government of India in the past has been one of complete inaction due no doubt of the implicit acceptance of the doctrine to laissez faire, wherehy wages regarded as a contract which must be settled entirely by the parties to the contract namely the employer and his workers. Such a policy is now completely out of date and the Minimum Wages Act, which has now come on the Statute Book, is our first approach towards wages regulation. This, however, is not the only approach because in labour matters co-operation is better than compulsion. Before compelling employers to pay a minimum wage, it is felt that some attempt should be made to induce them to agree to s wage which will be accepted as ressonable by both parties and the Government.

Here too the tripartite machinary has been most valuable. The setting of Industrial Committees on a tripartite basis will, it is hoped, promote greater justice in the matter of wages than even the Minimum Wages Act. In many cases, wages has been improved as a result of conciliation or adjudication in industrial disputes. Conciliation of the conciliation of ation machinery is being built up gradually and it needs to be strengthened further. The Indian law incorporates the principle of adjudication which was adopted in most countries during wartime. We have in India under the Industrial Disputes Act conciliation and compulsory adjudication. The Act. however, has been so drafted as to provide all reasonable safeguards for the workers and if there is compulsion it is applied fairly to both sides and only in the public interest.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1948
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The Employees State Insurance Bill s our most important move in the direction of social security. It is a limited measure applying only to factory workers. But unfavourable inferences regarding this measure must not be drawn from its limited scope. Health insurance requires machinery and in the present state of our health services in the country that machinery is entirely lacking. Our Bill which is now before the Legislature is in effect a pilot measure intended to test what we can do. If we can tackle the problem of the factory worker, we will be able to extend the scope of health insurance gradually to all categories of workers. In this connection, it may be pointed out that at the recent Asian Conference, the experts of the I.L.O. gave a clear warning that in Asia the immediate realisation of social security was quite impracticable and that the only hope was to proceed towards this goal in gradual stages.

The great lacuna in social security is the absence of any form of unemployment insurance or unemployment assistance. In a country with a population of over 300 millions, where the bulk of the population is in rural areas and mostly under-employed, unemployment insurance or assistance would be a gigantic task. Besides, unemployment insurance is quite impracticable without a fully organised and efficient system of employment exchanges. Under the existing conditions of recruitment, unemployment insurance is unrealisable. For this reason, it is important that the steps which are being taken in regard to recruitment should be accelerated.

#### Rate of Progress

In regard to the other conditions of employment, our important measures are the revising of the Factories Act and the revision of the Mines Act, both of which will make these measures in keeping with similar measures in more highly developed industrial countries. We have also now provided for canteens, holidays with pay, etc. and in the mines for pithead baths. These are modern features, in which we are hoping to keep abreast with the rest of the world. Weltare sohemes have been promoted in special industries, e.g., coal and mica.

For colliery workers, a modern housing scheme has already been put into operation and it is making commendable progress, having regard to the difficulties in regard to the availability of raw materials Government are also contemplating a large scale Workers' Housing Scheme throughout the country which, it is hoped, will provide a million modern houses for workers in the course of the next ten years.

Our rate of progress has not pleased everybody. The Ministry itself fully realises that there is no room for complacency. Much remains to be done as will be clear from the five year programme which was prepared in 1946-47. Nevertheless, taking into account the difficulties, it is felt that India can be rightly proud of her recont achievements in the labour sphere. If there was one fact that was prominently brought out by the Proparatory Asian Conference of the I. L. O., recently held in India, it is that

(Cencluded on page 540)

#### CALL TO OBSERVE INDUSTRIAL PEACE

#### Labour Minister's Broadcast

N appeal to labour leaders and trade unions to bury political differences for the time being and to join hands in the production campaign was made by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, in a speech broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on March 21.

He said: I was to have spoken to you earlier on the subject, but the programme was interrupted by the great calamity which overtook India in the death of our beloved leader, Mahatma Gandhi. Shortly before his crucifixion, Mahatmaji had written an article in 'The Harijan' in which he had said that although we had won political freedom, we had yet to win economic freedom, social freedom and moral freedom. The 'economic freedom' of which Bapu spoke has a direct bearing on the subject of my talk tonight.

In a broader sense, economic freedom implies the elimination of our abject dependence on outside sources for our economic development. The war ex-posed our shameful deficiency in respect of essential commodities. There appeared local and general shortages, which, as we all know to our cost, gave birth to the hydra-headed monsters of blackmarketing, hoarding and profiteering, All this we have seen practised on a scale, which the country had never known before, and which showed the depth of degradation to which man, in his insati able greed, could stoop. These evils upset the country's economy, forced prices up, and created conditions, at once abominable, adding, progressively, fresh loads of hardship to the already heavy burden of the common man.

#### Vicious Circle

You will, no doubt, agree that a vicious circle has been created with prices and wages chasing each other, with wages inevitably lagging behind prices. In such a situation even increased wages can offer but little prospect of relief. With the trend of prices as they are today, we cannot even say that the end of deterioration is yet in sight. Of the many factors on which the demon of profiteering and black marketing feeds, the most potent is the short supply of goods: The shortage can be made good in two ways, either by higher imports from other countries, or, by increasing our own production. Increase in imports without a corresponding increase in our exports will only perpetuate our economic slavery, which will reduce our political freedom to mockery. Therefore, the only remedy is a substantial increase in production, which will give the devil of scarcity, a natural death. There can be no relief-not even a semblance of itfor the common man, unless production steps up and shortages disappear. Faced as we are with all round shortages of food, cloth, building materials, and what not, our new born freedom becomes meaningless in terms of material comfort and relief.

It is with a view to increasing production that an Industries Conference was convened by the Government of India in December last, at which all the parties concerned, namely, capital, labour and Government were represented. That Conference, after careful consideration, called for a three year Industrial Truce, in the hope, that it will go some way in meeting the crisis. The Conference visualised a period of industrial peace when there would be no lock-outs or strikes, or any other form of stoppage or slowing down of work.

#### A Challenge to the Country

While the country looked forward to the implementation of the truce, and to the opening of a new and happy chapter of industrial relations, we received a rude shock—a warning that all was not well. There have been strikes and lock-out., and other only manifestations of unresponsiveness to the country's call. Now, I take this as a significant symptom. If for any reason any one believes that chaos is necessary before a particular political ideology can find fruition, and to that extent, any thing which causes embarsament to Government, or dislocation of the country's economy, is something desirable, it is a challenge which the country cannot take lying down. There can be no toying with the people's interests. Any such course, if allowed to continue, is the surest way of perpetuating the misery and hardships of our masses, and of thwarting the national effort to bring succour to the people.

Our nation has to contend against many odds-both internal and external. Our very existence is endangered; our freedom is at stake. For sheer selfpreservation, we have to wage a relentless war on the Home Front, of which each farm and factory constitute a vital sector. Thus, each worker, irrespective of his field of operation, assumes an importance, all his own, for on his sweat and toil, depends the outcome of our national endeavour - our struggle for the country's economic freedom. Thus, each worker assumes the role of a soldier who holds the key to the country's destiny. Work, hard and honest work, work and ever more work, is the call of Mother India to-day. He who shirks, grumbles, or otherwise obstructs the programme of essential economic development—be he a capitalist, labourer, or public servant—is, by common consent a traitor to the country, whether he realises it or not. Each idle hand steals the country's wealth; each working hour lost is at once the nation's loss, which only helps to make the country poorer and her people even more miserable. Anything which hampers production robs the masses of India of a share of essential supply, and denies to them the relief to which they are legitimately entitled. This changes the whole aspect of our production problem, which we can ignore only at our peril. We must also remember that production of wealth is a pre-requisite of our tackling the problem of poverty—the problem of problems facing the country today.

The Indutrial Truce, which was unanimously agreed to by the representatives of capital and labour, demands that industrial disputes shall be settled without resort to lock-outs or strikes, and through the peaceful and lawful channels of conciliation and arbitration. And this, only to prevent loss of working hours, loss of wages, and loss of production, and the consequent loss to the country and to her people. This is a modest demand, the fulfilment of which entails no sacrifice, except that it does not permit either the employer or labour to resort to the extreme step, and thereby, hamper production. The conciliation machinery of the Central Government has been strengthened and Standing Tribunals have been established. Provincial Governments have also taken similar actions.

#### Employers' Greed

Our national goal cannot be reached unless capital and labour co-operate, in a spirit of mutual goodwill, for, without such co-operation, hopes of any real and substantial increase in output will be illusory. I trust, employers will not bury their heads in the sand, but heed the writing on the wall, and do everything necessary and possible, to create in their labour force, a sense of satisfaction, a feeling that it is an active partner in a common undertaking. They must shed their greed, as well as their prejudices. It helps nobody, neither employer nor worker, to rely on theoretical arguments to justify one's own interests. Times have changed, and considerable readjustment is necessary. Government have a vital responsibility in the matter, and we cannot, if we are to discharge our obligations to labour and to the country, leave the economic adjustment and the satisfaction of workers' legitimate demands to the sweet will of employers. We are therefore soon setting up central and regional Tripartite Committees for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions of labour and fair remuneration for capital. Steps also being taken for the establishment of Works Committees and Production Committees.

#### Banish Exploitation

The Government of India is pledged to ensure a fair deal to labour. The amelioration of the conditions of the working class, and remedying of the ageold iniquities which have crushed the worker under an unjust social order, and deprived him of the dignity which is his overdue. It is our declared policy that the worker in Free India will enjoy the fruits of his labour and a fair standard of living. The traditional exploitation of labour has to be banished. All factors, which militate against these accepted objectives, will have to be eliminated, come what may. In short, we are determined to secure justice and equitable treatment for the worker, to the best of our capacity. This task, stupendous as it is, will undoubtedly take time, and demand continuous effort.

You will appreciate that we do not have a magic wand, by waving of which we can achieve whatever we like. If I had one, I would not have hesitated even for a moment, to press it in the service of the toiler, and would thus have been glad to expiate for the sins committed against those, who sweat to sustain the life of the community. But, alas, the days of miracles are no more. We have to strive and persevere patiently and struggle against odds. We have, however, made an earnest beginning, and are proceeding along our set path. And to me personally, nothing can give greater satisfaction than if I can do anything, however imperfect it may appear, to better the lot of the poor worker. For, coming as I do from the ranks of the poor and the supressed, I know their woes and and miseries.

#### Government Measures

Some of the protective and ameliorative measures, we have adopted and are going to enforce for the benefit of the worker, would have been simply incon-ceivable, in the context of India's ceivable, in the context of backwardness in the matter of labour legislation. For example, we are soon going to put on the Statute Book the Workmen's State Insurance Bill, under which substantial relief, would be assured to workers in the event of sickness, maternity and accident. The Minimum Wages Act, just passed by the Union Legislature, empowers Government to fix minimum rates of wages in industry, including agriculture, and thus to prevent the exploitation of labour through the operation of sub-standard wages. A Provident Fund Scheme for coal miners has been formulated, and necessary powers for its institution are being taken through an Ordinance. This measure will instil a new hope in mine workers. The Factories Act is going to be amended further with a view to applying it also to smaller factories and to providing more adequate safeguards for workers.

I have received many a friendly warning that I was going too fast, and that India was not ripe for what is described as radical labour legislation. I shall plead with my critics and tell them that we have not gone far enough in our plans. There is so much to do, and even more to undo, that for a long time to come, there will be no danger of over-tapping the mark. But, I have taken the plunge, for I feel that the time for procrastination has gone. We cannot resile from our pledge to the working classthe masses of our countrymen, who have suffered long in neglect. The country needs a clear and firm policy. We shall not rest content, unless we are able to assure to the working class a decent standard of living, and the honoured place which belongs to it.

A step forward in this direction is our plan of workers' housing, which contemplates the construction of ten lakhs of workers' houses within the next ten years. Grandiloquent and ambitious though it may sound, it is nevertheless, being executed with speed and vigour at least in one industry. The miners' colonies that are springing up in the

coal fields of Bihar and Bengal will, I hope, serve as an earnest of our determination to see that labour shall, no more lead sub-human existence. It is in no spirit of complacency or self-commendation that I have cited these instances, I am anxious to move even faster, but there are limiting factors, which I cannot ignore. How happy shall I feel if labour could strengthen my hand by not falling into the trap of strikes, which are sometines, forced upon them to undermine their strength and dissipate their energy.

In this hour of national crisis our labour leaders and Trade Unions have a special responsibility. I. therefore, venture to make a personal appeal to them. I say, lot us forget our political differences; let us bury them for the time being. And in suggesting this, I am not demanding anything very difficult, much less the impossible. For, I know, you have patriotic hearts; the interests of Mother India are as dear to you as to me or any one else, Fortified in this belief. I say let us all join hands, pull our weight and make a success of our production campaign. We have to turn many a dangerous corner and negotiate sharp curves and precipitious routes, in our march, towards the goal. I, therefore, beg of you to respond wholeheartedly to the Nation's call, for let it not be said of our Trade Unions that they wavered, shirked or lagged behind at a time when our country's interests demanded unity and concerted action.

#### **GOVERNMENT'S LABOUR POLICY**

(Continued from page 539)

in labour matters India is certainly taking the lead in Asia. The prevailing industrial discontent in the country reflects to a large extent the conflict of ideologies, which is further evidence in the multiplicity of Central Labour Organisations operating in the country. We have National Trade Unionists, Radicals, Socialists and Communists, vying with each other for mattery over the entire field of labour.

The policy of the Ministry of Labour is to steer clear of ideological conflicts. We are not slaves to any ideologies, but we are prepared to consider any practical steps for the betterment of the workers. We hope to secure this betterment by every possible means, but it must be without creating chaos and confusion in the country. This we cannot afford. We are therefore pinning our faith on the tripartite machinery in India and the tripartite machinery of the I. L. O., to achieve our objectives. We claim to be the first country in Asia to have made use of tripartite machinery for the betterment of labour conditions. Our record, judged by international standards, is not bad, even taking into account the countries of Europe and America. In the I. L. O. itself we are one of the eight States of chief industrial importance and our actual rank would be fourth or at the lowest fifth. This is also a consideration which will inspire the Ministry of Labour in India to greater effort, for the ameliora-tion of the Indian workers.

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## RADIO AND RADAR EXHIBITION AT SAHARANPUR

An exhibition of Radio and Radar training equipment and apparatus was opened by Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Director General, Civil Aviation, at the Aeronautical Communication School at Saharanpur—the only institution of its kind in South East Asia—on March 20.

The highlights of the exhibition were the Radar section, showing models of Beam Approach Beacon System (BABS for short) which is used to guide pilots to the runway and assist them to land safely in poor visibility caused by fog or clouds and the model of a Direction Finding Station with the equipment used to fix the position of aircraft in flight. Other exhibits included typical equipment used for communications in civil aviation such as transmitters and receivers, recording equipment, samples of tools and tool look-ups made by the trainees, components and charts and diagrams to explain electronics, power supply and electrical teachnology.

Mr. Ghosh also distributed prizes at the Annual Sports Tournament organised by the trainees of the school.

In his speech to the trainees, Mr. Ghosh referred to the remarkable progress made by the country during the last year in civil aviation and stressed the need for more technicians to set India on the path of advancement. The establishment of the Communications School at Saharanpur, he said, was a landmark in the history of civil aviation in India. He paid a tribute to the fine team-work shown by the trainees in organising the exhibition and the sports events and

congratulated the Principal of the School, W/Cdr. F. C. Lowe.

Nearly 150 trainees are present under training in the School which gives 12 to 20 week refresher courses and ab-initio courses of 18 months' duration.

### REHABILITATION LOANS AND SURETIES

In order that refugees may be able to obtain financial assistance readily, the Government of India have decided to dispense with the condition regarding suretic. in the case of those seeking rehabilitation loans, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 22.

It was represented to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation that refugees were frequently unable to find two persons to stand sureties for them as required under the provisions of the Scheme of Rehabilitation Loans for displaced persons belonging to urban areas. It has now been decided that applicants should be asked to produce from two persons, who may themselves be refugees, a guarantee of good character and past solvency in Pakistan. In addition, the assets purchased out of the loan may be hypothecated to Government.



Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Director-General, Civil Aviation, presenting the "N. C. Ghosh Athletic Cup" to a trainee who secured the maximum number of points in the Annual Sports Tournament of the Aeronautical Communications School, Saharanpur, on Mar. 28

### New Postal Rates To Burma And Pakistan

With effect from April 1, 1948, postage rates from India to Burma, Pakistan and British Post office agencies in the Persian Gulf ciz., Bahrein, Dubai, Kuwait and Muscat, will be raised to the normal foreign postage rates, which are as below, says a Press Note issued by D. G., P. and T. on March 27:

(i) Letters for a weight not ex-	
	3 <u>}</u> as.
For every additional oz.	_
or fraction thereof	2 as.

(88)	Postcards		
• •	Single	 	2 as.
	Reply	 	4 84.

(iii) Printed Papers (except newspapers to Pakistan and Burma)  For every 2 oz. or part thereof  For newspapers to Pakistan and Burma the existing rates will con-	9	pies.
existing rates will con- tinue.		

(iv)	Business Papers		
	For a weight not		
	ing 10 oz. For every additions	3	88.
	or fraction thereo	9	pies.

(v)	Sample Packets	
	For a weight not exceed.	
	ing 4 oz	1 as.
	For every additional 2 oz.	
	or part thereof	
(vi)	"Blind Literature" Pack	ets.
	Half anna for every 21	

Half anna for every 21 bs. or fraction thereof, up to 171 pounds.

#### AIR-MAIL RATES.

From the same date the revised air fee rates for airmails to the countries mentioned above will be as follows:—

Letters and Packets etc.	6	as. per
Postcards	 3	as each.

These rates are inclusive of postage.

The parcel postage rates for Pakistan and the British Post Office agencies in the Persian Gulf will be as follows:

		Rs. us	р.
Pakistan			
Not over	2 lbs.	 1 10	0
,,	3 ,,	 1 15	0
,,	7 .,	 27	0
"	11 ,,	 2 15	0
**	22 .,	 4 13	0

British Post Office agencies in the Persian Gulf

			J 60.	a.	μ.
Not over	2 lbe.	• •	Į	4	0
**	3 lbs.	• •	1	4	0
**	7 "	• •	2	8	0
"	11		4	0	0
**	23 ,,		6	0	0

The parcel postage rates for Burma will be unchanged.



### WHAT IS A RADIOSONDE ?- EXPORT OF COTTON INDIAN SCIENTIST'S INGENUITY

TOW the ingenuity of Indian scientists evolved a delicate radio transmitter for sounding the atmosphere is described in a paper published by the India Meteorological Department.

The instrument designed was a fantype radiosonde, which made use of a paper fan in the place of ready-made clocks or clock mechanism owing to the difficulty of getting them in wartime. The radiosonde is attached to a hydrogen filled balloon and let loose in the air. As it rises, the fan rotates and the instrument sends radio signals. The signals are recorded on a special equipment on the ground and the data evaluated in terms of atmospheric pressure, temperature and humidity.

During the war, when air operations became widespread, the Meteorological Department had to extend its activities. One of the programmes they embarked on was to develop a radiosonde simple to construct from the materials and resources available in the country. The history of their experiments upto the successful designing of the fan-type radiosonde is told in the paper.

#### Description of Instrument

The Fan-type Radio Meteorograph sent up with a hydrogen-filled balloon consists of an instrument in which two metallic arms from bimetallic elements, indicating the variation of temperature, and a third from an aneroid box to indicate the pressure, move on an insulated tufnol cylinder with a fine helical wire wound on it. This tufnol cylinder is rotated through a worm gear train, the axle carrying the worm having a wheel of ten teeth making intermittent contacts with a small wireless transmitter. The wireless transmitter operates on a wavelength of 4 meters and is constructed from a single valve (HL23, 3 volts L. T. and 45 volts H. T.) The ten-tooth wheel is connected through a train of cheap clock wheels and pinions to a paper fan which rotates due to the ascent of the balloon itself. The rotation of this fan rotates the ten-teeth wheel and the tufnol cylinder with the silver wire wound in the form of a single helix. Wireless signals of short duration are emitted when the ten-tooth wheel rotates; but during this process when the metallic arms of the meteorological elements touch the silver spiral, signals of longer duration are emitted. To measure the meteorological elements, two fixed metallic arms are soldered to the metallic frame of the meteorograph and they rest on the tufnol cylinder. The number of signals due to the contacts of one of the fixed pen and that of, say, the dry bulb bimetallic pen is a measure of the dry bulb temperature; similarly for the others. The instrument is initially calibrated in the laboratory to evaluate the elements.

The wireless signals from the balloon are received and recorded on a moving paper tape after amplification so that they

can be counted easily. This instrument is one of the simplest in the field of Radio meteorography. It can also be made more easily portable and simpler to construct by adopting automatic electromagnetic counters to count the signal instead of doing this from a recorded tape.

The paper which was prepared by Messrs. S. P. Venkiteshwaran, R. P. Thatte and A. Kesavamoorthy also give the method of computation.

#### INTERNATIONAL COTTON **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The seventh meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee is scheduled to begin on April 1, 1948, in Cario, says a Press note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 29. India, as a member of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, has been invited to take part in the meeting, and the Government of India have decided to send the following delegation to represent them:

Leader: Mr. R.G. Saraiya, Vice-President, Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

Members: Mr. C.S. Patel, M.L.A., Bombay; Dr. V.G. Panse, Deputy Director (Research), Institute of Plant Industry, Indore.

Member-Secretary: Mr. N. G. Abhyankar, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food, New Delhi.

#### **EX-M!LL PRICES OF CLOTH** AND YARN

The Ministry of Industry and Supply in a Resolution dated November 17, 1947 referred the question of fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn to the Tariff Board, says a Press Note issued by the Tarif! Board (Ministry of Commerce) on March 21. In partial modification of this Resolution, the Government have now decided that the Tariff Board shall inquire into the cost of production of the various types of cloth and yarn produced and estimate fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn; secondly, devise a suitable method for necessary adjustments from time to time in the fair ex-mill prices of cloth and yarn so as to allow for major fluctuations in the prices of raw cotton and other elements of cost of production.

In order to facilitate consideration of this matter, the Board have prepared a revised questionnaire. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, Indian Tariff Board, Contractor Building, Nicol Road, Ballard Street, Bombay.

Firms or persons who desire to submit their views to the Board should send their representation to the Secretary.

## **PIECEGOODS**

The Government of India have fixed destinational quotas for cotton piece goods for the first half of 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 28.

Out of the total quota of 210 million yards, 77 million yards have been earmarked for the U.S.A. and other hard currency areas. Export of the balance —133 million yards—will be allowed on the basis of 75 per cent by established shippers and 25 per cent by new comers. Applications from new comers will be invited in due course.

Regarding the 77 million yards fixed for export to hard currency areas, intending exporters should apply to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, at the same time furnishing evidence on firm offers. Shipment against quotas granted to eligible applicants will be allowed on production of letters of credit before the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta and Bombay, or the Export Trade Controller, Madras, as the case may be, depending on the port from which shipment is to be effected.

Quota holders may export goods direct from an Indian port to any destination, except South Africa, on instructions from their indentors in the hard ourrency areas, provided payment is made in the hard ourrency concerned.

The hard currency countries are (a) the whole of the continent of North, Central and South America and adjacent islands excluding territories which are part of the sterling area, the Dutch monetary area and the French franc area; (b) the Belgian monetary area; (c) Japan; (d) the Philipines; (e) the Portuguese monetary area, ex-cluding Portuguese Lidia; (f) Sweden: (g) Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

#### APPLICATIONS TO TARIFF **BOARD FOR PROTECTION**

In addition to the claims from certain industries already referred to the Tariff Board, the Government of India have decided to forward to the Board applications received from the following industries, says a Press Note issued by the Commerce Ministry on March 19.

- (i) Plastic goods including moulding powder used in the manufacture thereof.
- (ii) Glass and glassware, including bangles,
- (iii) Slate and slate pencils, and
- (iv) Hydraulic brake fluid.

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries, or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board should address the Secretary of the Board, Contractor Building, Ballard Estate, Nicol Road Bombay 1.

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## PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD NOT INDULGE IN THREATS OF DIRECT ACTION rapid growth of a large number of temporary officer, connected with the state of the

-Pandit Nehru

THE Prime Minister made the following statement in reply to a short notice question in the Dominion Parliament on March 30:

Government have heard with regret that active preparations are being made to start a strike of the employees of the Central Government in the Calcutta offices. From the reports that have reached Government the proposed strike is not a normal strike, but has certain special and very undesirable features. It has been stated that the strike will take the form of staying in the offices, coupled with a hungerstrike. Further, incitements to violence have been made and the organisers evidently think in terms of achieving their objective by violent methods. It is clear that those who are organising the strike are moved by other than purely economic motives of bettering the condition of the employees. There is a strong political objective which has nothing to do with the economic aspect, although many of those who may be induced to co-operate with the organisers of the strike may be moved by economic considerations. The proposed strike is thus a challenge to Government on the political plane and it raises a variety of issues of considerable importance.

Though the proposed strike is for the present confined to Calcutta, it is evidently a part of a larger movement, essentially political and violent, which is taking shape not only in some parts of India. It is in this context that I should like the House to consider this matter, as this affects the democratic structure of our Government and our public life. There can be no democratic functioning if violent means are adopted to attack Government and to enforce the will of a small minority on the great majority. Because of the importance of this matter in its various aspects, I am venturing to make a somewhat lengthy statement in reply to the Short Notice Question.

#### Government's Anxiety to Help

Government are naturally anxious to do everything in their power to help their employees. Government have also a duty to the people generally of this country. With the best will in the world they cannot change the face of India overnight and produce suitable employment for every man and woman in the country. That indeed is the objective which any government must aim at. But in order to reach it for all the people living in this vast country, vast schemes have to be undertaken. There is no other way of doing it.

The proposed strike in Calcutta, which has been fixed for the 2nd April, was to have commenced on the 17th March, but it was postponed. The strike is being called by an organisation, which is described as the Federation of Central Government Employees Union. I should

like to make it clear that this is a Calcutta organisation and has nothing to do with another organisation, which has a similar name and whose members held a conference recently in Delhi. I understand from certain office-bearers of this Delhi organisation, who met me a few days ago, that they dissociate themselves from and disar-prove of, the activities of the Calcutta organisation.

A few weeks ago a representation was received from the Calcutta organisation by the Finance Minister. This contained a plea for substantial increases in the pay-scales of Central Government employees. As the House is aware, the whole subject of pay-scales and service conditions was considered very recently by the Central Pay Commission, an independent non-official body, which examined a large number of witnesses, obtained evidence from recognised as well as unrecognised associations, and consulted experts who could speak with authority about labour conditions. The Commission recommended substantial increases in the pay-scales of almost all classes of employees. Government have accepted and are implementing these recommendations, which, in the aggregate are estimated to cost over thirty crores of rupees per annum. They were therefore not prepared to reopen a subject recently decided after very careful consideration and make changes involving a radical departure from the general structure of pay-scales envisaged in the Commission's report.

#### Surplus Personnel

When this position was made clear to the Federation, it found another reason for launching a strike. About this time it had become necessary to carry out certain discharges of surplus personnel in the Military Accounts Department as well as in the Disposals Organisation of the Ministry of Industry and Supply. The Federation has siezed upon these discharges as the occasion for resorting to direct action involving all Government employees in Calcutta and not merely those of offices affected by retrenchment.

The main demands of the Federation, as now put forward, relate to retrenchment and are couched in the following terms: (1) There should be no retrenchment without provision for suitable alternative jobs and continuity and security of service should be assured: (2) Those who have completed one year's service should be confirmed with effect from the date on which they completed one year's service. Government have carefully considered these demands and come to the conclusion that they cannot possibly be accepted. The second World War led to a very great increase in the Army and in many establishments connected with the work of the Army. As is well known, our Army had a war time peak of 21 million persons. This vast army led to the

rapid growth of a large number of temporary offices, connected with the army. Thus the Military Accounts Department expanded during war-time from a peace-time strength of about 3,600 to over 20,000. At the conclusion of the war demobilisation began and during the last two years nearly two million soldiers have been demobilised. That was inevitable and as a consequence retrenchment had to take place in various other departments which had grown with the Army and were now no longer required or could not be kept up at war-time strength.

#### Temporary Establishments

Similar considerations apply to other temporary establishments recruited for special purposes connected with the war, and also to certain extent for the administration of controls, which have ceased to be necessary. It is obvious that posts which have ceased to be necessary in the public interest cannot continue to be filled merely in order to provide employment for temporary Government servants. If it is the business of Government to keep these posts filled, whether they are wanted or not, then the Government should not demobilise the war-time army, and indeed should provide governmental employment to all the unemployed in the country.

Nor is it possible to guarantee that a sufficient number of posts, particularly permanent posts shall always be avail able under Government for providing alternative employment to the large numbers of temporary employees recruited for these special purposes. Again, appointment on a permanent basis cannot be made without reference to the basic minimum qualifications required. Many of the employees who were recruited urgently for temporary purposes do not possess such qualifications.

Government, however, fully realise the hardships involved in retrenchment, and further considered it their duty to do everything in their powers to mitigate such hardships and to find alternative employment, wherever available. They have proceeded very slowly with retrenchment and have in fact kept on many employees, although they were surplus, in order to lessen these Lardships. Discharged temporary employees have been made legible for gratuity. The position of those who did not get any benefit in the form of gratuity will be further considered. Temporary service is recognised in many cases as war service. The names of such employees are registered at the Employment Exchanges, thereby enabling their cases to be brought to the notice of intending employers, whether government or private, for consideration. Facilities have also been provided by relaxation of age limits to temporary employees to sit for examination and quality themselves for permanent absorption in government employment, wherever this is possible. These terms compare favourably with those on which considerable numbers of surplus personnel have already been discharged.

Government are, however, anxious to bring about conditions in which every one who is willing to work is enabled to find some employment, private or public, suited to his or her capacity and qualifications. The various development schemes, which are undertaken by the Central and Provincial Governments, will, as they develop, gradually bring about such conditions. This necessarily takes time.

Government are also exploring temporary methods of employment. A Committee is now checking up the categories of stores in various depots with a view to collect together enough general purpose tools to start the manustores. Government would aid and encourage the formation of co-operatives of artisans and the like, among those who are to be retrenched, for this purpose. Another possible avenue of temporary employment may be the preparation of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise for the general elections under the new Constitution. This will be a big undertaking, involving a vast population of adults who will be entitled to vote. The responsibility for the preparation of these electoral rolls will be largely that of the Provincial Governments, and Government propose to recommend to the Provincial Governments to utilise, as far as possible, government employees who have been retrenched. I am mentioning two possible methods of temporary employment. Other methods will no doubt suggest themselves to the Hon'ble Members and we shall welcome their suggestions.

#### Last Seven Months

I need hardly remind the House of the events which have shaken this country during the last seven months and more. These tragic events have led to the complete impoverishment or millions of our countrymen, in addition to great physical suffering and mental anguish. These people have not only lost their employment or profession, but have lost almost every single thing that they possessed. It is the duty of Government and the Country as a whole to succour them and rehabilitate them. This is a colossal problem for any Government. Those who undoubtedly suffer because of retrenchment should remember the fate of these vast numbers of our countrymen whom a cruel destiny has hit so hard. The resources of the Government are being utilised to the utmost to give relief to these people, but these resources have certain obvious limits, and if too great and unbearable a burden is east upon them, then the whole structure of our economy might be shattered, resulting in little or no relief and far greater unemployment.

In these circumstances, while Government will continue to do their best to assist their temporary employees, they cannot accept the position that retrenchment should be postponed indefinitely until employment can be guaranteed to everybody, nor can we agree to confirm all those who may have completed one year's service.

The House is aware not only of the vast problems and difficulties which this country has to face in its internal economy, but also of the grave international situation which faces the world. Again we stand on the edge of a precipice and no man knows what the future may hold. It would almost appear that the organised efforts, that are being made to shatter the country's economy, are deliberately meant to be related to these larger issues. For any Indian today to attempt to break down the productive and administrative apparatus of the country is the height of irresponsibility and unpatriotic behaviour. Government have repeatedly made appeal to the people to co-operate together to add to the wealth of the country and to avoid strikes and conflicts at this time of trial for all of us. They are glad to note that such appeals have not been in vain and that the great majority of the people of this country, and more specially the working classes on whom lies so much the responsibility for production, have responded to them. But there are certain groups who think and act differently and who, for reasons of their own, appear to be bent on creating trouble. That trouble will do harm to the country as a whole, but it will injure most the interests of labour.

#### **Duty of Government Employees**

If every Indian has a duty in these eritical times, much more so is that duty incumbent on employees of Government, who by virtue of their position must be true servants of the public and must always keep the public good before them. It is deplorable in the extreme that public servants should indulge in threats of direct action which may be directed against Government, but which must inevitabley do injury to the public. That is a gross dereliction of duty and Government must take a very serious view of any course of action calculated to challenge the foundations of democratic government, dislocate public work and may cause a breakdown of discipline among the public services.

I must therefore make it clear that any public servant, who, in the circum-

#### Basic Education

It has been decided to implement the Basic Education Scheme in Delhi Province with effect from July 1, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on March 20. In the first year all children aged six and seven in the rural areas of the Province will be given free and compulsory primary education. In the following years the scheme will be applied to the successive age groups.

It is proposed to open about 150 new schools during the next year to put this scheme into effect. The first fifty schools will be opened next July. It is hoped that the experience gained in the implementation of this scheme in Delhi Province will prove useful to other Provinces in adopting similar schemes.

Refugee teachers will be given preference in making appointments to the new schools. Government are also making

stances which I have described to this House, join any strike or other form of direct action, will be considered as guilty of dereliction of duty and serious misconduct entailing dismissel from service. Instructions to this effect are being issued to all heads of offices in Calcutta. I trust that Government employees of all ranks will realise their employees of all ranks will realise their obligations and will set an example of discipline and conduct and devotion to duty, and desist from participation in any shape or form in the threatened strike. Rights and obligations go to gether. It is from an obligation duly discharged that rights flow. Where is no obligation there can be no right.

#### SHARES OF GERMAN REPARATIONS

Under the Paris Agreement on German reparations signed in 1946, undivided India was allotted 2 per cent of General Reparations, consisting mainly of German external assets (designated Category A); and 2.9 per cent of assets located in Germany, such as industrial capital equipment, merchant ships, inland water transport, etc., (classified as Category B), says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 16.

According to a decision of the Partition Council, these shares will be allotted separately to India and Pakistan which has now been admitted as a member, in her own right, of the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency—in the proportion of 82½ per cent to 17½ per cent. The shares will accordingly be:

Category A Category B

India 1.65 per cent. 2.39 per cent

Pakistan 0.35 , 0.51

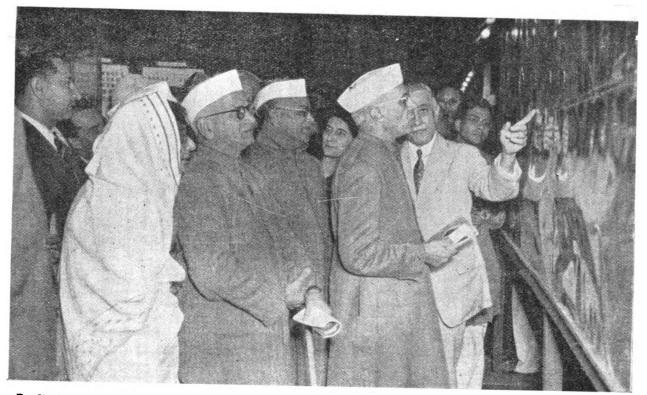
There are now 19 countries (including India) represented on the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency at Brussels which is concerned with the distribution of German reparations.

#### Plan For Delhi

every effort to enlarge training facilities for teachers and it is proposed to start two training institutes for this purpose. One of these institutes will be for training women teachers and the other for men. As a preliminary step, arrangements are being made for training teachers in the Jamia Milia. The training of the first batch will start in May 1948. The first few batches of teachers will be given a short but intensive course of training and subsequently the period of training will be extended.

It is hoped that when this scheme is in full operation, it will also be possible to use the schools for imparting social education to adolescents and adults.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1948
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Pandit Nehru opened an Exhibition of Indian stamps in New Delhi on March 3. Here, Mr. N. D. Cooper of the Philatelic Society of India is explaining a design to the Prime Minister. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and Mrs. Indira Gandhi also appear in the picture

## The Story Of India's Stamps

THE dainty bits of colour-printed paper, which the man at the post office tears from perforated sheets and gives you in exchange for anything tetween 1 pice to Rs. 25, not only act as magic tokens to carry your letters to any place in the world but also serve your country as its best ambassadors.

To the farthest nook of the world reached by your business, official or social correspondence, these tiny bits carry in attractive colours your country's name and fame, her flag and symbol, her heroes and her monuments—in short the art and culture of your homeland.

#### **Ancient Postal System**

Besides, in every country, there are thousands of boys and girls, men and women, old and young, who make it their hobby to love and collect these precious bits and even buy them at many times their face-value. Then there are the philatelists, who are not merely 'fond of things exempt from tax' but weave a history and a romance round each tiny bit of paper they treasure. To these, particularly, a stamp is not a mere token of prepaid postage, but a thing of rare beauty and joy.

To the philatelist as well as to the ordinary man, the history of the Indian stamp is a romantic story.

The postal system in India is as ancient as her temples. The local district post had been a liability on the land-holders from time immemorial. History has

recorded that Muslim rulers had couriers at a distance of every four miles to carry official despatches.

The British Post Office in India was torn when Lord Clive started a postal system in 1766. It was thrown open to the public in 1774. The lowest rate of letter postage was 2 snnas per 100 miles and copper tickets to the value of 2 annas were specially struck for postal purposes.

By 1837 postal services were extended over all the vast territories acquired by the East India Company but they were as yet unorganised. The post was carried altogether by runners and the time taken was increditably long. Letters at this time had a very uncertain career.

The use of paper stamps as token of prepaid postage was first introduced in India in 1852 by Mr. Bartle Frere, Commissioner of Sind Province.

Mr. Frere was asked by the Bombay Government to popularise the post among the public of his Province as the upkeep of such a net-work was considered to be too heavy to be borne by the Government. Mr. Frere was a great admirer of the penny postage in England. He, therefore, took this as a God-sent opportunity to introduce a cheap pestal rate in his province. He immediately issued with the help of Mr. Edward Lees Coffer, the Post Master of Karachi, the first postage stamps for India.

These stamps are now lamous. The design adopted was a circular belt with a

buckle downwards. On the belt were printed the words 'Scinde District Dawk'. In the centre there was an embossed modified arrow of the East India Company with the denomination above and below. These stamps were injuse only in the Province of Sind.

The successful experiment in Sind let to the question of issuing stamps for the whole of British India. The Government of India asked the Court of Directors of the East India Company for stamps printed in England. The latter turned down the request and advised the Government of India that, in the interest of economy, stamps should be printed in India. The first effort was the design of the 'Lion and the Palm Tree' made by Col. Forbes of the Calcutta Mint. This however, was never used as the Mint could not promise a sufficient supply.

#### India Makes Stamps

In 1854 the first stamps were printed in Calcutta by Capt. Thuillier Deputy Surveyor General. He produced 900 sheets of red half-anna stamps by means of lithography. These are known as "9½ arches" stamps. They were sent to Bombay on April 5, 1854, but after despatch it was found that the stock of vermilion was exhausted. As the same quality of ink was not procurable in India, it was decided not to issue these stamps. Finally a design with 8 arches and the effigy of the Queen was accepted for the half anna stamp and it was printed in blue. These stamps were unperforated and had no adhesive on the back.

From 1856, the printing of stamps in India was stopped and Messrs. De La Rue & Co. of London began to supply stamps for the East India Company.





FIG.

33

India's postage stamps: (Left) The Scinde Dawk Stamp, the first postage stamp of India issued in 1875. It was embossed in white and blue paper and red wafers. (Centre) This design of the lion and the palm tree was the first effort in India to have printed stamps. It was never used however as the Calcutta Mint which printed it could not promise a sufficient supply. (Right) India's first half-anna stamp, blue in colour and produced by lithography, it was printed in Calcutta in 1854 by Captain Thuillier, Deputy Surveyor General

Upto 1882, Indian stamps printed in London bore the inscription East India Pastage'. When Queen Victoria assumed the title of Empress of India and the administration of this country was transferred to the British Crown the inscription was changed to 'India Postage'. The values issued ranged from half-anna to I rupee.

When the postage to the U. K. was reduced in 1891 a new stamp for the value of 2 annas 6 pies was prepared. Until the new issue was ready the 4½ annas stamp was surcharged "2½ annas". This was the first surcharged stamp to be issued in India.

A new book-post rate of 4 anna was introduced in 1898. As there was no 3 pies stamp immediately after the introduction of this facility, the halfanna stamps were surcharged with '4 anna' and issued to the public in 1899. When the new stamp of 3 pies was ready the surcharged stamp was withdrawn.

Several changes in the colours of the stamps were made in 1900 owing to the decision of the Postal Union to have uniform colours for stamps representing the rates of international postages. The new issues were the last in the Queen Victoria series and were followed by King Edward VII series.

In 1906 it was decided to use the halfanna and I anna postage stamp for both postage and revenue purposes. The inscription was accordingly changed to "India Postage and Revenue". In 1932 when special stamps for revenue purposes were again introduced the original inscription was reverted to.

In 1909, it was decided to abolish the double-headed telegraph stamps and to employ postage stamps in payment of telegrams. This was also the first occasion when higher value stamps of Rs. 10, 15, and 25 were introduced in India, as the value of telegrams extended to Rs. 50. The colours used were pink

and green for Rs. 10, olive brown and blue for Rs. 15 and orange and blue for Rs. 25. A bicoloured stamp was first issued for Rs. 1 value in 1892 and similar stamps for the higher values of Rs. 2, 3 and 5 followed in 1895.

The George V stamps issued in 1911 were completely redesigned. The higher values had two elephants supporting the centre, oval containing the King's head.

An effect of the first World War on the history of Indian stamps was that attempts were again made to print them indigenously. A trial was first made in Delhi, the Capital, to test the possibilities.

With the establishment of the Security Printing Press at Nasik in 1926, the printing of Indian stamps was finally changed from London to Nasik. Special paper with a water-maik of Multiple stars and gummed on one side was imported for this purpose. The first series

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India's first half-anna stamps are in the lower rows. Blue in colour and produced by lithography, they were printed in Calcutta in 1854 by Captain Thuillier, Deputy Surveyor General Upper row shows four anna stamps of the same date











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INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 1, 1948



The New Delhi Commemoration stamps issued in 1931

of stamps printed in Nasik were all of the some designs as the new George V series.

India was the first country in the British Commonwealth to issue a special set of airmail stamps in 1929. India also holds the record for the first official airmail flight ever undertaken which was on February 18, 1911 when 6.500 letters and postcards were flown from Allahabad to Naini Junction.

Until 1931 the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department avoided issuing any pictorial stamps. The Department prided itself on what it called the purity and simplicity of the design of the King's head. On the occasion of the inaugura-

tion of New Delhi, the new Capital, the Department overcame its prejudices and issued its first commemorative stamps. They showed scenes and buildings of New Delhi.

The next occasion when commemorative stamps were issued was when the Silver Jubilee of King George V was celebrated in 1935.

The King George VI stamps which were first introduced in 1937 had completely altered designs in many of the values. For the first time in the postal history of India stamps containing pictures showing the various aspects of carrying mails in the country were issued.

Paper economy necessitated by the Second World War made an end of this new departure and stamps reverted once again to their small size and King's head design. But several colour changes were effected and new values for airgraphs were issued.

During the war, India's stamps were put to a strange use which neither the inventors nor the postal authorities could have foreseen. Owing to a temporary scarcity of small coins due to shortage of metal, especially copper, stamps came to fulfil the purpose of currency and were freely exchanged for goods and services by tradesmen and the public.

Victory stamps were issued in 1946 to mark the end of the war. The design consisted of a sword with the words "Victory" and "1945" inscribed on top and a globe below. On the right side the King's effigy and the denomination were printed.

#### Jai Hind Stamps

The latest issue of India's commemorative stamps is the new Jai Hind stamps celebrating the attainment of independence by India. Stamps of the value of 1½ annas, 3½ annas and 12 annas with the Asoka Capital, the National Flag, and an aircraft in flight as their themes were issued in November and December 1947. They attracted world-wide attention and were as popular in foreign countries as in India. Stamps of the value of Rs. 43,000 were sold at the Philatelic Bureau (Bombay G. P. O.) alone on November 15. The Jai Hind stamps were also flown, for the first time in India's postal history to the U. S. A. to meet her philatelic requirements.

Towards the end of last year, the Government of India decided to issue new Swaraj Stamps and artists were invited to



The Silver Jubilee Commemoration stamps issued in 1935

submit designs having a definite relation to India's new status. The competition organised by the P & T Department under the suspices of the India Institute of Art in Industry. About 1750 designs were received from artists all over India and the best among them were selected on February 24, 1948 by a panel of 5 judges

The Postal authorities announced recently the Government decision to issue very soon stamps in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

The consumption of postage stamps of all value in India totals at present nearly 600 million per annum. The face value of these stamps (excluding Service Stamps) is about Rs. 9 crores. The demand has increased considerably in the past twelve months and is still riging. Every day nearly I million embossed envelopes and about 2 million post cards are sold to the public in addition to these. The face value of these two items amounts to Rs. 4 crores per annum.

For printing India's stamps nearly 30 tons of special paper is consumed in a year. This special paper is of high and supercalendered. adhesive used is pure gum arabic which is non-roisonous and tested to be harmless in view of the habit of many people to lick stamps for pasting them. It is also non-hygroscopic, i.e., does not absorb moisture. During the gumming process it is specially treated to prevent curling when under printing with a view to making it suitable to the greatly varying climatic conditions of this subcontinent.

#### **EX-ARMY PERSONNEL FROM PAKISTAN**

Ex-Army personnel (including civilians paid from Defence Services Estimates) and their heirs who have recently migrated to India from Pakistan and whose claims to pensions and gratuities are outstanding should immediately report their present address to their Record Office/or Regimental Centre or Heads of Offices, giving full particulars of the nature of their claims and the army service (including service number) and in the case of heirs, particulars of relationship with the deceased person, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on March 2.

Ex-Army personnel whose non-effective records were previously held by the following Regimental Centres Record Offices located in Pakistan should report their address to Regimental Centres or Record Offices shown against them:-

1st Punjab Regimental Centre-Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre, Delhi Cantt.:

Punjab Regimental Centre-Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh;
Baluch Regimental Centre—Dogra Regimental Centre, Jullundur;
Frontier Force Regimental Centre

Kumaon Regimental Centre, Agra; Frontier Force Rifles Regimental

Centre-Indian Grenadiers Regimental Centre, Nasirabad; 14th Punjab Regimental Centre-

2nd Punjab Regimental Centre, Meerut; 15th Punjab Regimental Centre-Jat Regimental Centre, Bareilly; and 16th Punjab Regimental Centre—Sikh

Regimental Centre, Ambala.







The pictorial stamps issued in 1937, showing the various methods of transport

### PROCEDURE FOR MAIL ORDER **BUSINESS WITH JAPAN**

TO facilitate private trade with Japan, hitherto possible only through personal contacts with the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers, the following procedure is laid down in the interests of those merchants who are unable to go to Japan, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 5.

Enquiries and preliminary negotiations between traders in India and traders in Japan may be carried on directly. After preliminary negotiations, the private Japanse trader will, in the case of private from Cho" Japan, apply Board exports to ' Boeki (Japanese of Trade) to transmit a firm offer to the buyer in India. "Boeki Cho", after obtaining SCAP'S approval will cable the firm offer to the Indian trader. As regards exports to Japan, firm offers should be made by exporters in India to "Boeki Cho", who will obtain accep-tance of these offers from SCAP and cable firm acceptance, usually on a c.i.f. basis.

Indian traders are at liberty to appoint their own agents in Japan and authorise them to negotiate directly with "Boeki Cho" and sign contracts on their behalf. A supplier in Japan cannot, however, be an agent for the buyer in the same transaction in which he serves as supplier.

Agents in Japan are permitted send "collect" messages, i.e., on messages, receiver-to-pay basis, through

commercial cable company authorised by their principals abroad.

Japanese exporters are permitted to send samples to interested buyers abroad under customary pre-war methods, but such samples must not exceed 500 dollars (U. S.) in value, the special authorisation of SCAP being necessary for items of greater value. Samples can be imported only against prior import licences. However, in the case of bona fide samples supplied free of charge not exceeding Rs. 100 in c. i. f. value in one consignment (except vegetable seeds), no licence will be required.

In cases where no remittances are to be made in payment of the goods, import licences will be liberally issued. Samples of reasonable weights are also freely allowed to enter Japan provided they have no commercial value.

The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have sanctioned a Final Location Survey being carried out by the agency of the E. I. Railway Administration, of branch lines from the projected Barwadih-Chirmiri (Bijuri) railway line to serve Kurasia, Chirmiri and Jhilmili Coalfields, a total length of about 351 miles, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railways Recard) on March 17 of Railways (Railway Board) on March 17.

The survey will be known as "Branch lines Survey trom the Barwadih-Chirmiri (Bijuri) Railway project to serve Kurasia, Chirmiri and Jhilmili Coalfields".

## INDIA STANDS FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

### Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's Address at Geneva

Conference is how to remove in every country those impediments to free gathering and free dissemination of news whether they come from one source or from another and how to attain that perfection which will enable all people to receive correct information not only about themselves but about their neighbours all over the world," observed Sir Hamaswamy Mudaliar, Leader of the Indian Delegation, speaking on March 29 at the U. N. Conference on "Freedom of Information". He was addressing the Committee and the Conference set up to consider the "Basic tasks of press and other media of information and basic principles of freedom of information".

In a 30-minute speech delivered extempore, Sir Ramaswamy said: "The last war proved that no country is so far from another country that we need not concern ourselves about it; that no people are so distant that we may disinterest ourselves in them. It is one world, it is one people, it is one humanity towards which the whole creation is moving and if there is lack of freedom in one place, if there is not true information conveyed in one country, then it reacts on all countries".

"There are countries where Governments still feel that restrictions have to be imposed and incidentally may I say that I do not propose to refer to any of the conditions that prevail in my own country for two reasons: first, becaue much of it concerns a regime which has just passed away and it would be work of superarrogation to review the state of Press or the Freedom of Information that existed in the past regime. I would have to lay down conditions as to how and why certain powers were used which is neither necessary nor indeed relevant to the discussion at the present time when another regime—an independent regime which has come into existence much sooner than Monsieur Molotov foresaw when he twitted me at San Francisco and hoped that India would speak with a free voice very soon. Here today I speak on behalf of a Free India and I trust that Russian and other Delegations will realise that I am speaking with an independent voice.

Therefore I do not propose to refer to anything that has happened in the past. Neither would I elaborate on the constitution that is now in the making in my country but I may at once say for the information of the Honourable Delegates who are gathered here that my people and my Government believe in Freedom of Information. They want to ensure complete freedom of information as far as pussible subject only to those well-understood limitations bearing on public morality, public decency and the ordinary state of the people themselves—

limitations which are indeed intended to serve the purpose of ensuring the freedom of the individual for which a free press exists. Reyond that we do not want to lay any limitations".

Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar continued: "Rights and obligations, privileges and duties go together. Therefore whether it is the press or film or broadcast, in ensuring all the rights that they should have for a proper dissemination of information on the widest basis possible, there should also be an ensurement that the responsibilities are adequately understood. If it is conceded that responsibilities go with these rights the question then arises how should these responsibilities be discharged, by whom should they be enforced and what are the conditions which make it possible for these responsibilities to be realised and for them to be enforced?"

#### Code of Ethics Needed

Advocating a Code of Ethics for journalists and Allied Professionals, Sir Ramasway stated: "Professional ethics in medical profession is well-known and well-laid down. There is a Medical Council....which regulates professional ethics, which sees to it that those who follow that profession conform themselves to these ethics, which is the code of honour prescribed for that profession. It is moreover a disciplinary body which enforces the observance of that code of honour. It is same in the profession of Law. And is it too much to expect that the time has come when a similar code of honour could be drawn up for the learned profession of journalism? Cannot my journalistic friends, beyond the Associations that they now have, make a body of rules to regulate their own conduct? I think the time has come when they should take that step.

As I was speaking of responsibility perhaps a thought went through the minds of some Delegates that I was going to say that Governments should be asked to do thir. I do not believe in such a thing. I believe in internal self-discipline. I believe that this body of journalists rightly educated, cultured, wide in wisdom, can form such a body which can regulate their conduct and have power to pull up members who are of an erring character.

"We are concerned not only with internal freedom of information: we are even more concerned with the interpretation of one people to another. It is not altogether an impossibility to read of a correspondent being expelled. Who is to judge that that expulsion is justified or not? If there was an Association of Correspondents who deal with news sent to foreign parts they could make their own decisions and recommend the expulsion of a correspondent if they found it necessary.

"If that is accepted I would like to go a stage further; perhaps there could be an International Body which could examine the complaints of Governments and take the opinion of Journalists' Associations".

Concluding, Sir Ramaswamy said: Concluding, Sir Italian wany

There is only one other point to which
I should like to refer. I have attended
many conferences that I venture to feel that this is a unique conference in so far as it comprises all those organisations which are concerned with moulding and shaping and formulating public opinion in fact, all these organisations which are really responsible for the outbreak of war or for the maintenance of peace. Let us not say that this nation is war-mongering and that another nation is not war-mongering. All of us must share responsibility. I do not believe that war is inevitable. I feel that man's commonsense will not permit war. But it shows how necessary it is that a conference like this must see the signs that may emerge for a possible conflict and try to avoid that conflict".

#### PENAL REFORMS

(Continued from page 519)

is that crime has got to be treated and not to be punished; and if that is so, the punishment must be more related to the person than to the act or the crime or the nature of the crime itself. From this point of view in certain provinces a psychiatrist has been appointed with a view to examine the criminal, to go carefully through his antecedents and to study the background so as to understand exactly why he committed the crime. I may inform the House that a Committee on jail reforms was appointed by the Government of Bombay very recently and I was one of the members; the recommendations made by that Committee have been of a far-reaching sharacter and if implemented I have no doubt that prison system in the Bombay Presidency will be up to the standard which obtains in Western countries.

It is proposed by the Government of India that all that the Provinces have done individually and as a result of co-ordination will be taken into consideration. Although it is a provincial subject, the practice so far has been to call periodic conferences of Home Ministers and of Inspectors-General of Prisons and from time to time co-ordinate and secure a sort of uniformity with respect to this. That also will be done. But if it is the object of my Honourable friend that the whole thing should be orntrally administered, it is not possible within the framework of the present constitution. All that I can promise at this stage is, as I have said, that it is proposed to have a Central jail and to work out experiments on modern lines and—to sum up—not to punish the crime but to treat it as an anti-social act; to reclaim the citizen and rejeducate him and fit him once more into the society.

## INDIAN PRESS RECORDS EXHIBITION

National Archives of India displayed in the Newspapers and Periodicals Pavilion of the All India Exhibition at Calcutta, furnished valueable material for the study of the foundation and early development of the Indian Press, the evolution of the public opinion in India and the growth of Press laws.

India had no Press in the proper sense of the word until the time of Warren Hastings. The early pioneers in the field of journalism in India were needy European adventurers with Calcutta as the centre of their activities. The first newspaper, The Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser was published by Hicky in 1780. Hicky was forced to stop the publication of his paper in 1782 because of persistent attacks against the authorities.

The promulgation of Wellesley's Regulations in 1799 was the first effective check placed on the freedom of the Press in the Bengal Presidency. Minto also enforced control over newspapers when he found his actions severely attacked, in many cases doubtless, by diseatisfied officials. Hastings took a generous view and left the Press to say what it liked. His regulations issued in 1818 virtually cancelled all controls and he laid down general rules for the guidance of the editors, asking them to desist from publishing anything which would injure public interest.

In the history of this period, James Silk Buckingham, who became editor of the Calcutta Journal in 1818, holds a prominent position. The story of his struggle against Press controls which John Adam wanted to impose and his encounters with authorities is told in a number of Public Consulations. Buckingham was censured, warned and threatened more than once for his attacks on the high officials of the Company and even the Chief Justice and Bishop of Calcutta.

#### New Press Regulations

Shortly after Buckingham's departure from India, Adam imposed stringent control over the Press by promulgating new regulations. He made it compulsory for every newspaper to get a licence from the Government for its publication. The applications for grant of licences which followed the enforcement of these regulations in 1823 reveal that the Indian owned Press was gradully growing.

The exhibits displayed included such applications from Bhobary Churn Banerjee for publishing Sammachar Chundrika, a weekly newspaper, Govind Chunder Coaur and Anunando Gopal Mookerjee for publishing a Bengali newspaper Sungbad Cowmuddy, Hari Hay Dutt to carry on his Persian and Hindustani newspaper the Jam-i-Jahan-Numa and Mothoor Mohun Mitter for

publishing Hindustani periodical Shumasul Akhbar.

The enforcement of the Press Regulations depended much upon the personality and character of the Governor-General. During Bentinck's regime these were not put in use. The Press was making rapid strides and public opinion was trying to assert itself. A group of prominent British and Indian citizens of Calcutta presented a petition to the Governor-General on February 6, 1835, praying for the repeal of the Adam Regulations. The Secretary to the Government assured the petitioners on behalf of the Governor-General that the unsatisfactory state of affairs would be amended at an early date.

Metcalfe was ultimtely responsible for establishing the freedom of the Press in India. In pursuance of the policy laid down by Bentinck, he asked Macaulay, the Law Member of the Council, to draft a Press Law which would be applicable in all parts of the Company's dominions. Macaulay's famous Minute of April 16, 1835. accompanying the draft of the Press Act and Metcalfe's Minutes of the 17th and 20th April on the same subject, are among the important documents relating to the history of the Indian Press.

Among the selected exhibits were to be seen specimens from Persian and Urdu newspapers of the second quarter of the last century. The oldest available newspaper in Persian in the National Archives is the Jam-i-Juhan-Nama which made its first appearance on March 28, 1822.

## FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OLD WOODEN COFFIN

A clod of earth, a few cubic inches in volume, might throw fresh light on the ancient Harappa civilization of the Indus Valley, as a result of investigations now in progress at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. This piece of earth bears the mark of a wooden plank which formed part of the coffin of a queen buried 4,000 years ago.

With patient, laborious effort, small particles of wooden tissues embedded in the soil, have been isolated and their examination under the microscope reveals that at least one part of the regal coffin was made from a coniferous tree, grown in a hill area in the Punjab.

If further research now in progress in the Wood Technology Branch of the Research Institute reveals the presence of some type of timber not grown in India, that might link up the Harappa civilization with other civilizations of the

## GRANTS FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

The Government of India have socepted in principle the recommendations of the All India Council for Technical Education suggesting the sanction of grants amounting to about Rs. 1.5 crores on capital expenditure and Rs. 30 lakhs on recurring expenditure to some of the important higher technical institutions in the country, with a view to their improvement and expansion, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on March 30.

The All India Council for Technical Education which met in Delhi last November had recommended that these grants be spread over a period varying from three to five years beginning with the financial year 1947-48.

The following capital grants for buildings and equipment and interest free loans repayable in 33 years for construction of hostels have accordingly been sanctioned for the year 1947-48 subject to certain conditions which are intended to ensure the proper utilisation of the grants:—

The Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay: capital grant Rs. 2,00,000 and a loan of Rs. 80,000; College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpurcapital grant Rs. 2,00,000 and a loan of Rs. 2,80,000; Benaras Hindu University—College of Engineering: capital grant Rs. 80,000 and a loan of Rs. 80,000; College of Mining and Metallurgy: capital grant Rs. 30,000 and a loan of Rs. 60,000; University of Calcutta—Department of Applied Chemistry, Department of Applied Chemistry, Department of Applied Physics and College of Science and Technology: capital grant Rs. 2,25,000 and a loan of Rs. 50,000; Andhra University—Jaipur Vikram Deo College of Science and Technology: capital grant Rs. 70,000; Madras University—Alagappa Chettiar College of Technology: capital grant Rs. 1,10,000; Nagpur University—Luxminarayan Institute of Technology: capital grant Rs. 1,10,000 and a loan of Rs. 28,000.

Additional amounts of Rs. 2,00,000 each have been sanctioned for the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay and the College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur, as interim relief to be adjusted against grants for future years.

#### APPEALS AGAINST ASSESSMENT OF DEGREE OF DISABLEMENT

Government of India have decided to permit appeals against assessment of the degree of disablement. Every person in whose case entitlement has been conceded and who is disastisfied with assessment of the degree of his disablement may submit a notice of appeal addressed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, (Pensions Branch) New Delhi. If possible, grounds for the appeal may accompany the notice of appeal.

The appeals should be filed within six months from the 1st April 1948, or from the date of the decision on entitlement, whichever is later.

# REALISTIC APPROACH NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POWER RESOURCES

## Mr. D. L. Mazumdar's Address at Calcutta

REALISTIC approach is necessary towards the problem of developing India's power resources, according to Mr. D. I. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Ministry of the Central Government, who made a speech on the subject at the All-India Exhibition grounds in Calcutta on March 22.

Contending that resource development in India was fundamentally a problem of administrative policy rather than of technology, Mr. Mazumdar warned, against the danger, which existed in the country, of "public opinion, which smarting under its past sense of frustration and disgust and oppressed with historic memories about the old effete bureaucracy, might turn impetuously to the new gospel of our technicians and the immense technological possibilities that it promised,

He continued, "Any big scheme of resource development always implies the following stages:—(1) Survey of the area to be developed in order to ascertain its physical characteristics in site. (2) Preliminary investigations for the collection of the essential technical data on the basis of which alone a detailed plan of development can be drawn up. (2) Formulation of the plan. (4) Preparation of designs. (5) Construction of the Project. (6) Utilization of the end-services provided by a scheme.

\*These various stages constitute \* series of natural hurdles which impede the progress of resource development. They must be cleared by patient and hard work.

Indeed these various stages constitute technological foundation for any sound scheme of resource development.

#### Shortage of Equipment

"The other non-technical factors like availability of plant, equipment and manpower constitute another set of hurdles. In the years to come—easily for another five years, perhaps longer they will condition all our resource development plans, and it is very important that the public, no less than our technicians and administrators, must realise their true import.

"We may try our best to increase this supply, and doubtless we must" he said and added: But for some years to some we shall have to depend entirely on foreign countries—friendly and willing countries at that. The supply capacity of these countries is partly earmarked for their essential domestic requirements and their unavoidable international commitments, like, say the Marshall Plan, and for the rest is partly mortgaged in favour of other countries, with whom they have entered into reciprocal commercial and other economic arrangements. Therefore, the residue of their supply capa-

city, on which alone we can draw, will be extremely limited. Even if some of the goods were available, our capacity to pay for them in foreign money will be necessarily small.

It follows that if we seek the rapid development of our natural resources in-gludling our pawer resources all over India at the same time, we must not only import foreign "know-how" and capital equipment on an extensive scale, but also to leave the development of our resources to a large extent, in the hands of foreign firms. For, even if all the plant, machinery and man power that we need were readily available we shall not be able to pay for them in foreign money. However desirable from a purely technological point of view this rapid and simultaneous development of our natural recources all over India might be, it is obvious that the issue cannot be decided on merely technological grounds, and, by and large, it will be far more desirable to plan for only such development as is capable of realization within the limits of the plant, equipment and man-power resources that we can raise ourselves and import from foreign countries on such terms and conditions as will be acceptable

#### Power Resources and Potential

Enumerating some basic facts of our electrical power resources he said :

"Our total installed capacity of electrical power in 1936 was about 900,000 K. W., in 1946 it increased to about 1.4 million K. W. The corresponding figures for U. K. and U. S. A., in 1936 were 8.1 million K. W. and 36.6 million K. W.; and in 1946, 11.6 million K. W. and 50.3 million K. W. respectively. Out of our total capacity of 1.4 million K. W. in 1946, 880,000 K. W. was thermal power and 494,000 K. W. hydel power. The corresponding proportion of thermal and hydel power in the U. K. was 11.2, million K. W. and 350,000 K. W. respectively, whereas in the U.S. A., these figures were 36 million K. W. and 14.5 million K. W. respectively. In other words, whereas both U. S. A. and India are examples of "mixed power systems", the U. K. system is predominantly thermal.

"These absolute figures may cause us dismay but if you look into the percentage increase between 1936 and 1946, you will notice with pleasant surprise that our rate of progress in electrification has indeed been faster than in either the United Kingdom or the United States of America. Between 1936 and 1946 our total supply of electrical power increased by 53 per cent as against the United Kingdom's 43 p. c. and the United States of America's 30 p. c. Our rate of increase of thermal power was 67 p.c. as against

the United Kingdom's 43 b.o. and the U.S. A.'s 37 p.o. Our increase of hydel power during the same period was 33 p.o. as against the United Kingdom's 43 p.c. and the U.S. A.'s 39 p.o.

"Although our total installed capacity to-day is barely 1.4 million K. W., we have plans for an expansion of this capacity, on Government and private account, by another 600,000 K. W. by 1950 and by another 2.3 million K. W. by 1955. In other words, we have plans for the increase of our aggregate power resources from the present figure of 1.4 million K. W. to 2 million K. W. in 1950—an increase of 170 p.c. in course of next seven or eight years. If these plans materialise they will sofficially the present as we have plant of which any country, so wholly dependent on foreign sources of supply of plant and equipment as we are, can feel justly proud.

#### **Electrical Power Potential**

"I need, however, hardly point out that even a total installed capacity of 3.7 million K. W. falls considerably short of our aggregate power potential. Our total planned capacity of 3.7 million K. W. will constitute barely 10 p.c. of our water-power potential. In 1921, J. W. Mears, Director of the short-lived Hydro Electric Survey of India, estimated the water-power potential of our rivers at 5 million K. W., but Mears himself admitted that the figure was no more than intelligent guess work. He based thisfigure mainly on the available minimum continuous supplies in our rivers, but later investigations suggest a figure in the neighbourhood of 30/40 million K. W. A scientific and adequate survey of the capacity of our waterways will in all probability disclose a very much larger power potential. Be that as it may, the magnitude of our water-power resources will be patent from the fact that while today we are exploiting only about one per cent. of our water-power potential, even after ten years of planned development, we cannot hope to exploit more than 10 p.c. of our latent capacity."

"I have said little about our existing power resources—our existing thermal and hydro-electric installations whether administered by Governments or by public companies", he continued and said "the additional capacity planned by these undertakings in course of the next three years is of the order of 500,000 K. W., and merely from the point of view of the maximisation of the total supply of power much quicker result will, of course, be obtained from these expansion schemes than from our other plans about the exploitation of new sources of power. No difficult policy questions arise in respect of them. All these expansion schemes are well under way and all that authority need do is to offer facilities to the undertakings to push them as fast as possible".

Before concluding he said, "Mr. Chairman, I do not think I need apologise for my ommision to dwell on the details of our specific plans to develop some of our power resources throughout India. The Damodar, the Mahanadi, and the Kosi are perhaps the three projects that are pro-

## INDIA'S AMBASSADORS TO CHINA AND TURKEY

Sardar K. M. Panikkar, former Prime Minister of Bikaner and a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, has been appointed Ambassador of India in China, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 27. He left for Nanking recently.

A former Editor of the Hindustan Times, he was Secretary to the Chancellor, Chamber of Princes and Foreign Minister, Patiala. He is author of "India and the Indian Ocean" and "Future of South East Asia," among other books.

Dewan Chaman fall has been appointed Ambassador of India in Ankara (Turkey), says another Communique.

Dewan Chaman Lall is a member of the Constituent Assembly and was a member of the Roval Commission on Labour in India 1929-31; Labour delegate to the International Labour Conference Rureau 1932.

#### Italy

The Government of India and the Italian Government have decided to exchange diplomatic missions at Embassy level, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Reations on March 25. They are confident that the friendly relations existing between them will thereby be further strengthened to the benefit of the people of both countries.

minently before the public mind in the Eastern Provinces of India. But there are other schemes, no less important to the regions where they are located, which are now under the active consideration of the Central and several Provincial Governments. I would name only a fewthe Bhakhra in East Punjah, the Nayar and Sardah schemes in the United Provinces, the Rihand in the United Provinces and Central India, the Ramapadasagar scheme on the Godawari in Madras, the Mackound Project in Orissa, the Tungabhadra in Madras, the Koyna scheme in Bombay, the Narbada and Tapti Project in Central Provinces and Bombay, the Chambal in Kotah, Indore and Udaipur. Our plans in respect of these resources are in varying stages of development, and I do not think I should waste the time of my audience by trying to explain the power potentialities of these schemes. In respect of all of them and, indeed, all other schemes that we may take up in future, we must, however, adopt the same approach. As soon as the preliminary investigations have been over, we must apply to all such plans the rigorous test of husiness propositions. We must ask ourselves -" Do the technological possibilities permit of their conversion into economic propositions?" In this process of valuation, we cannot, of course, ignore the intangible benefits that always accrue from any programme of resource development.

## BILL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POWER ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

While moving in the Indian Parliament on March 2? that the Bill to provide for the development of power alcohol industry be taken into con ideration, the Hon'ble Pr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply said:

Sir, the of jest of this Bill is to develop the production of power al ohol and also to take power in the hands of the Central Government to direct the use of power alcohol as movive power. The House will recall that the position of petrol in this country is indeed critical, and any Government may take to step that case the situation shall be something in the undoubted national interest. present we consume about 180 million gallous of motor fuel per year and 18 million gallous of aviation oil. In addition to this we consume about 800,000 tons of kerceene oil, 310 thousand tons of desel oil, 709,000 tons of firmace oil and 70,000 tons of other minor oil products. So far as aviation oil is concerned, India does not produce any thing. So far as motor fuel is con-cerned out of 180 million gallons that we consume we produce only about 17 to 18 million gallons in India. For the rest we are dependent on supply from foreign countries. Previous to the war we used to get about 75 million gallons from Burma. That supply has now stopped, and whatever we are now fortunate enough to get comes mainly from the Middle East.

#### Mixture of Alcohol

The question of mixing power alcohol with petrol has been a subject matter of discussion in this country for the last ten years. But unfortunately there has been delay for some reason or other and up till now no directive policy of the Government of India has been indicated. Committees met, conferences were held and although it was generally agreed that the mixture of alcohol should be encouraged, somehow a Central policy of Government was lacking. The object of this Bill is to give this Central direction in a way which will be fair to all the Provinces as also serve our purpose so far as circumstances at present permit. Now it appears that power alcohol is being mixed with petrol in various countries. In Great Britain, France, Germany, Czeohoslovakia, Italy and Australia this is done and power alcohol is obtained in those countries mainly from beet, potatoes, corn and from imported molasses. In Brazil it appears that the bulk of power alcohol is produced from molasses just as we propose to do in India. In fact there, nearly about 20 million gallons of power alcohol obtained from molasses are used with motor fuel. My friend Mr. Masani will soon be going to Brazil (applause) and he will be able to see at first hand how power alcohol is being used successfully with motor fuel.

India is one of the biggest sugar producing countries in the world. At present we have eleven distilleries in India. Ten are situated in U. P. and one in

Mysore. Three are now under construction in Bihar. The power alcohol which is new being produced cannot be used because there is no law compelling the use of such power alcohol with petrol so that although U. P. produces more than it can possibly consume or even if Bihar may produce more than it can consume, unless there is some law compelling the use of power alcohol this production will practically remain fruit-less. The object of this Bill is to secure the compulsory use of power alcohol to the extent of 25 per cent. That is the figure which experts have certified that we can safely and successfully use.

MR. R. K. SIDHWA: With 75 per cent. petrol?

THE HONOURABLE DR. SYAMA-PRASAD MOOKERJEE: Yes. It is hoped that once this Bill is passed into law and the Government of India after conference with the Provincial Governments is able to develop power alcohol industry we shall have sufficient power alcohol in India which will give us some relief at any rate in the use of petrol. But of course I should warn here and state that the relief which we shall get will not be adequate. We expect to get not more than about 30 per cent relief in all. Even that will take some years.

If our development schemes go ahead properly, if the sugar production reaches the target that we have laid down, then in the course of the next four or five years we expect to get sufficient power alcohol to give us relief in the manner that I have indicated.

#### Scheme for Synthetic Oil

The Government of India has under its consideration a hig scheme for the manufacture of synthetic oil from coal. We have not yet arrived at a stage when I can make any announcement in public, but I can assure the House that Government is very seriously considering the possibility of the manufacture of synthetic oil from coal, which is available in abundance in our country, and for that purpose we are bringing out experts from America who will be associated with some German experts, who will be able to give us a full scheme for the production of I million tons of petrol or half a million tons of petrol or quarter of a million tons of petrol as oircumstances may permit. This therefore is what I may call a third line of defence, but this is an important measure which Government proposes to undertake.

Now Sir, the powers which the Government of India proposes to take up are now enjoyed by the provincial Governments. For the last year and a half the Government of India has been in negotiation with the provincial Governments and advised them to allow the Central Government to regulate this industry. There has been some delay in the matter. When the Industries Conference met in

(Continued on page 553)

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Regd. No. D-25 INDIAN INFORMATION

## FOUNDATION STONE OF FACULTY BUILDING

Laying the foundation of the Faculty Building, Delhi University on March 7, Lord Mountbatten said:

The foundation stone which I am about to lay is the start of one of the most important projects in recent years affecting the University, for it is the foundation stone of the Faculty Building, and on the other side of the Vice-Chancellor's Avenue, facing the Faculty Building, it is intended to build in due course the new University Library.
These two buildings, the Faculty Building and the University Library will represent the real heart of the University, and they are sited in the centre of the other University institutions which it is hoped to build later on.

In this Faculty Building I am told that all University post-graduate teaching and ultimately all undergraduate Honours teaching in arts subjects will be concentrated. In addition to the necessary lecture rooms, tibraries and so on there will be two quadrangles at each end, and in the centre an Assembly Hall, where the University will in the future be able to hold its Convocations and other ceremonies.

The Government of India have enabled this building to be constructed by a substantial grant, made to the University on the recommendation of the University Grants Committee. I am very sorry that the architect, Mr. Mathur, a graduate of the University, who has also designed the University Science Libraries, is prevented from being present on this notable occasion.

I am sure that all these buildings, when complete, will form a group of University buildings scarcely equalled in India, and in the most attractive sting of trees and gardens. It is therefore a great pleasure to me to be present this afternoon and to participate in the start of this great venture, and I shall now have much pleasure in laying this foundation stone.

#### RAILWAY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

The re-constituted Indian Railway Enquiry Committee met on March 15, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Chairman, presiding, and decided to proceed on a tour of the E. I., B. N., O.T., and Assam Railways from March 27, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on March 16.

The Committee was appointed in April, 1947, and has been enquiring into the question of economies and improved efficiency in all branches of Railway working but had to suspend its activities from the middle of October, 1947 due to the preoccupation of Railway Administrations with problems arising out of the partition of the country and of the Railways.

## LORD MOUNTBATTEN LAYS NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The Annual Report of the National Archives of India (formerly the Imperial Record Department) for the year 1946 presents a good record of work done in the field of Archival Science. The importance of the Department as India's largest repository of records on up-todate lines has been recognised by the Government of India which has sanctioned several technical posts to assist the development of this Department. The flow of records from different departments of the Government of India into the National Archives continued.

During the year under review a total number of 2,14,194 sheets were renovated by the Preservation Branch of the Department. The process of restoring the large proportion of badly worn out and brittle records on poor quality paper consists in flattening the folded documents and reinforcing them with chiffon and Japanese tissue paper wherever necessary. An order has been placed for a laminating hydraulic press by the use of which papers can be coated on each side with a thin, transparent cellulose acetate foil.

#### Research Laboratory

The Research Laboratory of National Archives of India has worked under a great handicap owing to the scarcity of essential chemicals. It has succeeded in evolving a new technique of repair of palm leaf manuscripts which consists in coating worn out leaves on both sides with cellulose acetate foil by means of a plastic adhesive and then rubbing them with a smooth rubber roller. The process was found to have increased the flexibility of the leaves to a marked degree.

Investigations were also carried on as to the advisability of the use of D.D.T. in records repositories and libraries and on the possibility of utilization of Neem (Melia azadirachta) as a substitute for some of the rare chemicals used in the manufacture of dextrine paste.

For providing training for archivists, classes are held and instruction imparted in the theory and practice of archival management and preservation of records to students deputed by Provincial and State Governments, Universities and other institutions. The department also attends to an increasing number of requests from various offices and individuals for advice and assistance regarding scientific technique of archives keeping. The long-felt need of an archival journal has been fulfilled by the publication of the Indian Archives. by the department.

The department has been making satisfactory progress in its projects of preparation of indexes and calenders. A Scheme for publication of important records of the East India Company has also been adopted. The manuscripts of the travels of Thevenot and Careri are eady for the press. An ever increasing

number of students are taking advantage of the facilities granted by the depart. ment for scholarly research on a large variety of subjects. The department also received several requests for information from the records or copies of them from Government agencies and private individuals for various purposes.

A number of records were displayed on different occasions. Documents relating to Archaeological and Antiquarian studies were displayed at the exhibition organised under the auspices of the Oriental Conference at Nagpur in October 1946. A number of original papers relating to Sir William Jones were displayed at the exhibition arranged by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal in connection with the bi-centenary of his birth.

The department has also made educational and cultural contacts with archives offices and institutions in foreign countries and exchanged publications as well as information with them. A member of the staff was deputed to the National Archives, Washington, for training in up-to-date method of archieve keeping.

#### LEGISLATORS VISIT IAMMU

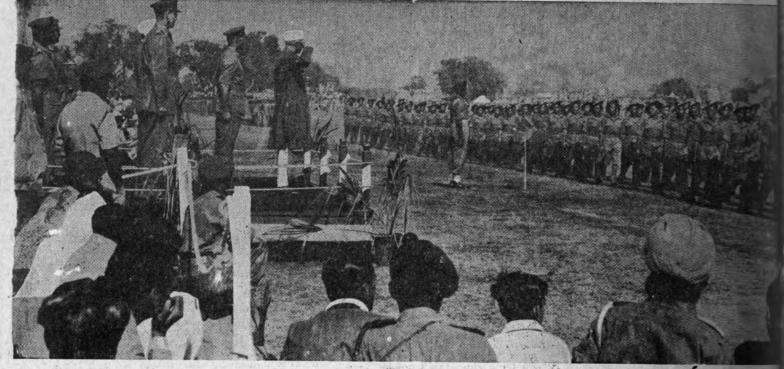
Five members of the Standing Committee of Legislature for the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Mr. R.K. Ramadhayani, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, arrived in Jammu on March 27. They are Mr. K. Santhanam, Paudit Thakurdas Bhargava, Mr. Kamath, Mr. Mohanlal Saxena and Mr. Poonacha.

Soon after their arrival, the party visited the Suchetgarh area where they saw our pickets and troops. Villages, which were devastated by raiders, are now being rehabilitated in this area. The members spoke to several villagers. In the afternoon they went around the wards in the Jammu Military Hospital where the wounded from the forward areas are receiving treatment.

#### POWER ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

(Continued from Page 552)

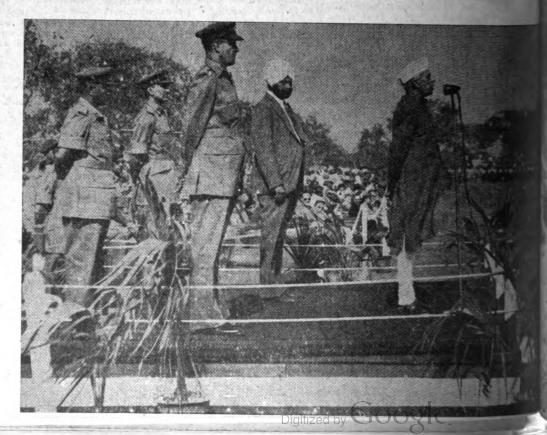
Delhi in December last the matter was discussed in detail and it was generally agreed that powers should be transferred to the Central Government in national interest. I did not ask the House to refer the Bill to a Select Committee Lecause it is a short Bill, and once that principle is accepted, the details are not of a controversial nature. So far as the amendments proposed are concerned, I have discussed the amendments with most of the movers who have given notice, and barring three or four which I believe we can accept, others perhaps may not be moved, so that the Bill may be passed into law before the House adjourns today at 5 o'clock. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.





## PANDIT NEHRU AT DELHI PARADE

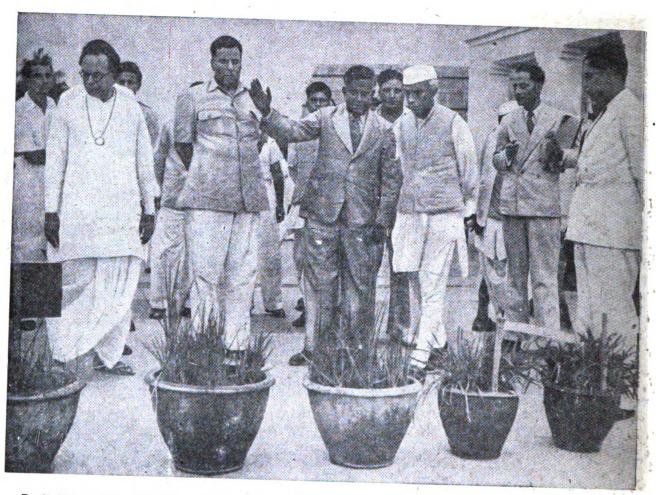
Detachments of the Western Command took part in a ceremonial parade held at Ramlila Grounds, Delhi, on March 22. Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, took the salute at the march past. These pictures show the Prime Minister (top) taking the salute, (centre) inspecting treops on parade and (bottom) addressing officers and men of the Western Command



# INDIAN INFORMATION

JUN 24 1949 1

May 15, 1948



Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, at the Central Rice Research Institute in Cuttack during his recent visit to Orissa

#### Vol. 22, No. 230, INDIAN INFORMATION, May 15, 1948

AIM :- To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

FORMAT :—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should

not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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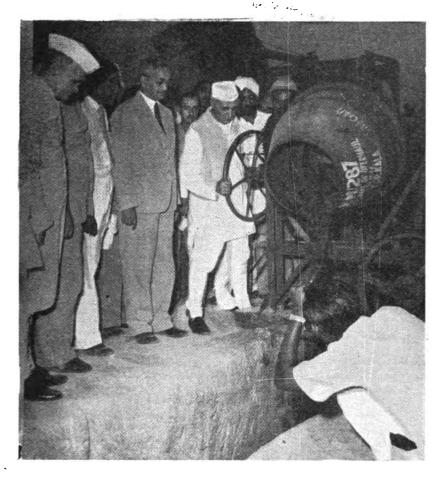
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Cover Picture: Pandit Nehru decorating Risaldar Bharat Singh with the Indian Order decorating of Merit (I Class) for gallantry in Kashmir fighting.



## INAUGURATION OF HIRAKUD PROJECT



Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, tilts the first pail of concrete at the Hirakud Dam site in Sambalpur

### Pandit Nehru Lays Foundation

HILE the gathering sang 'Jana Gana Mana' Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation concrete to the Hirakud dam near Sambalpur on April 12. The Hirakud Project which is to cost Rs. 48 crores is expected to be completed in the record time of six years.

Pandit Nehru speaking in Hindi said that wealth was produced by labour. The Hirakud Project opened up great opportunities of work to the people, and afforded promise of immense wealth not only in Orissa but also to the country as a whole. The work had only just begun and this was not time for self-congratulation. It had to be completed quickly; and all must bend their energies for the purpose.

His Excellency the Governor of Orissa, Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, thanked Mr. Khosla and the engineers who had made the project possible and hoped that where diamond was known to have been discovered before, production of wealth greater than diamonds would result by the completion of the Hirakud dam, and make the people of Orissa great and prosperous. He assured that proper com-

pensation would be offered to the people dispossessed of land or houses as a result of the project.

The Prime Minister of Orissa, Mr. Hari Krishna Mehtab, referred to the province as a land of misery due to large number of rivers flowing from West to East without helping the land, and welcomed the Hirakud Project, as a means to harness its waters for the prosperity of the province.

#### Mr. Khosla's Speech

Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, Chairman of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, who had conceived and worked on the Hirakud project since 1946, spoke of the project as the first multipurpose development plan sanctioned by the Indian Government after Independence. It was the country's freedom, he pointed out, which enabled the taking up the execution forth with. He said:

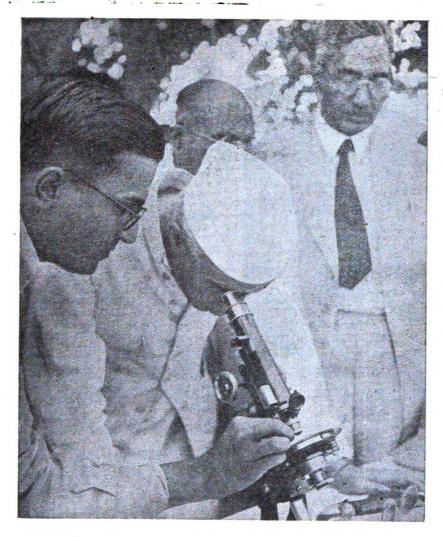
It is my proud privilege and good fortune to be able to witness, this day, the inauguration in stone and mortar of this project which I conceived in

May 1945 barely three years ago. In the past, projects of this nature have taken 30 to 50 years from the date of conception in final form to the date of completion. The Bhakra Dam Project in the Punjab in its present form was conceived in 1913. I happened to be among the first few pioneers on this project. It was only in 1947 that work was allowed to proceed on this project. The Tungabhadra Dam was thought of in 1856, conceived in final form in 1902 and work started in 1945 on the canals and in 1947 on the dam after the 40 years old water dispute between Madras, Hyderabad and Mysore was resolved through the good offices of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The Krishnarajasagar Project was conceived in 1901, work commenced in 1911 and completed in two stages in 1941. Similar had been the fate of the Sukkur Barrage on the Indus in Sind where this gap was over 40 years; the Mettur Dam in Madras, 33 years; the Damodar Canal in Bengal, 63 years; the Periyar Dam in Madras, 28 years; and the Sutlej Valley Project Punjab where it was 32 years. It is a happy augury that in a free India the gap between the conception of this first project to be sanctioned and the inauguration of its construction will be barely three years and its translation into reality will be, let us hope, not more than six years thereafter.

#### Orissa's Water Wealth

Orissa has many problems. The foremost among these is the maldistribution of rainfall during the year and from year to year. There is either two much water or too little, floods or famine. Orissa has tremendous water wealth in its three major rivers, the Mahanadi, Brahmini and Baitarani, but that is mostly going to waste, doing damage to life and property in its passage to the sea. This was the first problem to be referred to me as Chairman of the newly created Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission within a month of my assuming charge of office in February 1945. I visited the site in May 1945 and discussed the problem, with local officers. My independent and immediate reaction was to evolve a scheme which would convert the destructive activity of the flood waters into constructive and creative channels. That scheme was the basin wide development, as a first step, of the largest of these three rivers, the Mahanadi, for purposes of flood control, irrigation, waterpower, and navigation, by means of three storage dams, one at Hirakud, the other at Tikkerpara and third at Naraj.

The proposals as formulated were considered at a Conference held on 8th November 1945 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. At this Orissa Multipurpose Rivers Conference comprising representatives of Orissa and C. P. Governments and Orissa States besides those of the Government of India, the desirability of undertaking forthwith the surveys and investigations of the Orissa Rivers with a view to preparing a scheme for (i) flood control, (ii) irrigation and drainage, (iii) power development, and (iv) soil conservation was con-



Pandit Nehru looks through a microscope in the Hirakud Dam laboratories at Sambalpur where soil testing experiments are being conducted

sidered and the conference was unanimously of the view that the investigation of Mahandadi for multipurpose development should be immediately taken up and also agreed that it should be done by the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

On reading the mass of literature produced by the various committees appointed in this connection I discovered that my mind was working on the lines indicated in the report of 1947 by that great doyan of Indian Engineers Sir M. Visvesvaraya—the maker of modern Mysore and the father of the multipurpose development idea in India and I believe in the world. When, at the Industries Conference held in November 1947 in Delhi I sought his advice on this project, his prompt reply was more or less to the effect, "The Project appears to be good, go ahead, go ahead even if you make a few mistakes—nothing venture nothing win," were the words of a man of action, a man who had dreamt great dreams and had them translated into realities, in the face of genuine as well as interested criticism, opposition and obstruction. These words provided the much needed moral support but they served also as a sharp reminder of the futility and dangers

of a policy of inaction born of the fear of making mistakes.

We are spending to the tune of rupees one hundred crores a year in importing food grains. We are forced by necessity to do so. But is it not the result of some collossal mistake or mistakes we have made in the past. We can produce all the food we need and more and we can do so fairly quickly. We have vast areas of uncultivated land, we have unlimited resources in water and we have tremendous water power potential spread over the entire length and breadth of India. We must begin from now on to harness these immense resources which bountiful nature has given us in the interest of self sufficiency, in a drive for more production to retain our hard-won freedom and at the same time to raise the standard of living of the common man. Shall we be frightened into inaction lest we make mistakes? I feel, Sir, that India has enough competent talent which will execute plans without making major mistakes. But even if a mistake is made here and there, it can but be insignificant in its effect compared with the great mistakes which have resulted in an annual drain of rupees one hundred erores a year from this not too rich a

Sir, I need not dilate on the engineering features of the Hirakud Dam Project. These have been published in book form. In brief this project, of which the construction will be inaugurated today, is a part—an independent but integral part of the scheme of basin-wide development of the Mahanadi river, comprising three dams with their canal systems and power installations, namely, the Hirakud Dam, the Tikkerpara and the Naraj dam. It consists of the construction of a dam 160 feet above deepest founda-tion rock and three miles across between abutment hills, with low dykes on the left and right banks. The spillway of the dam (1800 to 2000 ft) across the left arm of the river will be in concrete for 1,000,000 acres discharge, so also the 950 ft. length of dam on the extreme right, required for the power house. The rest of the dam will be of earth properly rolled and consolidated.

There will be a set of navigation locks and two fish ladders. The water from the power plant will be carried through a power-cum-navigation channel on the right bank into a subsidiery reservoir and finally discharged into the river through the lower power house. The total installed capacity at the two power plants will be nearly 350,000 k. w. at 60% load factor. There will be gravity and lift canals on either side with a total capacity to irrigate nearly 11 lakhs of acres. The reservoir at Hirakud will act as a great flood moderator affording protection to the deltaic area,

#### Preparatory Work

When the navigation facilities are fully developed, the Damhra port near Chandbali will develop into a deep sea port capable of handling very considerable volume of traffic.

Based on the rates prevailing in December 1946, the project is estimated to cost Rs. 47.81 crores. It will take nearly six years to complete. On these assumptions, the project is expected to pay a return of 4.29% in the 14th year after start of construction.

It is hoped that the first power unit will be installed by late 1952.

Sir, you will like to know the present state of our investigations and preparatory work for construction. Besides the survey and investigations of which detailed mention has been made in the printed project, we have completed 1,000,000 acres of topographical surveys: made considerable advance on the exploration of foundations by means of test pits, drill holes, drifts, etc., made detailed analysis of construction materials namely soils, ballast, sands, and mortars; made extensive soil surveys of the areas to be brought under irrigation; made further detailed studies of rainfall and runoff, of the rate of silting of reservoir and, in general of the economics of various features of the project. In respect of prepara-tory work, we have procured from Disposals much of machinery required for the construction of the dam and appurtenant works. This machinery is in the course of erection.

We have built many temporary residential buildings for officers, staff and labour and for offices, laboratories, workshops, power house and stores. We have constructed nearly 100 miles of earthen service roads. We have started negotiations for setting up a cement factory. We have obtained preliminary quotations of cost and delivery time, of the power units to be installed at the two power stations. We have made many studies in respect of power generation with a view to increasing output and cutting down costs. We have made investigations as to where the power generated at this project will be utilised and contacted various industrial interests. We have thought of schemes of setting up industrial townships on the right up industrial townships on the right bank of the river and the type of indus-tries to be set up. We are making a detailed survey of the mineral resources of the region so that communications and industrial planning should be related to our resources in power and minerals.

Investigations of the possibilities of development of a deep sea port at Damhra are in progress.

#### New Railway Line

The Railway Board has sanctioned, as a high priority project, the construction of the Sambalpur-Kantabunji Railway line with a railway bridge across the Mahanadi, two miles above Sambalpur, to connect Sambalpur to Kantabunji on the Raipur Vizagapatam railway. The work on this line is being started forthwith. It is hoped that a temporary railway bridge across the Mahanadi will be ready by the end of 1948 and a permanent one by the end of 1948 and a permanent one by the end of 1949. A highway road bridge will be carried on the same piers and will be ready about the same time. The Talchar Barwadih railway link has been similarly sanctioned as a high priority project and a cross link to Sambalpur will give ready access to the mineral wealth of the Bonai and Keonjhar areas.

On the 9th April Sambalpur had for the first time, the boon of a telephone service giving trunk connection to the rest of the country.

In carrying out our preliminary investigations we did not lose sight of the preparatory work so necessary for making a quick start with the construction once the word "Go" is given.

In the above activities we have had the unfailing co-operation of the Survey of India, the Geological Survey of India, the Railway Board, the India Meteorological Department, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Ministry of Industry and Supply, Disposals Directorate, and all departments of the Government of Orissa.

Sir, I may venture to picture at this stage my vision of the Orissa of tomorrow. The merger of States has solved many hitherto insoluble problems. The river valleys are now available for development without involving any political complications. Sambalpur will soon be the centre of industrial enterprise. With a steel factory, an aluminium factory and many other factories dotted all over the area, it will steadily grow in importance. With the railway facilities now sanctioned

for execution or contemplated in the HIRAKUD WILL USHER IN near future, it will have ready access to the rich mineral deposits of iron, coal, manganese, bauxite, limestone, etc.
The power generated at Hirakud will be utilized within a few years after installation. The next source of power will be from the Tikkerpara Dam—the reservoir at which will provide the biggest man-made lake in the world and a power installation of nearly 2 million kilowatts. It is hoped investigations at this site will be ready within two years after which decision as to further progress in this respect can be taken. The water impounded at this dam will be far in excess of the requirements of irrigation in the delta. It is proposed to transfer part of this water through a five mile tunnel into the Rushikulya valley for irrigating large areas there. The merger of States enables this great project to be undertaken concurrently with the Hirakud Dam Project.

The construction of these projects will provide unlimited opportunities to the people of Sambalpur and Orissa for the exercise of initiative and skill in the planning, research, construction and industrial fields. New ideas, new inventions and new methods will originate in years to come in this so-called backward area to assist and guide workers in other parts of the country. It will be our endeavour—nay our sacred duty—to encourage local talent to blossom into fruition.

#### Resettlement of Dispossessed

The resettlement of dispossessed people from the reservoir areas is one of the major problems to be tackled on this project. The merger of States has eased the situation a great deal. As stated in the project report the policy in this respect will have to be generous and progressive, giving land for land, if possible, setting up model villages with modern amenities and otherwise providing continuous employment and incentive to better living. Those people who will suffer (however temporary the suffering) so that their brethren may prosper must have the first claim on our thoughts and attention, and must receive sympathetic and generous consideration at the hands of the Government.

The report of the Hirakud Dam Project has been in the hands of the authorities and some experts for nearly a year now and I have to express my keen sense of satisfaction that with very few exceptions it has received general approval and approbation.

In the preparation of the project and in the investigations we have had the benefit of advice of Indian and foreign specialists in many fields. The project has been visited twice by Dr. J. L. Savage, the world authority on dams. A high level committee of experts, two from India and two from abroad, namely Dr. J. L. Savage and Mr. L. N. McChellan, Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and Mr. A. S. Gookay, Chief Engineer, Ele-ctricity, Punjab, and Mr. M. Narasimhaiya, Chief Engineer, Mysore, has been set up to advise on the various features of the project. It is hoped that we shall be able to secure the advice of Sir M. Visvesvaraya on all essential matters.

## ERA OF PROSPERITY

THE construction of the Hirakud Dam, the first multipurpose project on the Mahanadi near Sambalpur will usher in an era of all-round prosperity for Orissa.

Orissa, including the States newly merged into it, has an area of more than 50,000 square miles and a population of nearly 12 millions. Though the area covered by the Province contains vast agricultural land and forests, is traversed by three major rivers, the Mahanadi, the Brahmini and the Baitarani and contains besides, large deposits of coal, iron, bauxite, manganese, graphite, mica, limestone etc., it is at present probably the most backward area in India with all its immense economic potential still to be exploited. The Mahanadi scheme of which the Hirakud Project will be the first stage of development is intended to inaugurate such realisation of pros-

The Mahanadi, literally the Great River, which carries annually 74 million acre feet of water (higher than that carried by the Nile and far higher than that of the Tennesse River), has, it has been calculated, a mean annual discharge of about 100,000 (1 lakh) cusees, which works out at nearly two-thirds of the total discharge of all the existing canals and irrigation wells in India irrigating about 70 million acres each year. Mahanadi has a catchment area of about 51,000 square miles at its debouch in the plains, and experts believe that if most of its water is conserved and utilised in conjunction with the available head, it may be possible to irrigate every available acre of land, to generate from four to five million kilowatts of power, to render the river navigable over a length of 350 miles for heavy draft vessels and to carry out fish culture on a large scale.

#### Mahanadi Valley

The basin-wide plan for the development of the Mahanadi valley will include the construction of a series of dams on the main river and its major tributaries and of ancillary irrigation, power and naviga-tion works. On the main river three sites have already been chosen for dam construction, namely, at Hirakud, Tekerpara (Barmul Pass) and Naraj. As this entire plan will involve considerable time for preparation and a huge financial lay-out, it has been decided to implement the plan in a number of independent stages, which can all eventually fit into a unified basin-wide scheme. Considerations of urgent need for irrigation felt most keenly in Sambalpur District as well as other power and navigation potentialities have led to the choice of Hirakud Dam project as the first independent stage to be taken up.

It is from the Hirakud Dam that irrigation can be provided to the areas in Sambalpur district. The irrigation canals will command an area of 13 lacs of acres. From this dam it will be possible to afford a substantial measure of flood protection to the delta area, for it is so designed that the flood level in the delta area is kept below the absolute safe-limiting gauge in normal years, and even in the worst years there will occur no material damage.

Power will be developed to the extent of 350 thousand K. Ws. so that the industrial and agricultural development can be planned and proceeded with at once. From the cheap power thus developed aluminium, steel, paper, cement and textile industries can be set up in the neighbourhood of Sambalpur. By regulating the release of water from the Hirakud reservoir and by removing obstacles and providing conservation measures, six to eight hundred tons tows can ply from sea to Dalab and then to the Hirakud Pool. As is generally recognised the carriage by water is cheaper than any other form of transport.

The salient features of Hirakud dam project may be briefly stated. A dam is proposed to be constructed across the Mahanadi at Hirakud—9 miles upstream of Sambalpur. It will be 150 ft. high and 3 miles long. Nearly one-third of the dam will be reserved for surplussing the flood water of this giant river. Six irrigation channels will be taken out from the dam to irrigate 11 lakhs of acres of land annually. Hydroelectric power will be generated firstly at the dam site and secondly at a place 12 miles downstream where on an average a head of nearly seventy ft. is available. It will have a flood absorption capacity of 2 8 million acre ft.

The area submerged under the proposed Hirakud Reservior will be 1,35,000 acres, out of which nearly 70,000 acres will be cultivated land. The programme of constructing the dam will be so arranged that the actual submergence of the above is gradual and spread over a period of about five years. It is proposed to pay generous compensation to the dispossessed people. Land will be given for land as far as possible, and dispossesed inhabitants settled on new land, will be helped and encouraged to construct and live in model villages with provision for incorporating modern amenities in due course. New village sites will be located after careful consideration of the various factors so as to make the community life happy and full.

#### Progress Made

The total cost of the Hirakud Dam has been estimated at 47.81 crores of rupees, which is expected after some years to yield a return of more than 4 per cent. Over and above the financial return, it is felt, there will be appreciable indirect benefits, such as increase in food production which at present is the crying need of India, development of basic industries (thereby providing employment to millions), provision of almost complete flood control and provision of navigational facilities and clean domestic water supply in thousands of villages.

Since the publication of the Mahanadi Project Report in 1947 considerable work has been done on drill holes with diamond drills in the river bed to obtain deep course; trial pits have been made along the earthen part of the dam and the navigation canal; materials of construction, such as aggregates for concrete, soils for the earth dam, water etc. have been tested; preliminary surveys of the power channel and irrigation canals have

been carried out; large number of temporary but decent shelters have been put up for the project staff and labour; stores, workshops, power house and other essential buildings have been erected, the material having been mostly obtained from Disposals; part of the necessary construction machinery has been taken to the site and is in readiness for operation; temporary access roads have been constructed throughout the working area of the dam, dykes, navigation canal, tailrace, residential and workshop area; the alignments for the railway from Sambalpur to the probable bridge site across the Mahanadi a few miles above Sambalpur has been laid and construction work will start simultaneously with the laying of concrete in the dam.

Explaining the time schedule for the execution of the project a note of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation, Navigation says, "The Hirakud Dam Project was conceived by the Chairman, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission in May 1945. Agreement between Orissa, Bihar, adjoining States and Government of India was obtained in 1946 when investigations were started. The Project Report was published in 1947 and the construction work will be started in 1948. It is hoped that the work of construction work will be finished by 1953. In other words from the date of conception of the project to its virtual completion it will be about 8 years.

As against this, Sukkur Barrage on the Indus in Sind was conceived in 1890, construction started in 1922 and completed in 1931; the Bakhra Dam project in the Punjab was conceived in 1910, investigations started in 1912, con. struction started in 1948 and it is likely to be completed in 1954 or 1955; the Sarda Canal project in U. P. was conceived in 1857, some 13 plans were drawn up and submitted till finally in 1920 the project was sanctioned and con. struction was completed in 1929; the Mettur project in Madras was conceived in 1901, drawn up in detail in 1910, construction started in 1925 and completed in 1934; the Tungabhadra project was conceived in 1902, work started in 1945 and is expected to be completed in 1953 or 1954; the Thal project in the Punjab was conceived in 1870, work started in 1939 and is yet to be completed".

As there are different post offices bearing the same name in different parts of the country both in India and Pakistan, omission on the part of the the sender to indicate the name of the district and the province in the addresses on postal articles leads to delay in their delivery, says a Press Note issued by D. G. P. and T. on April 3. To avoid the delay caused by wrong circulation of such articles to post offices of the same name, the public are advised that in writing the addresses, the name of the district and/or the province should always be added after the name of the post office.

# MONUMENT FOR GANDHIJI IN WASHINGTON

The Administration Sub-Committee of the American House of representatives met in Washington on April 5 to hear Congressman Celler on his Bill to erect a monument to Mahatma Gandhi in the American capital.

Mr. Celler outlining the provisions of his Bill said: "Mahatma Gandhi was the most potent force for peace in our time. It was fitting that the United States should take the first step marking our appreciation of his contributions to peace. Such a move would be in recognition of the values for which he stood and which we stand in danger of losing".

Congressman Mundt testifying before the committee urged the desirability of erecting a monument to a man who was not only the political leader responsible for freeing India from foreign rule but was likened to Christ and had a worldwide appeal. He added "Mahatma Gendhi was already immortal and it was fitting that the American people should pay their homage to his message of freedom and peace".

Mr. J. J. Singh, President of the India League in America also gave evidence before the committee. He described the India League and the influence it commanded in the States, and spoke of the formation of the Gandhi Memorial Committee which he said would collect funds for the proposed monument.

## EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX

A provision has been made in the Indian Finance Act, 1948 that charities given to approved institutions will be exempt from income-tax under certain conditions, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 5. A list is being prepared in consultation with the Provinces. The Covernment of India have, however, decided to include the Gandhi National Memorial Fund in such a list when it is issued. Contributions made to this fund will be exempt from income-tax under the relevant provisions of the Indian Finance Act, 1948.

In order that Press trunk calls, which are entitled to a concessional rate, may be distinguished from other calls it is necessary that the caller intimates to the Public Call Offices or the exchange booking the call that it is a Press call, says a Press Note issued by the D. G. P. & T. on April 1.

Such calls should only be made to Press numbers that are registered with the head of a circle. It should be understood that trunk calls clearly relating to matter intended for publication in a newspaper will be treated as Pres. trunk calls.

## PLACE OF INSURANCE IN INDIA'S ECONOMY

THE need of the hour in the economic field is increased output and production, but with no corresponding increase in the wage bill. This difficulty has to be overcome if the country and insurers are not to be overwhelmed by an economic crisis.

Thus observes the Superintendent of Insurance in his Report which forms part of the Indian Insurance Year Book 1947. Referring to the communal condict's reperoussions on trade and industry in the country, he adds that these together with world-wide post-war difficulties have impeded measures of economic rehabilitation. "A marked decrease in industrial output all round is noticeable, and unless this downward tendency is checked and adequate in lustrial expansion takes place, shrinkage in incomes of insurers is bound to occur".

These present trends are all the more pronounced when it is realised that during 1946 there was an all round inorease in insurance business written in companies effected " Life " roughly six per cent more business than in 1945. Fire insurance companie, and companies doing miscellaneous insurance business recorded net premium incomes which were respectively 25 per cent and 60 per cent. higher than those of the previous year. Increased premium incomes were also shown by Marine insurers. Also, loss ratios in the case of Motor and Marine insurance concerns showed a welcome drop, and that in spite of "an abnormal proportion" of old cars being on the road and a likely theft and increase in claims due to pilferage.

After recording these "highlights" of 1946, the Report warns that although ruling price levels and hitherto unspent war-earned moneys might keep premium incomes buoyant for some time yet, new business in the present economic set-up is not likely to romain at its present level permanently, "and there are already signs of a regression".

#### **After Partition**

Following the partition of the country, some movement of the Registered Offices of insurers and Provident Societies took place from one Dominion to the other, and on November 15, 1947, the number of insurers registered under the Insurance Act 1938 was 236 in the Dominion of India, nine in the Dominion of Pakistan and 101 outside both Dominions. Indian insurers engaged only in "Life" business numbered 148. Those doing "Life" and other classes of insurance totalled 46. And 42 were engaged only in non-life business. The corresponding figures for Pakistan were 3, 3, 3; and those for non-Indian insurers, 3, 12 and 86

The net amount of Life insurance business effected by Indian insurers in India and in force at the end of 1946 was about 25,69,000 policies, insuring a

sum of Rs. 5,14.50 crores and having a premium income of Rs. 25.59 crores. These figures represent an increase over the previous year's of about 1,93,000 in the number of policies, Rs. 55.07 crores in the sum insured and Rs. 2.78 crores in the premium income. The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers were about 2,28,000 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 100.85 crores, and with a premium income of Rs. 5.65 crores.

The not amount of life insurance business effected outside India by Indian insurers in 1946 and the amount remaining in force at the end of that year were about 16,200 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 5.73 crores; and about 85,700 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 24.90 crores.

The total revenue income for the year 1946 of Indian and non-Indian insurers in respect of their Life insurance business in India was Rs. 32.02 crores and Rs. 7.76 crore. respectively. The total outgo, including amounts disbursed as claims, surrenders, etc. was Rs. 16.17 crores and Rs. 5.88 crores respectively. The balance—Rs. 15.85 crores and Rs. 1.88 crores—represented the increase in the Life funds of Indian and non-Indian insurers respectively.

#### Fall in Interest Yield

The rate of interest on mean Life funds of Indian insurers during 1946, after deductions of income-tax at source, was 3.20 per cent, as compared with 3.48 per cent in the previous year. The total expenses of management expressed as a percentage of the premium income during the year worked out to 31.2 per cent as compared with 32.2 per cent in the previous year.

The corresponding figures for non-Indian insurers were 3.18 per cent. and 20.2 per cent, as compared with 3.22 per cent and 19.3 per cent for the previous year.

Of the 48 new valuations of Indian insurers published in the Year Book, 25 disclosed a surplus. In the case of 10 of these, the surplus was allocated to policyholders and/or share-holders and in the case of the others the surplus was carried forward unappropriated. Twenty three concerns disclosed a deficit. In 13 of these, the deficit covered by the free paid up capital, and in the case of the remaining 10 it was not so covered.

The net total premium income of Indian insurers under business other than Life was Rs. 6.69 crores, comprising Rs. 3.83 crores from Fire insurance Rs. 1.10 crores from Marine insurance and Rs. 1.76 crores from Miscellaneous insurance. The net premium income of non-Indian insurers for business in India was as follows: Fire insurance Rs. 2.19 crores, Marine insurance Rs. 1.12 crores and Miscellaneous insurance Rs. 1.56 crores.

The ratio of claims to the net premium income of Indian and non-Indian insurers combined was 30 per cent in Fire insurance, 40 per cent in Marine insurance and 28 per cent in Miscellaneous insurance. The corresponding percentages for 1945 were 31, 52 and 34.

Ratios of commission to the net premium income were: Fire insurance 22 per cent, with no change over the year 1945, Marine insurance 15 per cent as against 18 per cent for 1945, and Miscellaneous 15 per cent as against 13 per cent.

Ratios of expenses of management to the net premiun income were: Fire insurance 26 per cent, as again: 27 per cent for 1945; Marine insurance 21 per cent. as in 1945; and Miscellaneous 21 per cent, as against 20 per cent for 1945.

On November 15, 1947, there were 118 provident societies (110 constituted in the Dominion of India and 8 in the Dominion of Pakistan) registered under the Act. The new business effected by these societies in 1946 was about 24,000 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 126 37 lakhs. This knowed an increase over the previous year's figures of about 1,600 in the number of policies and Rs. 24.30 lakhs in the sums insured. The total business in force at the end of the year was about 82,500 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 307.37 lakhs.

#### Life Premium Rates

Scrutiny of the investments of Life insurance companies under Section 27 of the Insurance Act showed that on December 31, 1946, the companies actually had invested in Government and Approved Securities nearly 60 per cent. more than the statutory requirements. "Cheap money conditions more than Section 27 are thus making leading insurers invest in a large measure in Government and approved securities", the Report comments.

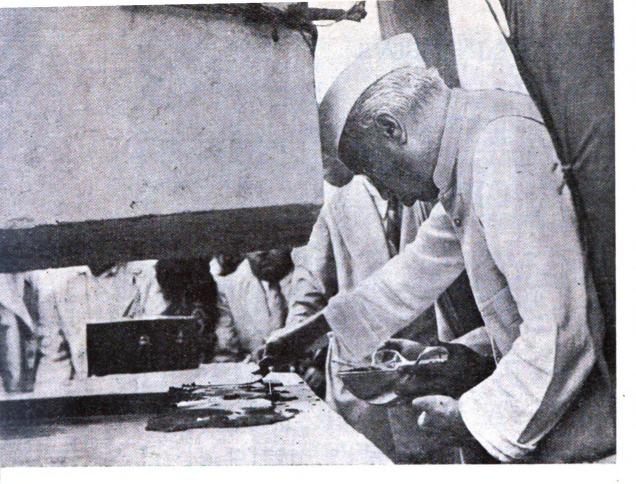
Licences issued under the Act to insurance agenta in 1946 numbered 1,56,992, Of this, about 21,700, or nearly 14 per cent, were issued to female agents. The comment follow: "Whether all these were genuine cases cannot be accertained".

Referring to the latest loan issue of 21 per cent, (1962) the Superintendent of Insurance states, "The Government is alive to the limits of pursuing this cheap money policy". He tenders the advice that the present cheap money conditions "should not make the companies abandon their current investment policy and yield to the temptation to search for attractive yields in more speculative fields.

Referring to the revision of Life premium rates effected recently by insurers on an interest basis more in accord with the actual yields obtainable, the Report suggests that still a large number of insurers are carrying on business at unremunerative rates of premium. "These insurers," it remarks, "would be well advised to take stock of their position and make an early revision of their premium rates on interest basis more in accord with realities".

(Continued on page 617)







(Left) Pandit Nehru firmly centhe base for the slowly descent foundation stone of Orissa's Capital

## BHUBANESHWAR-ORISSA'S NEW CAPITAL

### PANDIT NEHRU LAYS FOUNDATION STONE

N April 13, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation-stone of the new capital of Orissa at Bhubaneshwar, 18 miles from Cuttack. The ceremony consisted of placing a metal casket containing the autographed declaration of Pandit Nehru in laying the foundation-stone, the day's newspaper, some current coins, cereals inside the hollow of the base of what will be Gandhi Memorial Pillar and putting a large stone over it. The future capital of Orissa is to be built around this memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Pandit Nehru speaking after the ceremony referred to India's capital of New Delhi—"surcharged with past history and present troubles" and compared it to the better atmosphere in Orissa. Laying the foundation-stone of Bhubaneshwar, he said, was a work very much to his heart—work to build and to create something. A city was built to be the community centre of human beings, affording facilities for children, housewives and workers elike. But such a conception of city should not overlook the aspect of beauty, he said. Pandit Nehru congratulated the architects, engineers and the Government

of Orissa on venturing on this great step of building Bhubaneshwar.

The Premier of Orissa, Shri Hari Krishna Mehtab, said that the 13th of April was a great day for Orissa. Not only was it the New Year, but it marked also the last day of the National Week. He expressed the hope that Bhubaneshwar would be the centre of service to the whole country.

His Excellency, the Governor of Orissa, Dr. K. N. Katju, also spoke thanking Pandit Nehru for coming to Orissa to lay the foundation-stone.

#### **New Capital**

The new Orissa capital extends to about five square miles and lies between the Barang Railway Station and the Bhima Tangi plateau. It is being planned by a German town planning expert, Dr. O. H. Koenigsberger, and its buildings are being designed by the Provincial Government's architect in conformity to the traditional Oriyan architecture. The capital will consist of a Government House, an Assembly Hall, Secretariat buildings, markets, schools,

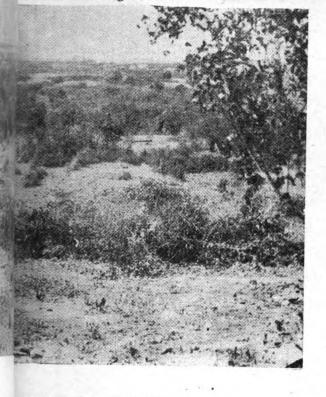
quarters for officials and other important public buildings. According to the Provincial Government architect, it is expected to develop further as days go by.

The capital is to cost 6½ crores of rupees, and might take 3 to 5 years to complete.

Bhubaneshwar was the capital of the Kesair dynasty of Kings who ruled Utkal from 417 A. D. up to the middle of the 11th century. It is famous for its Saivite temples, illustrating the characteristic feature of Orissan art in perfect combination of solidity of mass with exuberance of ornament.

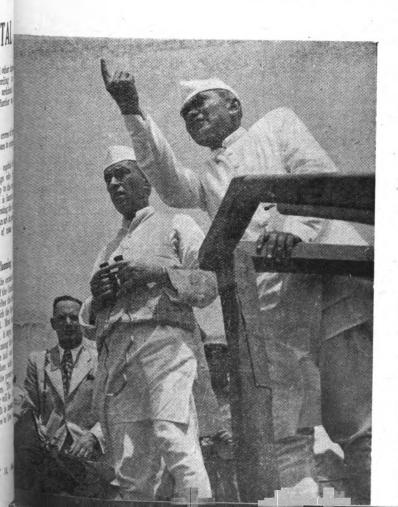
#### Principles of Town Planning

A leastet circulated on the occasion by the authorities in charge of the Construction of the Capital describes the town-planning principles on which the lay-out of this city is to be based. Most towns have grown haphazardly, it says, and very few were planned. Among the few planned towns some were laid out for military purposes and others with the object of demonstrating the power and wealth of their initiators. The new capital of Bhubaneshwar will be built with a different object. It is meant to help the people who have to live and to work in it.

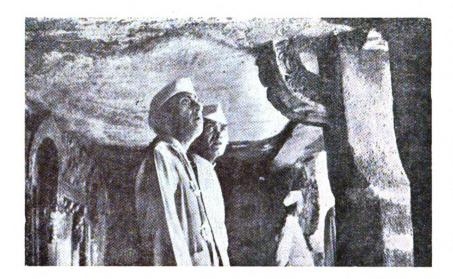


Above) The terrain of Bhubaneshwar, the site of the new Capital of Orissa Right) The Prime Minister and party at the Bhubaneshwar temple (Bottom left) H. E. Dr. K. N. Katju, Orissa Governor, explains the lay-out f the new Capital to the Prime Minister. (Bottom right) The Bhubaneshwar temple









Pandit Nehruland Dr. K. N. Katju visit the Khandagiri caves

For this purpose a site has been selected at the border line between the agricultural delta of the Mahanadi <sup>1</sup> and the forest hinterland of Orissa. Thus the town will enjoy the benefits of the food growing delta land and the healthy climate of the forest areas.

If the new town is to benefit the people first attention must be given to the health, safety and education of the children. Houses are therefore laid out in such a manner that young children can reach their kindergarten or basic school with a short walk from their homes without being endangered by cars and trucks. They will find open country and playgrounds near their homes.

The second important group are the women. Housewives must find the requirements of their households in easy reach—even during the hot weather. Shopping centres will form an important feature of the lay-out of the new town. These shopping centres will be more than ordinary bazars: in addition to shops of all kinds, they will include co-operative stores, small vegetable markets, reading rooms, class rooms for evening classes, dispensaries, police out-posts, sub-post offices, restaurants, cinemas and other amenities.

#### Self-Contained Units

The third group which requires consideration in the town are the wage earners. It will not be possible to provide work for everybody in the immediate neighbourhood of his residence. Even if this was physically possible it would be undesirable, because an arrangement of this kind would restrict the freedom of a man to change his employment. The new town will, however, be laid out in such a manner that the Secretariat and other Government offices and the railway station which connects the new capital with Puri, Cuttack and Chowdwar can be reached within a mile and a half from most residences. In addition there will be a bus service within not more than 1/2 a mile from any house of the new town.

To achieve these objects, the new town will be grouped in self-contained neighbourhood units, each comprising about 850 families or about 4 to 5 thousand people. Four such neighbourhood units will be built immediately for the requirements of the new town, old Bhubaneshwar will form the fifth and further neighbourhood units will be added if and when the need arises. This system

of neighbourhood units will permit an unlimited expansion of the town without sacrificing the basic principle of concentrating houses around schools and shopping centres and the proximity of urban houses to open fields and recreation grounds.

The organization of the town as groups of neighbourhood units will facilitate the establishment of municipal self-government for each group, because the administrative units will be small enough for the average citizen to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of his constituency. It is hoped that this system will help to develop the individual character of each unit in appearance and social life.

To counteract centrifugal tendencies which may result out of the distinct grouping of the town, the new plan provides for two elements which are intended to have an integrating effect:—

One is the group of public buildings which centre round the Gandhi Memorial Pillar, thus making this symbol of Gandhiji's life and teaching the spiritual centre of the whole town.

The second integrating element is the historical heritage of the surroundings. The temples of Ancient Bhubaneshwar, the caves of Khandagiri, and the ruins of Tosalis have established a tradition of cultural achievements which we shall be proud to continue in our new capital.



Bhubaneshwar temple

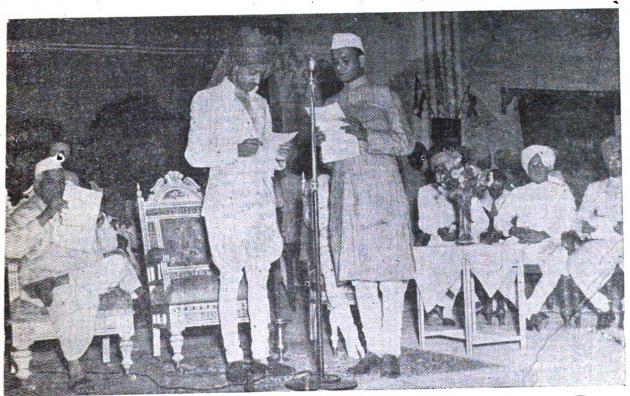


## VINDHYA PRADESH UNION

IGHEST praise and heartiest congratulations for the people and Princes of the new United States of Vindhya Pradesh were expressed in a message from the Honble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister on the occasion of the swearing in ceremony of the Raj Pramukh and Prime Minister on April 4 at Rewa. Sarda Patel said:—

For several centuries in the past, Central India had been the cockpit of this great sub-continent. Under a strong imperial regime, it was generally either a transit route for armies on the march or a stepping stone for expeditions to the South. Under a weak Central Kingdom it was divided up into small principalities, under feudal rule, which made any progress or prosperity impossible. Under the British Rule, the latter position obtained largely because of historical circumstances and high policy. The

Mr. N.V. Gadgil (Left) administering the oath of office to the Maharaja of Rewa, Rajpramukh of Vindhya Pradesh Union, at a Durbar held-in Rewa on April 4. (Below) Mr. K. P. Saksena being sworn in as Prime Minister of Vindhya Pradesh Union by the Rajpramukh.



consequence has been that this tract of land intended by a bounteous nature to flourish in wealth and plenty has been one of the most backward tracts in India. Its potentialities are undoubtedly great. Only they require concentrated, well-directed and planned effort to be exploited into the service, and for the benefit, of its inhabitants.

It is obvious that this was impossible so long as its map represented small fragments of principalities, unable to afford or sustain that effort. Moreover, in the context of present-day world events and in the upsurge of democratic principles, it was impossible that these small States should have continued for long in their isolated existence without inviting internal commotion and breeding discontent which would have merely accentuated the ravages of time and the disasters of centuries. It has given me immense pleasure, therefore, to find that both the Rulers and the people of Rewa and Bundelkhand States have decided to pool their resources in order to bring out to the full the glory of this ancient territory and the potentialities of this comparatively undeveloped area. This is a decision on which both wise and patriotic Princes and their comprehending people deserve the highest praise and heartiest congratulations. I send these on this historic occasion in abundant measure and with all my heart.

I should like to emphasize, however, that while a great event has been achieved, greater tasks are still to be undertaken. Unity and the new democratic set-up would be purposeless if they did not bring about improvement in the lot of the common man or did not secure the development of these backward areas. Utmost co-operation between the various elements, fusion of administrative and political systems between the two parts in which for the time being the Union has been divided, a sound, efficient and properly directed administrative system, and careful husbanding of the resources are essential if this objective is to be achieved.

#### New Unified Life

Now that the Union has been achieved, let the units cease to think in terms of themselves; their guiding principle should not be their past individual existence, but their new unified life under a common system of Legislature and administration. I should, in particular like to appeal to His Highness the Maharaja and the people of Rowa to recognise their future as one of common destiny of Bundelkhand and themselves. I fully appreciate how much His Highness and the people of Rewa have sacrificed for this common purpose. I hope that it would be that purpose rather than any narrow outlook that will guide the popular representatives in future.

I would also like to stress the necessity of securing for this tract a well-knit and efficient administrative system. Let it not be said by the future generations that "Yours was the tragedy of high intentions self-defeated". Instead, let history record the achievements of a people whom a cruel destiny had hitherto kept back from peace as well as prosperity,

(Continued in Col. 3)

## National Savings Certificates

The Government of India have been considering for some time the question of providing facilities for middle and lower middle class investors who may wish to invest in National Savings Certificates without having to lock up their money for as long as twelve years, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 12. They have accordingly decided to issue two more series of National Savings Certificates, one with a currency of five years and the other with a currency of seven years.

These certificates will be in addition to the existing twelve-year certificates, which will continue to be issued and which will cater to those investors who prefer this relatively long-term investment at the favourable rate of interest which these certificates offer.

The new issues will be subject to the same rules as the present twelve-year National Savings Certificates, except that they will be encashable at any time the holder desires. These certificates will be issued in denominations of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 100, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 5,000. The surrender value of a certificate of the face value of Rs. Ten of the three different series will be as given in the table below.

The redemption yield of the 5-year certificates will be 3 per cent, of the 7-year certificates a little over 3½ per cent, and of the 12-year certificates a little over 4 per cent.

Arrangements are being made at all Post Offices conducting Savings Bank business for accepting subscriptions for the new series of National Savings Certificates with effect from June 1, 1948.

With the issue of these new series, the National Savings Certificates provide a full-range investment for those who prefer such to the purchase of Government securities. The interest from all these certificates is free of income-tax, and the maximum amount that may be invested is Rs. 15,000 in all. Considering the security behind these certificates, the rate of interest for all these series is very favourable to the investor. The Government of India trust that the issue of the new series will stimulate investment in National Savings Certificates over a wider field than at present. There is nothing so secure from the point of view of the public as investment in Government securities; in addition to this, the National Savings Certificates offer attractive terms both in the matter of rate of interest and by way of ex-

#### GANDHI MEMORIAL FUND

Receipt Books of the Gandhi National Memoria! Fund, whether intended for despatch by surface route or by air, will be accepted for transmission by post offices, without payment of postage charges and registration fee, says a I ress Note issued by the D. G. P. & T. on April 12.

The sender should give a declaration on the outer covers of postal articles containing Receipt Books, that the contents are Receipt Books of the Gandhi National Memorial Fund.

(Continued from Col. 1)

but who were inherently capable of better things in life, who strove to achieve their mission by sheer tenacity of purpose, grit and efficiency of their services and thereby succeeded in revenging themselves upon the past, for this, it is essential that an efficient administration should grow. I am sure you will need all the help and advice that the Centre can give you. I need hardly say that these will be available in fullest measure. Let not people think that thereby they will in any way be disparaging themselves. On the other hand, it would be the proud privilege of the Centre and of themselves to cooperate, with single-minded devotion, in the uplift of the masses. There can be no inferiority or speriority in the discharge of a sacred task.

Those who will be in charge of the administration of the Union, from His Highness the Raj Pramukh, the Up-Raj Pramukh, the Prime Minister and other Ministers down to the common official have, therefore, to undertake duties in a spirit of sacrifice and collaboration. All differences that may have existed in the past, or that may threaten to assume hideous shape in future must be subordinated to the high purpose which I have set out above and which it should be their mission in life to fulfil. God helps those who help themselves, and I am confident that if the people of this Union bend themselves to their new responsililities in a spirit of self-sacrifice. and with determination and vigour, they will succeed in achieving what would probably be one of the great successes of human endeavour in this country.

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### Pandit Nehru On Governments' Industrial Policy

burdens on industry because the State itself is burdened as much with its social problems, it has to solve them or cease to be a Socialist State, and if it just becomes a police State then it ceases to be and some owner State takes its place," said the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru winding up the debate on Industrial Policy Recolution in the Indian Parliament on April 7.

Pandit Nehru said :-

Sir, I must apologise to the House for not having been present here throughout this debate, but sometimes the claims of other work are heavy. I would have liked to have been here throughout because I am vastly interested in this subject and I should have liked to hear what members have said. I understand that many of the Members have commended this Resolution and spoken in praise of it or in satisfaction of it at least. that some have not liked it and that some have disliked it intensely. I am glad of that difference of opinion, and I am sorry if any of the Honourable members should feel that he should suppress his own opinion ou such a vital matter because of some Whip or some other direction of the Party executive.

#### A Clean Slate

I have myself been concerned with the theoretical aspects of planning for a fairty considerable time. I realise that there is a great deal of difference between the theory of it and the practice of it: as in almost everything in life, the theory is full of postry as, if I may say so, was the speech of my honourable colleague, the Mover of the Resolution, but when we come down to applying that postry all manner of difficulties crop up. Normally there would be those difficulties but as we are situated today, with the peculiar situation of India after all that has happened in the course of the last seven or eight months, one has to be very careful of what step one might take which might not injure the existing structure too much. There has been destruction and injury enough, and certainly I confess to this House that I am not brave and gallant enough to go about destroying much more.

I think there is room for destruction in India still of many things—they will no doubt have to be removed; nevertheless, there is a way of approach. Are we going to adopt the course of having a clean slate or sweeping away almost everything so that we might have the pleasures of writing anew, without anything else being written on that slate? That seems to be an easy way of doing things, though perhaps there never has been a clean slate even when people imagined that there was going to be a clean slate.

Nevertheless, there can be more or less a clean slate: I will not say that one should never try for that clean slate. But one has to think of each country and its condition at the time and see which is the preferable course, which involves lesser dangers. soms to me that in the state of affaire in the world today and in India, any attempt to have what might be called a clean slate, that is to say a sweeping away of all that we have got, would certainly not bring progress nearer but might delay it tremendously, which far from bringing economic progress may put us politically so far back that the economic aspect itself may be delayed tremendously.
We cannot separate these two things. cannot separate these two things. We have gone through big political up-heavals and cataclysms and if in our attempt to get something that we liked, to go forward one step in one direction we lose a few steps in another, then in the balance we have lost, not gained.

#### Burden on Industry

Therefore, the alternative to that clean slate is to try to rub out here and there to write on it, gradually to replace the writing on the whole slate-not very gradually, I hope, but nevertheless not with a great measure of destruction and strain. May be I have been affected by recent events, but more and more I have felt that it is wrong to destroy something that is producing or doing good. It takes a long time to build and it does not take very long to destroy. So that if this House and this country thinks that we should proceed shead in a constructive spirit much more than in a destructive spirit, then that approach necessarily has to be different. What your ideals may be is another matter, but even in the realisation of those ideals do you think that the easiest way of approach will be a clean sweep and then starting anew, or to replace as rapidly as posssible and as fast as you can with your available resources and material, the existing structure with a new one? I have no doubt in my mind that we have to change this existing structure and as rapidly as possible.

I was listening to the Honourable Member who just spoke before me; I was listening to his laments of the burdens that are put on industry, of taxation and of this and that. The fact of the matter is that that lament is onled on a certain view of the world which I fear cannot possibly come back. I am not thinking in idealistic terms but just practical terms; you cannot have it back. There are going to be greater burdens on industry because the State itself is burdened so much with its social problems: it has to solve them or cease to be a Socialist State, and if it just becomes a police State then it ceases to be and some other State takes its place. It has to face its problems, and if it is to do that it must necessarily get the wherewithal to face those problems, and the burden on industry or the like becomes greater and greater.

In fact, not because you think or I think or anybody thinks, but inevitably the trend of events is to make the State more and more the organiser of constructive industry etc. and not the private capitalist or any other person. That is just quite inevitable so far as I can see objectively. I do not rule cut entirely the profit motive, I do not know how long it will last in a smaller sense, but in the larger sense of the term it will come more and more into conflict with the new sense of the socialist state. That conflict will go on and one must survive, and it is clear that the State will survive not that group which represents in its pure essence the profit motive in industry.

That is an inevitable development. How are you to face that development? Are you then again to try to accelerate it as many of us would like to do, because quite apart from the economic aspect, the expert aspect, we have arrived at another stage which I trust every sensitive man feels somewhat, a psychological view of looking at things. That is that sensitive people cannot put up easily today with the vast gap between human beings, the distance between them, the difference bet-ween them, the lack of opportunities on the one side and the waste on the other. It seems so vulgar, and vulgarity is the worst thing that a country or individual should support. We are arriving at a stage which is beyond it. It was not, if I may say so, vulgar 50 or 100 years ago. Although the profit motive was tunctioning very strongly and although there was probably greater suffering then, nevertheless, the approach was different. Perhaps the sense of social values was different. But, in the context of the world today, it is becoming increasingly not only a wrong thing from the economic point of view but a vulgar thing from any sensitive point of view. So, those changes are bound to come.

#### Mixed Economy

How then, are you going to bring about those changes? As I said, I would much rather bring them about without deliberate destruction and obstruction, because the destruction and obstruction, whatever the future may bring after them, they undoubtedly lead to a stoppage of growth at present. They stop production. They stop wealth producing activities. One has the satisfaction of being able to do something afterwards more rapidly, no doubt, but it is not much a certain thing that afterwards you will be able to do it so rapidly. One has to compromise, therefore, much. Although hate the word compromise in this context or in any context, one has simply to do it, if one does not run away with some kind of notion in one's head without thinking about it.

That brings us to a transitional stage of economy. Call it what you like -- "mixed economy" or anything else. It brings us to doing thinks in such a way as continually to aid to the wealth of the country and to add not only to the wealth of the country as a whole but to the distribution of that wealth in the

centry and gradually arrive at a stage when the centre of gravity of the whole sconomy has shifted the other way. Now. I rather doubt myself whether it is possible, without a conflict or without repeated conflicts, to bring about these changes quite peacefully, because people who are used to possessing certain vested interests or certain ideas do not easily accept new ideas and nobody likes to give up what he has got; at least no groups like it; individuals sometimes do. These conflicts are continually arising, but the point is that even those conflicts are rather foolish conflicts, if I may say so, because those conflicts cannot stop the trend of events. They may delay and in delaying the result is probably that those who hold on to those vested interests get even a worse bargain at the end.

#### **Production Methods**

Now, there is another aspect which I should like the House to consider and that is this. It is an odd thing that many of our most ardent revolutionaries who think in terms of an idealistic world are quite extraordinarily conservative in their scientific approach to the world's problems. If I may explain myself, I have used the word "scientific" in its narrow sense. Most of the friends—Socialists or the Communists—continually think in terms of production remaining as it is in the technique of production, in the methods of production. Of course, they will not a lmit that. They will say: "No. It is changing." But nevertheless, they base their programmes more or less on a static would and not on a continually changing world with new methods of production, new test nique of production etc. They technique of production etc. think in terms, for instance, of changing the land system. Perfectly right, because the fundamental thing is the fuedal land system should go before you build another society. So far quite right. Change the land system. They think in terms of acquiring industries, because a socialist economy means that big industries or even all of them should be owned by the State. Well, quite good.

But they do not think so much in terms of the vast changes in production methods that come about, which may render the present industrial apparatus or even the methods adopted in the cultivation of the land completely obsolescent and obsolete. They say: "Why don't you acquire this or that: spend vast sums of money over acquiring things which are 90% obsolete. In fact, from the point of view of technological advance, it may well be a complete waste of money to acquire those obsolete machinery, factories and other things that may be there. It is true that they are useful so long as new factories and new technological methods are not introduced, and if you have vast quantity of money and resources, certainly acquire them and go shead with other things. But if you have limited rescurces, then the main thing to do is to go about thinking in terms of the State acquiring the new processes, the new changes, and not so much of the old, except from the point of view of the old coming in the way when the

old obstructs, when the old hampers your planning and progress.

Now, obviously, constituted as we are in India, we have not got unlimited resources. We have to think hard where to get the money from; how to get the money; how to get the other resources—technical and other. If o, there has to be a certain kind of priorities about what work we do. Even if you start acquiring things,—suppose we decide to acquire a large number of industries—and you pass this Resolution; I am quite sure when we work it out, actually in practice, it will take a good deal of time to take them one by one. However rapidly you may do it, it takes a little time, unless of course, it is by the process "of clean slate" where you sweep the old things away and build a new one on it. Therefore, even if you think of doing that, you have to think in terms of priorities; which industry first, which service first, etc.; one after the other; provide the money; provide the organisation; provide the technical personnel etc., etc., So it takes time. Much more so when you have to think in terms of additional industry and new industry, new schemes plus old schemes. You have to think in terms of priorities: which must come first. I have no doubt in my mind that priority for the State enterprises must be in terms of new things as far as possible unless the old thing comes in the way.

#### River Valley Schemes

I attach the greatest importance to-day to, let us say, the great river valley projects and schemes that have been framed. the first one of which, the Damodar Valley scheme, has passed through this Legislature and others are coming soon. I think they are far more important than almost all your existing industries. Here is something new that you are building out of nothing; new land brought into cultivation, many new things, which You are creating out of the enormous power of the river valley project. Now, I want that to be completely Statecontrolled, but run, as is stated in this Resolution, on the model of a Public Corporation. I do hope that that Public Corporation that is going to be established is not going to be a Departmentally run organisation, but either wholly or more or less as an independent organisation. I do hope that it is not going to be run by people who have worked in the ruts of the Departments, but by persons of vision. push and drive; not people who write on files but who do the work. Now, regarding these vast river valley schemes. of which you have got enormous ones, all the resources of India are not enough to push them through quickly. Am I going to allow those to remain undone and delay them and think in terms of acquiring a tramway system or some-thing else here and there? Let the tramway system be acquired, if you like; but I do not want to give first priority to the tramway system or some such thing.

Now, in this Resolution which has been placed before you, various lists are given—list no. 1, no. 2 etc.—as to what Government propose to do and has dene. There these river valley projects are mentioned rather casually. But remember what that casual mention means. It means that the State is undertaking vast

enterprises all over the country which will govern the industry of this country and all your acquisition and the rest will be secondary and minor. These river valley systems are controlled by the State and they will control the economy and industry of the country completely. If you get a grip of all these things, then the process becomes swifter, but if we simply lay down rather fancy schemes then we never come to grips with any particular part of it, then really we are not advancing at all except on paper and in theory. Therefore, from the poetry of rather vague planning in the sir, we have to come down to the prose of the statement. Because it is a prossic statement, there is very little poetry in it except the poetry of my Honourable friend who made the speech at the beginning. It is definitely a prosaic statement: it is meant to be a prosaic statement, the House knows it is not difficult to put in fine flourishes of language in a resolution of this kind which would have sounded so nice for the public and which would without conveying any commitment have pleased the ear and the eye and produce a general impression how fine we are. Well, we have very deliberately not done so, because we wanted to make it a prossic statement of what we think we ought to do and we can do in the relatively near future and how far we can do it. How much we cannot do depends upon this House and a multitude of factors, but at any rate this is a thing which is meant to be done, not a thing which is meant to be flourished about as a kind of organised programme before the public.

#### Age of Transition

The tempo will depend on so many factors. I mentioned these river valley schemes, because I attach the greatest importance to them. Now suppose the Damodar Valley scheme is a thundering success and we can forter it, that is a bigger thing from the State's point of view of the industrialization point of view and others than the fact that this House has passed half a dozen other schemes which are not functioning. So it is the first steps that count, the first things. if we start an industry under State ausinces let us make it a thorough success instead of going to acquire this and that and making a mess of many things of course, once you have laid . good foundation, it will be easy for you to go ahead. Now it is obvious that this Government or this House may pass this resolution, may lay down the periods of time as to what will happen five or ten or fifteen years hence, but the fact of the matter is that we are living in an ago of very swift change and transition and nobody can guarantee what will happen and when it will happen; Lobody can guarantee whether there will be war or peace and nobody can guarantee what will happen even if there is reace because things change rapidly in India. We have lived during the last eight months on the verge of rapid change and very undesirable and unhealthy change in many respects.

Nevertheless when we say ten years, we mean it, that is as we see this gs at present,—and we say ten years because so far as we can see, the State's hands will be completely full. It is not merely

to give an assurance, although we wish to give an assurance to all working industries so that they may be able to function properly, but fundamentally we have got enough to do and we want to do it thoroughly; but whether I give an assurance or the House gives it, ultimately events will determine the pace. Events may go faster or slower; events may break up our economy or something may happen, not only that, but hundred and one things may happen.

#### Capital is Shy

When we are told-and I suppose it is a fact—that capital is shy and it does not come in, we cannot get capital for private industry or public loans, etc. it is a fact, well, that too I imagine is due more to these changing conditions than to anything that we might do or anybody else might not do. For this the industrialist or capitalist himself will have to choose whether he is too afraid of putting his capital or whether if he is then well and good. If not others will put in other ways. It is obvious that the country cannot stand by. Either we give a fair field and a fair chance to the industrialist to go ahead with a certain domain and if he does not, we go ahead and we cannot see things m smanaged or not managed because he is arraid that he won't get enough profit or something that might happen.
The people cannot wait. We give a fair chance, a fair field, and a fair profit and if he does not do all that, somebody also has to do it; there cannot be a vacuum. Also if any industries are mismanaged, not managed, slowed down or stopped, etc., again we have to consider what to do with that industry, because the day of industry simply stopping, not functioning, because somebody misbehaves, either an employer or labour and the whole community suffering is gradually passing. Ine community cannot afford to do that, the community must see that it gives a fair deal to labour, that is a different matter.

Therefore in this resolution a great deal has been said about it and that is perhaps one of the most important parts of the Resolution i.e., regarding councils and committees, because unless you give a completely fair deal you cannot come down with a heavy hand. After that you may have people still misbehaving, so that I would like this House to consider this Resolution in this context. I have not touched on the various subjects which might be added or subtracted. I have no doubt if the House set down, it could perhaps here and there makes some changes in it, but I do submit that the fundamental approach of this statement is the only right approach at the present time and therefore I hope the House will adopt it.

#### "ACHILLES" RENAMED "DELHI"

The Government of India have decided to rename H. M. S. ACHILLES, the first cruiser which has been acquired for the Royal Indian Army, as H. M. I. S Delhi, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on April 5.

The ship is expected to arrive in the autumn of this year.

# Government Resolution On Industrial Policy

Resolution on Government of India's Industrial Policy, which was debated on April 7 in the Dominion Parliament:

The Government of India have given careful thought to the economic problems facing the country. The nation has now set itself to establish a social order where justice and equality of opportunity shall be secured to all the people. The immediate objective is to provide educational facilities and health services on a much wider scale, and to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by exploiting the latent resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community. For this purpose, careful planning and integrated effort over the whole field of national activity are necessary; and the Government of India propose to establish a National Planning Commission to formulate programmes of development and to secure their execution. The present statement, however, confines itself to Government's policy in the industrial field.

2. Any improvement in the economic conditions of the country postulates an increase in national wealth: a mere redistribution of existing wealth would make no essential difference to the people and would merely mean the distribution of poverty. A dynamic national policy must, therefore, be directed to a continuous increase in production by all possible means, side by side with measures to secure its equitable distribution. In the present state of the nation's economy, when the mass of the people are below subsistence level, the emphasis should be on the expansion of production, both agricultural and industrial; and in particular on the production of capital equipment, of goods satisfying the basic needs of the people, and of commodities the export of which will increase earnings of foreign exchange.

#### State Participation

3. The problem of State participa-tion in Industry and the conditions in which private enterprise should be allowed to operate must be judged in this context. There can be no doubt that the State must play a progressively active role in the development of industries, but ability to achieve the main objectives should determine the immediate extent of State responsibility and the limits to private enterprise. Under present conditions, the mechanism and the resources of the State may not permit it to function forthwith in Industry as widely as may be desirable. The Government of India are taking steps to remedy the situation; in particular, they are considering steps to create a body of men trained in business methods and management. They feel, however, that for some time to come, the State could contribute quickly to the increase of national

wealth by expanding its present activities wherever it is already operating and by concentrating on new units of production in other fields, rather than on acquiring and running existing units. Meanwhile, private enterprise, properly directed and regulated, has a valuable role to play.

- . 4. On these considerations the Government have decided that the manufacture of arms and ammunition, the production and control of atomic energy, and the ownership and management of railway transport should be the exclusive monopoly of the Central Government. Further, in any emergency, the Government would always have the power to take over any industry vital for national defence. In the case of the following industries, the State-which, in this context, include. Central, Provincial and State Governments and other Public Authorities like Municipal Corporations. will be exclusively responsible for the establishment of new undertakings, except where, in the national interest, the State itself finds it necessary to secure the co-operation of private enterprise subject to such control and regulation as the Central Government may prescribe:
  - Coal (the Indian Coalfields Committee's proposals will be generally followed).
  - (2) Iron and Steel.
  - (3) Aircraft Manufacture.
  - (4) Shipbuilding
  - (5) Manufacture of telephone, telegraph and wireless apparatus, excluding radio receiving sets.
  - (6) Mineral Oils.

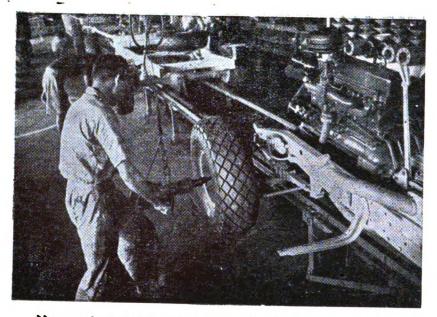
#### Private Enterprise

While the inherent right of the State to acquire any existing industrial undertaking will always remain, and will be exercised whenever the public interest requires it, Government have decided to let existing undertakings in these fields develop for a period of ten years, during which they will be allowed all facilities for efficient working and reasonable expansion. At the end of this period, the whole matter will be reviewed and a decision taken in the light of circumstances obtaining at the time. If it is decided that the State should acquire any unit, the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution will be observed and compensation will be awarded on a fair and equitable basis.

Management of State enterprise will, as a rule, be through the medium of public corporations under the statutory control of the Central Government, who will assume such powers as may be necessary to ensure this.

f. The Government of India have recently promulgated a measure for the control by the State of the generation and distribution of electric industry will continue to be regulated in terms of this measure.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1948



Motor truck wheels being mounted on to the chassis on a moving conveyor

- 6. The est of the industrial field will normally be open to private enterprise, individual as well as co-operative. State will also progressively participate in this field; nor will it hesitate to intervene whenever the progress of an industry under private enterprise is unsatisfactory. The Central Government have already embarked on enterprises large river-valley developments, which are multi-purpose projects of great magnitude, involving extensive generation of hydro-electric power and irrigation on a vast scale, and are calculated in a comparatively short time to change the entire face of large areas in this country. Projects like the Damodar Valley Scheme, the Kosi Reservoir, the Hirakud Dam, etc., are in a class by themselves and can stand comparison with any of the major schemes in America or elsewhere. The Central Government have also undertaken the production of fertilizers on a very large scale, and have in view other enterprises like the manufacture of essential drugs, and of synthetic oil from coal; many Provincial and State Govlines.
- 7. There are certain basic industries of importance, apart from those mentioned in paragraph 4, the planning and regulation of which by the Central Government is necessary in the national interest. The following industries whose location must be governed by economic factors of all-India import, or which require considerable investment or a bigh degree of technical skill, will be the subject of Central regulation and control:—
  - (1) Salt.
  - (2) Automobiles and tractors.
  - 3) Prime Movers.
  - (1) Electric Engineering.
  - (5) Other heavy machinery.
    (6) Machine tools.
  - heavy ohemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals and drugs.
  - (8) Electro-chemical industries (9) Non-farrous metals.

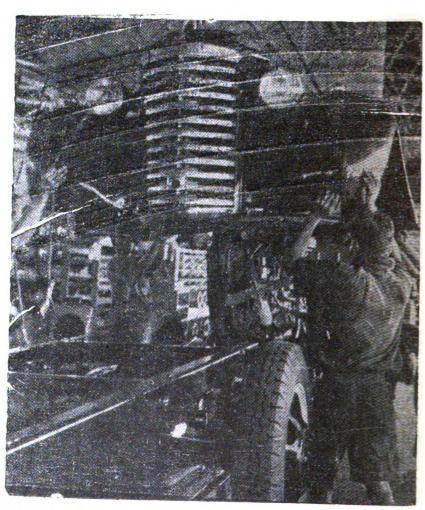
- (10) R
  - 10) Rubber manufactures.
- (11) Power and industrial alcohol.(12) Cotton and woollen textiles.
- (13) Cement.

- (14) Sugar.
- (15) Paper and newsprint.
- (16) Air and Sea Transport.
- (17) Minerals.
- (18) Industries related to defence.

The above list cannot obviously be of an exhaustive nature. The Government of India, while retaining the ultimate direction over this field of industry, will consult the Governments of the Provinces and States at all stages and fully associate them in the formulation and execution of plans. Be ides these Governments, representatives of Industry and Labour will also be asso iated with the Central Government in the Industrial Advisory Council and other bodies which they propose to establish, as recommended by the Industries Conference.

#### **Cottage Industries**

8. Cottage and small-scale industries have a very important role in the national economy, offering as they do scope for individual, village or coperative enterprise, and means for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. These industries are particularly suited for the better utilisation of local resources and for the achievement of local self-sufficiency in respect of certain types of essential consumer goods like food, cloth and agricultural implements.



Mudguard, radiator, radiator grill and headlamp assembled unit being mounted

The healthy expansion of cottage and small-scale industries depends upon a number of factors like the provision of raw materials, cheap power, technical advice, organised marketing of their produce, and, where necessary, safeguards against intensive competition by large-scale manufacture, as well as on the education of the worker, in the use of these fall in the Provincial sphere and are receiving the attention of the Govments of the Provinces and the States.

The Resolution of the Industries Conference has requested the Central Government to investigate how far and in what manner these industries can be co-ordinated and integrated with large-scale industries. The Government of India accept this recommendation. It will be examined, for example, how the textile mill industry can be made complementary to, rather than competitive with the handloom industry, which is the country's largest and best organised cottage industry. In certain other lines of production, like agricultural implements, textile accessories, and parts of machine tools, it should be possible to produce components on a cottage-industry scale and assemble these into their final product at a factory. It will also be investigated how far industries at present highly centralised could be decentralised with advantage.

#### Increase in Production

The Resolution of the Industries Conference has recommended that Government should establish a Cottago Industries Board for the fostering of amall-scale industries. The Government of India accept this recommendation and propose to create suitable machinery to implement it. A Cottage and Small-scale Industries Directorate will also be set up within the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies.

One of the main objectives will be to give a distinctly co-operative bias to this field of industry. During and before the last war, even a predominantly agricultural country like China showed what could be done in this respect, and her mobile industrial co-operative units were of outstanding assistance in her struggle against Japan. The present international situation is likely to lessen to a marked degree our chances of getting capital goods for large-scale industry, and the leeway must be made up by having recourse to small-size industrial co-operatives throughout the country.

9. The Government, however, recognise that their objective, riz., securing the maximum increase in production, will not be realised merely by prescribing the respective spheres of the State and of private enterprise in Industry: it is equally essential to ensure the fullest co-operation between labour and management and the maintenance of stable and friendly relations between them. A Resolution on this subject was unanimously passed by the Industries Conference which was held in December last. Amongst other things, the Resolution states:

"..... The system of remuneration to capital as well as labour must be so devised that, while in the interests of the consumers and the primary producers, excessive profits should be prevented by suitable methods of taxation and otherwise, both will share the product of their common effort, after making provision for payment of fair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in the industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking".

Government accept this Resolution. They also consider that labour's share of the profits should be on a sliding scale normally varying with production. They propose, in addition to the over-all regulation of industry by the State, to establish machinery for advising on fair wages, fair remuneration for capital, and conditions of labour. They will also take steps to associate labour in all matters concerning industrial production.

The machinery which Government propose to set up will function at different levels, central, regional and unit. At the Centre, there will be a Central Advisory Council which will cover the entire field of industry, and will have under it Committees for each major industry. These Committees may be split up into sub-committees, dealing with specific questions relating to the industry, e.g., production, industrial relations, wage fixation, and distribution of profits. The regional machinery under the Provincial Governments will be Provincial Advisory Boards which, like the Central Advisory Council, will cover the entire field of industry within the province; they will have under them Provincial Committees for each major industry. The Provincial Committees may also be split up into various sub-committees dealing with specific questions relating to production, wage fixation and industrial relations. Below the Provincial Committees will come the Works Committees and the Production Committees attached to each major industrial establishment.

#### Foreign Capital

The Works Committees and the Production Committees will be bi-partite in character, consisting of representatives of employers and workers only, in equal numbers. All other Committees will be tri-partite, with representatives of Government, employers and workers.

Government hope that the machinery proposed will substantially reduce the volume of industrial disputes. In the case of unresolved conflicts, Government trust that management and labour will, in their own interests and in the larger interests of the country, agree to settle them through recognised channels of conciliation and arbitration, which will be provided by Government. The Industrial Relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, is being strengthened, and permanent Industrial Tribunals are being established for dealing with major disputes.

The Government of India are also taking special steps to improve industrial housing as quickly as possible. A scheme for the construction of one million workers' houses in ten years is under contemplation, and a Housing Board ibeing constituted for this purpose. The

cost will be shared in suitable proportions between Government, employers and labour, the share of labour being recovered in the form of a reasonable rent.

In order to ensure quick decisions on the various matters arising out of the Industrial Truce Resolution, Government are appointing a special officer.

10. The Government of India agree with the view of the Industries Conference that, while it should be recognised that participation of foreign capital and enterprise, particularly as regards industrial technique and knowledge, will be of value to the rapid industrialisation of the country, it is necessary that the conditions under which they may participate in Indian industry should be carefully regulated in the national interest. Suitable legislation will be interest. Suitable legislation will be introduced for this purpose. Such legislation will provide for the scrutiny and approval by the Central Government of every individual case of participation of foreign capital and management in industry. It will provide that, as a rule, the major interest in ownership, and effective control, should always be in Indian hands; but power will be taken to deal with exceptional cases in a manner calculated to serve the national interest. In all cases, however, the training of suitable Indian personnel for the purpose of eventually replacing foreign experts will be insisted upon.

11. The Government of India are fully alive to their direct responsibility for the development of those industries which they have found necessary to reserve exclusively for State enterprise. They are equally ready to extend their assistance to private or co-operative enterprise in the rest of the industrial field, and in particular, by removing transport difficulties and by facilitating the import of essential raw materials to the maximum possible extent. The tariff policy of Government will be designed to prevent unfair foreign competition and to promote the utilisation of India's resources without imposing unjustifiable burdens on the consumer. The system of taxation will be reviewed and readjusted where necessary to encourage saving and productive investment and to prevent undue concentration of wealth in a small section of the population.

12. The Government of India hope that this elucidation of their intentions on fundamental aspects of industrial policy will remove all misapprehensions, and they are confident that a joint and intensive effort will now be made by labour, capital and the general public, which will pave the way for the rapid industrialisation of the country

#### MR. BHAGWAT DAYAL

Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, at present Charge d'Affaires for India at Bangkok, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at that post. He was appointed to be the first Consul at Bangkok in December 1946 and became Charge d'Affairs soon after the transfer of power in India, when the Consulate was raised to the status of a legation.

# NATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES Dr. S. P. Mookerjee's Statement

OVING in the Dominion Parliament on April 7 "That the industrial policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration", the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister incharge of Industry and Supply, said:

Sir, yesterday I presented to the House a statement on the industrial policy of Government, and it is not my intention not to cover all the points in detail which are mentioned therein. It is but natural that the demand should have been made from all quarters that Government should announce it. industrial policy with the least possible delay.

After the attainment of our political freedom, very grave responsibilities have to be shouldered by Government. Independence is not an end in itself. It is but a means to an end: and that end obviously must include the creation of a society in this great land of ours where equal opportunities shall prevail, where justice, social and economic, shall prevail, and where it will be possible for us. by taking practical and effective measures. to put an end to the era of exploitation. For 200 years our country had remained a subject nation. It is not my intention, Sir, to make any survey of the sufferings which were meted out to us when we were tied to the apron strings of an imperialistic policy which was intended to take the fullest advantage of the enormous raw materials obtaining in this country not for the benefit of the children of the soil, but for entirely other purposes.

Today we have to lay down our policy. Not only shall we have to lay down our policy, but we have to take effective steps to see that the new order comes with as little delay as possible. As has been pointed out in the report of the Economic Committee appointed by the All-India Congress Committee, democracy must now extend from the political field to social and economic field.

#### Enormity of the Task

I would ask the House to consider for a moment the enormity of the task that confronts us. It is not my intention to go into details, but it is useful for us to recall that our backwardness is of a staggering character. It is said that the resources of our country are great; no doubt potentially our resources are enormous, but what is the present position which faces the country today? Our population is great and is growing, we are still dependent for so many things on foreign support-things which are of a vital character, be they weapons for defence or means of transport, food, plants, machinery and sometimes even technical skill and advice,-I was just taking off-hand a few items.

As the House is aware, Sir, the standard of living in India is one of the lowest in the world, higher perhaps only

than China. In 1946-47 wages of our unskilled labour varied from his. 8 to 12 per week for 48 hours, while in England it was £ 5!10!- and in U.S.A. it was over to Survive and in Costa is one of the lowest in the world; the yield of countries like China, Formosa, Korea and Egypt is double than that of India; even in Japan it is three times, in Italy it is four times. In wheat our yield is less than 25 to 40 per cent of countries like Australia, Canada, Turkey and Argentine. Regarding our clothing standard, per head we allot 11 yards; in Canada they give four times that, in Egypt it is at least twice. Salt we consume about 12 lbs per head, which is the lowest in the whole world. Our per capita consumption of steel is 5 lbs. per head; in U.K. it is 600 lbs., in U.S.A. 1,100 lbs. In cement our per capital consumption is 11 lbs.; taking some other countries at random, in Turkey it is 29 lbs., Hungary 42 lbs, France 162 lbs, Great Britain 260 lbs. For coal ours is .07 tons against U.S.A.'s 4.7 tons. Railways—we have 40,000 miles here; in U.S.A. it comes to 400,000 miles. - 1 am not referring to petroleum or diesel oil or aviation fuel, where our position is almost hopeless. In literacy our record is 12 per cent. The death rate is 25 per thousand, higher than most countries in the world.

#### Planning Commission

I am giving these figures, Sir, not for the purpose of sounding a note of alarm but for the purpose of calling upon every section of the people that all the resources that are available within the country must be pooled together and there must be a combined national effort for the purpose of translating our political freedom into something real and tangible which is going to touch the hearth and home of every son and daughter of this great country.

It is obvious, therefore, that any plan which is going to raise the standard of living of the common man must affect the activities of Ministries such as Health, Education, Agriculture, Works, Mines and Power, Transport and Communications. You will, therefore, find, Sir, that we have announced that Government will shortly appoint a National Planning Commission for the purpose of taking an all-round view of the paramout needs of the country and for going shead with big schemes of expansion and development. In fact, vast materials have already been collected; pioneer work has been done under the aegis of the National Planning Committee; many of the publications of that Committee have seen the light of the day; a vast number of workers—experts, in various fields of activity-have toiled for many months and years under the wise leadership of two of India's most patriotic sons, Subhash Chandra Bose and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. (Cheers). We have, Sir, in addition to the vast materials collected under the acgis of

the National Planning Committee, the reports of nearly about thirty Panels. which were appointed by Government, dealing with expansion of almost every sphere of industrial life of the country.

We have also before us the recommendations of a large number of Commissions and Conferences, several Provincial plans, several big non-official plans—all these were referred to at the Industrial Conference held in Delhi in December last. It is, therefore, not necessary for us to waste any further time in collecting material. Materials are there, we have now got to set up a machinery which must act under a wiser directed policy of a National Government for the purpose of carrying out plans into execution.

The scheme, Sir, which I have presented to the House on behalf of Govenment deals with industrial policy alone. But I have given this tackground in order to impress upon the House and the country outside that our planning for industrial development must be correlated with the bigger planning which is going to affect various other important activities of the State essential for the purpose of an all-round development of the country's resources and of its national wealth.

#### "Not Very Spectacular"

Sir, this statement is not very spectacular in character. We have put it in a definite way as far as we could: nothing can be final, it is not intended that whatever we have said we shall have to stick to at any cost. India is passing through changing circumstates and times and the world is also passing through rapid changes, but we have indicated the bread lines of policy affecting the Legislature as also administration which it is the intention of the Government to push through in the course of the next few years.

We hope, Sir,—and this is one of our objectives—that this will not only harness all available energies, but will also succeed in removing uncertainues and misgivings, particularly with regard to private enterprise and also the position of labour in this country.

Our immediate problem, Sir, will be to see that production reaches to its maximum capacity in accordance with the present potentialities of the industry. It is a matter of deep regret that for some reason or other we are not producing all that we can, and if some bottlenecks are removed in the course of a year or so, it is possible to increase India's production by nearly 20 to 30 per cent., and Government must obviously apply their mind to see that these bottlenecks are removed and we can get the maximum according to our existing capacity.

Obviously, Sir, the policy of the Government cannot be merely to advocate increased production unrelated to better distribution. It cannot be anybody's case that the wealth that is now being produced in India should be distributed amongst all, for then it will really come to distribution of poverty. It cannot mean either that we shall follow a policy



R. I. A. F. trainees testing an aero-engine at an Indian aircraft factory

which will lead to increased production but we shall not ensure that the benefit of that increased production goes to the common man. While, therefore, we shall earnestly strive for increased production, Government's policy must be so regulated as to ensure that there is better distribution, and whatever is available will not lead towards the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a handful of persons or create monopolies which are against the best interests of the State.

#### Mixed Economy

Sir, this scheme, which we have placed before the House, envisages a mixed economy. I am no' here to discuss the values of isms. It is hardly necessary in the present context of things. But I would just ask the House to consider the general aspects of the scheme, particularly the portion which relates to the role of the State and private enterprise. We have divided this matter roughly into four parts.

The first part relates to industries or activities which will be completely under the monopoly of the State. They include Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Industries relating to Defence, production and control of Atomic Energy and also any other new undertakings which Government may take into hand. The next class relates to those industries, the future development of which will be under State control and ownership. We have included six items there—Coal, Iron and Steel, Aircraft Manufacture, Shipbuilding, Manufacture of telephones,

telegraph and wireless apparatus excluding radio receiving sets and Mineral Oils. Now, here, Sir, we have stated that it is not the policy of the Government to take over existing units of industry, but that the further development of these industries will be the function of the State. We have mentioned, of course, that even in future, in case of national emergency it will be open to Government to have any of these industries developed in the country with the help of private enterprise under such control and regulation as the Central Government may prescribe.

One question, Sir, which was of a very difficult nature and which Government have decided was as to the period of time which we should assure to those authorities who are controlling these industries during which they will be allowed to function undisturbed. Now, here, it is the inherent right of the State to acquire any industry that it chooses for national purposes. We have stated, however, that we do not propose to interfere with the existing units of these industries for a period of ten years. During this period, we shall expect that these industries will be efficiently run not only efficiently run, but that they will be properly developed in accordance with our scheme of Central planning. I hope, Sir, that the representatives of the industries concerned, some of whom are extremely powerful in this land, will properly reciprocate this gesture of the Government, which is made entirely in national interests. If it appears that any particular industry is not being run

in accordance with the plans and policy of the Government, then, of course none will blame the Government if Government thinks it fit to acquire such industry and run it in national interests, but we have no desire to interfere with existing units, provided everything goes on well and there is a spirit of mutual co-operation. We have stated also, Sir, that when such acquisition will take place, the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution will be observed and compensation will be awarded on a fair and equitable basis. Obviously, we cannot go further than that at this stage.

Now, so far as the future development of these industries is concerned, I would pause here and say that Government are taking upon themselves a very great responsibility. Let the House analyse and see what are the undertakings, what are the big projects which Government propose to carry on their own shoulders during the next few years to come. Apart from big schemes of expansion, so far as the Railways and Communications are concerned, there will be the question of re-organising the Ordnance Factories which are entirely under the control of the State; the question of developing some of the essential industries with which are connected vital problems of Defence. We have the aircraft factory at Bangalore, which also requires development if we are going to achieve progress worth its name. We have taken up the big schemes for the Fertiliser Factory and more progress has to be achieved if production is to come by the end of 1949-50. We have schemes for the manufacture of telephones and that project is now under active consideration.

We have taken upon ourselves the responsibility for undertaking hig multi-purpose river project schemes, which I consider to be of a fundamental character.

#### Centrally regulated Industries

In fact unless this aspect of our activity makes rapid progress, other developments on the industrial side will practically remain on paper. We have a scheme for establishing two steel factories: enquiries are also being made for the manufacture of synthetic oil, which, if successful, will lead to a venture which will be of a colossal character. We are also enunciating for the starting of factories for menufacture of Penicillin and sulphur drugs and also for machines and tools.

Now, Sir, if I pass on to the next category of industries, you will find that we have included in the list at page 3, eighteen industries in all. This list cannot obviously be of an exhaustive character, but what is the exact significance of this part of our policy? These will be centrally regulated industries, industries which we would like to see developed not only according to a well-planned policy and programme where regional interests will be properly looked after and an all-round development of the country's resources obtained. Now, so far as these industries are concerned, it is open to private enter; rise to come and play its part in respect of any one of them, but these will be

industries which will be Centrally regulated. In other words, if any private enterprise comes forward, it must properly correlate its activities with the policy and programme of the Government of India. We have not referred to the other list, the fourth category, namely industries not covered by these three which are open to private enterprise altogether, but there again, Sir, it is not intended that Government will have no say in respect of vital matters concerning industries which are not mentioned in our statement at all. But, of course, private enterprise will be given full opportunity for developing such industries in accordance with the general industrial policy of the Government of India.

#### Statutory Corporation

Now, Sir, comes the question of definition of the word 'State' when we say that the 'State' will undertake certain industries—and here let me emphasize as we have indeed done in the Statement itself—that nothing will debar the State from coming forward and starting an industry, if it is considered essential to do so. The State will not act through the existing machinery of the Government. The policy of the Government is to set up a statutory Corporation and it will be the business of that Corporation to manage that particular unit of industry just as a business concern. In fact, it will be unfair for the State to suggest that the State will claim for itself privileges and facilities which will be denied to ordinary industries which are controlled by private enterprise.

It is not intended either, Sir, that only the Government of India will undertake the big venture. When we say 'State', we include Provincial Governments also; we also include other statutory Corporations which may come forward and with the approval of the Government of India may like to start industrial ventures in accordance with the Government policy. Just as I have analysed that there will be a demar-kation of line between State ventures and private ventures, similarly, there must be also clear and complete understanding between the activities of the Central Government and the Provin-cial Governments. Obviously, the Prowincial Governments in many matters will act as agents of the Central Government. Industries which will be under a system of Central regulation will operate in Provinces in accordance with the All India policy which the Government of India may lay down.

As you know, Sir, industry is principally a Provincial subject, but under our Constitution, the Federal Legislature has the authority to declare the development of any particular industry as essential in the public interest and if that declaration is made by the Federal Legislature, then the power for developing such industry vests in the Central Government. I take it, Sir, that the Contral Government will consult the Provincial Governments in very near future and lay down a policy and programme which will enable the Provinces to function and flourish without any let or bindrance to the best interests of the country as a whole.

In fact, Sir, it is intended that legislation will have to be passed by the Federal Legislature to give effect to many of the recommendation, contained in the statement of policy, and I am hoping that Government will be in a position to come before the House during the next session of the Legislature and place the entire scheme before them for approval.

So much, Sir, for the development of large-scale industries. I now pass on to cottage and small-scale industries. This, Sir, Government considers, is a vital matter. We have laid down our policy and programme for large scale industrial development. There is no doubt that there is a vast collection of raw materials in this country, which if properly utilised may enormously add to the national wealth of the country, but there are difficulties also. One of our chief difficulties today relates to the absence of capital goods. Government will endeavour to obtain capital goods, plans and machinery from any part of the globe that it can. But there will be handicaps, handicaps sometimes deliberately put in our way and sometimes inevitable. Now, are we going to sit on in the meanwhile and not do anything? We have put forward this scheme for the development of cottage and smallscale industries, both for their intrinsic value as also for the possibility which they open up for adding to our national wealth during the period of emergency through which the entire world is passing today.

#### **New Social Economy**

When the Industries Conference met in Delhi in December last I was agree. ably surprised to find that although this was a matter which fell within the purview of the provincial Governments, everyone including representatives of the provincial Governments suggested that there should be an all-India directive policy regarding the future deve-lopment of cottage and small-scale industries. The recent exhibition held in New Delhi has given us some idea of the vast potentialities of well-regulated and proper development of cottage industries in this country. It is therefore the policy of Government to give full support to a scheme of well-co-ordinated activities which will be operated through an all-India Board which we are soon going to establish and to which—I am hoping—will also be attached an all-India Institute where every possible facility for research will be given so that we can go on increasing the standard of our productions.

Now, Sir, apart from the industrial aspect of the matter it will be realised that the development of our country has gone on during the last so many years mainly circling round our towns and cities. India with 95 per cent of her population depending on agriculture with nearly about a million villages has grievously neglected the interests of the common man and has created social and economic problems which are almost of a baffling character. If therefore the problem of unemployment is to be solved, if a new social economy is to arise in this country, I am confident

that we can secure both these objectives not entirely by depending on development of cottage industries but by correlating the activities of this section to the big industrial planning of the country which will lead to the prosperity of the common man.

Next I come to another vital part of our planning and that relates to the relationship between capital and labour. It has been recognised that things are not moving very satisfactorily in this direction. Some times the blame is thrown entirely on capital and sometimes entirely on labour. Government have to play a very important part in this matter. Obviously if there is lack of co-operation between capital and labour whatever schemes and whatever policy we may enunciate, that will not lead to anything solid or substantial. This matter was discussed in detail at the Industries Conference held in Delhi in December last, and we arrived at certain unanimous conclusions which indeed was almost a phenomenon. We had representatives coming from all parts of India holding divergent viewpoints, but I found that all were actuated by one big motive power and that was that they must do something immediately after the attainment of political freedom which might ease the present tension and lead to national proeperity.

I am not suggesting that by merely passing that Resolution we have been able to achieve any miracle, but we have found a way towards much better relationship between capital and labour. In the Statement we have indicated that so far as Government are con-cerned they accept the principle that the system of remuneration of capital and labour must be devised in a more satisfactory way. Excessive profits should be prevented by methods of taxation and otherwise and Government should appoint some machinery for the purpose of settling what amounts to fair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of undertakings. We have further declared that the profit that remains after meeting all these items should be shared between capital and labour and that the share of profit which labour will have will naturally he on a sliding scale and allied to production.

That, Sir, is also an important factor. If labour feels that it will have an increasing share in the profits of the concern depending on the total production that will act as a great incentive, an incentive which may be absent from the circumstances existing today. Here Government will take steps for the purpose of setting up the necessary machinery and when that machinery is working Government will obviously consult representatives of industry and labour and try to come, if possible, to an agreed solution, failing which Government will have to decide the matter themselves which will be binding on all parties concerned.

We have also laid down that labour must be more and more associated with the activities of industry. We want that the feeling of mere relationship between master and servant on employer and employee should not be the ruling factor. Both capital and labour must regard themselves as joint partners in carrying forward the undertaking which after all is going to benefit the people at large. I have no doubt that my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar who was held as a typical representative of consumers at the Industries Conference will give the fullest support to this point of view when he speaks on the Resolution.

#### Housing Arrangements

Government have also adopted a scheme for better housing arrangements, and the Honourable Finance Minister has already declared that this scheme will not be a paper scheme. We are going to evolve a system by which Government, industry and labour will make their contributions, and I have no doubt that in the course of 1948 the Labour Minister will be able to initiate a housing scheme which will ultimately go to benefit more than a million workers in India.

Then comes the other question about the employment of foreign capital. Here again I would submit that the policy enunciated by the Government of India is entirely realistic in character. My Honourable friend Mr. Kamath need not open his eyes too wide when he reads paragraph 10 dealing with foreign capital. Obviously this matter will be included by the Central Government. We will welcome the use of foreign capital in India m a manner which will redound to our interest. Now, Sir, we want capital goods. We want technical help and advice. It may not be possible for us to secure both in view of the existing circumstances obtaining in this country. It will therefore be possible for us to evolve a scheme whereby when a company is functioning in India with foreign capital, the major interest in ownership and effective control remains in Indian hands. If in any case an exception is to be made, for which provision has been made, that will be done by the Government of India after taking into consideration the full circumstances of the case.

We need not be afraid of foreign investment as such. If foreign investment comes to play its part in India it cannot and it will not be allowed to do so for political purposes. History will not repeat itself and the people of India are wide awake enough to see that history does not repeat itself. At the same time we cannot live in complete isolation. That is a factor which we have to bear in mind at every stage. The over-riding consideration should be the welfare of the country as a whole, and if that is secured we should not stand in the way of proceeding in a manner which is best suited to our purpose.

One point which we have emphasized here, and rightly so, relates to the training of technical experts. That is necessary. We are feeling that almost every moment. I do not intend to take time of the House, but I can mention several big units of industry which we wish to take over but which we cannot because circumstanced as we are, we are unable to produce the

necessary trained Indian personne able to take charge of it. It is not our fault. I know that for the last 100 years or so we were not allowed to develop in the manner which was suited to our national needs. But it is no use orying over things which are a matter of history. We must plan out in a way best suited for our future national interests.

Sir, I have not referred in detail to other points dealing with the import and export policy of Government, finance and the taxation structure. All these three are matters of grave import. It is obvious that the import policy of Government has to be so regulated that we can get the fullest advantage of whatever we can get from abroad. It is intended to make a survey of the import policy of Government and we shall welcome any constructive criticism from industry, or from any other sources, so that we may act according to the best economic interests of the country. Obviously, the question of texation structure will have to be considered, and it will be considered and reconsidered as circumstances may require, all aiming at one direction, and one alone, that we should like to take the fullest advantage of the country's resources and utilise them for the best advancement of our economic prosperity.

There will be one question as to wherefrom all this finance will come, if India is going to embark upon big national ventures. That also is a matter which is now being considered by Government, and I have no doubt that at the proper time the Finance Minister will be in a position to announce the policy of Government which will make it possible for us to translate the Industrial Bill of Government into as quick an action as is possible.

#### Plea for Co-operation

Sir, it is undoubtedly true that whatever we have outlined here can be brought into effect if there is general peace and security in the country. It is undoubtedly true that we shall succeed in implementing our policy and programme if all interests concerned combine and give Government their helping hand. For some time past there has been a lot of apprehension and unsteadiness in many spheres affecting capital and labour. It is the earnest hope of Government that the policy which Government has announced today, which Government claims is not dependent on any particular reason but is entirely related to the needs and welfare of the vast masses of the Indian people, will inspire greater confidence in the minds of those who have got to play their part in the rebuilding of new India.

I hope, Sir, that in the course of the next few weeks we shall be able to set up the necessary machinery which will bring the Central Government into close and direct contact with the Provincial Governments, with representatives of the industries concerned, and also labour and others who are interested in economic expansion, so that we can plan out as regards our future lines of action.

As I said, Sir, this scheme which we have placed before the House is not of an undue spectacular character. But I

olaim that it gives the necessary directive policy which will be followed by the Central Government in the months and years to come.

It has been asked how far this policy which we have enunciated is at variance with the policy enunciated by the Working Committee of the Congress. We have examined the scheme in relation to the Economic Committee's programme also and Government maintain that there is nothing here which is sub-tantially inconsisten, with the policy which the All-India Congress Committee has laid down. There may be some matters which are not dealt with. Those matters also will have to be taken up. If necessary, further consultations may be necess. ary. But in any case, the policy which we have put forward is one which, if given effect to with the full co-operatics.as I say repeatedly with the full cooperation-of all interests concerned, will usher in a new era of peace, progress and economic freedom, which is going to benefit the common man of this country.

#### MINISTER'S REPLY TO DEBATE

Replying to the debate on Government's industrial policy in the Dominion Parliament on April 7. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee said:

Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech. The Prime Minister had dealt with some of the general questions which were raised in the course of the dehate. I am grateful for the general support which the House has extended to the resolution which I had the honour to move this morning. The only member who wholeheartedly disapproved of the resolution and expressed his utter disappointment with every thing was the learned Prof. K. T. Shah.

But I would remove one misapprehension from his mind at once. Government have not issued any whip calling upon the members of the Government party to support this resolution. In fact during the last one month this resolution has been the subject matter of discussion within the Government party in a manner which is almost unprecedented, and I can say this without contradiction that the resolution which Government has brought forward has the willing and spontaneous support of the vast majority of the members constituting the Government party.

Various Honourable Members who have spoken have dealt with some questions of detail. I would classify one type of criticisms as included within the scheme which it is proposed by Government to incorporate in the legislative measures which will be brought forward before this House some time later. Obviously this resolution could not go into details. All those industries which will be centrally regulated and also the principles on which Government will undertake big industrial undertakings will have to be considered very carefully. The suggestions which have been made today will be taken into full consideration and when draft proposals are sub-mitted to the House I have no doubt that they will be subjected to searching criticism and many of the points of view which have been expressed will be found



automatically incorporated in the Acts which we shall ultimately pass.

Another class of criticism was related to the speed with which industries will be nationalised. There may be honest difference of opinion as to whether a particular industry which has been included under one category should be transferred to another category. Here again, as I explained and as has been stated in the resolution itself, the list cannot be deemed to be final or exhaustive in character. The Government are satisfied that the industries which for the present are of an essential character are included under one or other of the three

One point that I would emphasize here again is this and there Prof. Shah has also misunderstood the outline of the scheme: he seemed to think that the best industries have been kept as the close preserve of the capitalists. Those were his exact words. It is nothing of the kind. As I explained this morning, it will be open to Government to start any industry without any restriction whatsoever and if it appears that certain industries for some reasons should be started by Government, Government will not hesitate to go into the field but there t is true that Government will have to stand in competition with private enterprise in those particular spheres.

#### Position of Labour

The other question which was raised related to the position of labour. Here again it is not possible for Government now to go into details but I do claim that the changes which have been recommended are of a revolutionary character. For the first time a definite policy has been laid down that labour will not be allowed to be exploited and will not only get a fair deal but will be treated as common partners in a great endeavour. Obviously it will require the goodwill both of capital and labour to give full effect to this scheme which we have outlined.

We heard only one speech on behalf of the capitalists. I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava could not find the time to stay on till the end of the proceedings which incidentally is evidence of the great interest which he has in the industrial development of the country. In any case, he referred to several bottle-necks. In fact he exhausted the list of bottle-necks and the only bottle the neck of which he did not break was the capitalist himself. The picture which he painted was that every one else was a devil and the only angel was the capitalist. It would have been better for him to have apportioned some blame at least for the present impasse to the attitude which a certain section of industrialists have taken.

Here the position has been amply made clear by the Prime Minister. We want that the country should develop industrially. We want that the in-creased production which will thus be made available should be equitably dis-tributed tor the benefit of the common man. We want that labour, without whose co-operation production is impossible, must get a fair deal and must occupy an honourable position. That is the sum total of the scheme. Government will keep to itself the powers of regulation and direction with regard to a number of industries. That also is a new approach altogether. Hitherto every thing was left to free enterprise but now for the first time Government direction is coming. There, as I said, Government take upon themselves considerable responsibility. The success of the scheme will depend as much on the co-operation of labour and capital as on the efficiency with which Government also discharge their responsibilities.

MAULANA HASRAT MOHANI: The thing is a farce.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE: I believe the Honourable Member himself represents that epithet more than anybody else.

The whole position therefore is that unless all sections of people co-operate, we cannot attain the desired end. Here, as the Prime Minister emphasized, if it appears that later on labour does not play the game, after we have done every thing possible that any State would have been expected to—do, naturally the Government must see to it that labour does not become the real bottle-neck which acts against our attainment of our cherished goal. Similarly with capital. If after the announcement of this policy there is no response coming from the industrialists or the capitalists, if they continue to find some excuse or other and thereby create obstruction, as the Prime Minister so categorically declared, neither the Government nor the country will wait for the capitalists or the industrialists to wake up. Then another machinery will be found out.

But we are offering to the people and to the interests involved a scheme which is a well regulated and well co-ordinated one and we are calling upon every section of the people, whatever may be differences in respect of political or economic ideologies, to come forward at this most critical time in the history of our country and our shoulders to the wheel for the purpose of introducing those important changes in the economic structure of our society which will lead to the desired goal.

Of course we are only making a beginning. It will take some time before final results are achieved and everyone, including Members of the House, will be entitled to watch with critical eyes the development that takes place in the months to

#### **REGIONAL** ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAY PRIORITIES

The first meeting of the newly tormed Regional Advisory Committee for Railway Priorities, Delhi Region, was held in New Delhi today, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on April 13.

The functions of this Committee cover unsponsored movements within the three priority classes and all commodities not included in the priority list, the movement of which is considered necessary for reasons of urgent public interest. Applications in these categories may be Applications in these categories may be addressed as before to the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Delhi Region, North Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi, who will place them before the Committee. Having regard to rail capacity taken up by sponeored movements the Committee will scrutinise demands for transport falling under the two categories mentioned above and advise how best they can be met. In tendering this advice they will be guided by the crucial need for making the best use of wagons by programming or otherwise so as to eliminate unessential or uneconomic movements.

At today's meeting the Committee considered 12 applications for priority assistance relating to bicycles, wool, imported glass sheets etc. and on their advice the Regional Controller allotted wagons. In view of the difficult rail transport conditions on the G.I.P., the Committee considered that there was no justification for assisting trans-port of pottery from Nagpur to Delhi as Delhi could be catered for in this regard from nearer sources and the pottery works at Nagpur could find other markets.

The Committee will meet daily and issue press notes from time to time informing the public of the work done and draw attention to points on which their co operation is required.

The Committee consists of:

- 1. Regional Controller of Railway Priorities (Mr. V.J. Ross)... Convener.
- 2. Administrative Officer, Traffic & Commercial, E.P. Railway, Delhi, (Mr. B.B. Mathur) or his representative.
- 3. Superintendent, S.S. Light Railway (Mr. A.P. Dhawan) or his representative.
- 4. Regional Food Commissioner, Central Region, New Delhi, or his re-Commissioner. presentative, (Sardar Darshan Singh, Asst. R.F.C.)
- 5. Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi (Mr. I. D. Mathur) or his representative.
- 6. One representative of the D.G., Industry and Supply, New Delhi (Mr. S.G. Ramachandran).
- 7. Three representatives of businessone each from:
  - (i) Hindustani Mercantile Association, Delhi (rep. L. Har Prasad Agrawal).
  - (ii) United Chamber of Trade Associations, Delhi, (rep. Bawa Bachittar Singh)
  - (iii) Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi, (rep. Sir Shankar Lal).
- 8. One representative of primary (agricultural) producers of the Delhi



Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, addressing the Tripartite Industrial Committee of Plantations

# LABOUR AS PARTNER IN INDUSTRY Minister Explains New Role

ABOUR'S right to partnership in industry was stressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, when he inaugurated the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Plantations on March 31 in New Delhi.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram seid: "A fundamental change has taken place in our conception of the role of labour in industry. After the first World War it was recognised that labour was not to be regarded as a commodity of commerce and that it was entitled to humane conditions of employment. We have now advanced a little further. Labour is not only entitled to fair terms and conditions of employment but also becomes a partner in the industry in which he works. As a partner labour is entitled to the benefits accruing from partnership, but it must also learn to realise its responsibilities.".

This conception, the Labour Minister continued, was emphasized in the Industrial Truce resolution adopted last December by the Industries Conference which included representatives of Governments Central, Provincial and States—employers and workers. The resolution stated: "The system of remuneration to capital as well as labour must be so devided that while in the interests of the consumers and the primary producers profits should be prevented by saitable measures of texation and otherwise, both will share the product of their common effort after

making provision for payment of sair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in the industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking".

Calling upon the plantations industry to give a lead to all other industries in putting into practice the new concept of labour, Mr. Jagjivan Ram pointed out that the tripartite committee would have to assume new functions as a result of the industrial truce resolution. "It will be the Central machinery for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions of labour and fair remuneration for capital. In addition, it will have to devise ways and means for the association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production. I realise that plantation labour is less sophisticated than other industrial labours but it is neither possible nor permissible on that account to withhold the right to partnership which is the keystone of future industrial policy. I hope that in this matter Government will have the fullest co-operation of the planters throughout India. For the proper implementation of the Industrial Truce resolution we feel that it would be desirable to set up a smaller committee which will meet at more frequent intervals".

Referring to the question of wages, the Labour Minister recalled that at the first meeting of the committee in January 1947, the industry agreed to give immediately a dearness allowance of 2 annas a day to adult workers and 1 anna a day to children. It was also agreed that Government in collaboration with the industry would hold an inquiry into the cost and standard of living of plantation workers. "This task", aid," was completed and Mr. Deshpande's reports are now before you. I hope it will be regarded as an objective study of existing conditions and will enable this Committee to decide what further improvements are necessary to ensure that wages are fair and reasonable. I refrain from making any suggestion because I would prefer that the matter should be settled between the parties in friendly discussion. I may, however, say that the report makes it clear that there is scope for improvement. I hope you will be able to arrive at an agreement which will do justice to the worker and credit to the industry".

Mr. Jagjivan Ram continued: "On the question of the medical care and treatment of plantation workers the industry agreed that Government may prescribe reasonable standards for plantations. Major Lloyd Jones, Deputy Director General of Health Services, was deputed to study the conditions in the tea plantations in India and to recommendations. submit his interesting report is also before you and it merits your serious consideration. So far as I am concerned, I must say that it makes depressing reading, but I am glad to find that Major Lloyd Jones' recommendations have been framed in consultation with the industry and I have no doubt that in a very short time we shall see a considerable improvement.

Speaking on the proposals before the committee in respect of legislation the Labour Minister maintained: "Although most employers may be ready to observe such standards as may be generally accepted as fair and reasonable, we have always to reckon with the few blacksheep who give a bad name to the industry. We must, therefore, be armed with legislative power to enable us to assume control where it is necessary. It is our intention that legislation should not create pin pricks for the industry. The administration of any law that may be passed would come within the purview of this Committee so that any defects in administration may be brought immediately to our notice".

Expressing the hope that the tripar tite machinery for the plantations would become permanent and would assume its new and important functions, Mr. Jagjivan Ram remarked: "As time marches we can see more clearly the almost revolutionary changes in the wake of the second world war, which are silently but surely overtaking us. The old order is giving way to the new, re quiring all-round readjustment and re-orientation. The changes may be liked or disliked but they are inevitable. It would be folly to resist all changes and to hope for the continuance of the old social and economic order. Wisdom demands that changes that are inevitable should be so directed as to bring about the greatest happiness of the greatest number. The common man is gradually coming into his own and it is our duty to help him in every possible way. He will need guidance and help."

## PROVIDENT FUND FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Institution of compulsory provident funds for all industrial workers was generally favoured by the Standing Labour Committee of the Indian Labour Conference which met in New Delhi on April 15. In the absence of the Hon. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the Hon. Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Bombay, presided.

The Committee was of the view that all organised industries should provide this service for their permanent workers and recognised that both employers and workers must contribute to the Fund. It was felt that 1-16 of the worker's salary would be a reasonable rate of contribution. It was also felt that in organising provident funds, some sort of grouping would be necessary, either regional, provincial or industry-wise.

The Committee decided that the question whether small concerns should be exempted should be further explored.

Replies to several questionnaires from the I. L. O. were also discussed by the Committee.

Besides the Chairman and Central Government Officials, Labour Ministers of East Punjab, Mysore and Indore, and representatives of Bengal, U. P., Orissa and Madras Governments and of Employers' and Workers' organisations also participated in the meeting.

## BETTER CONDITIONS FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

A international tripartite committee on plantations is shortly to be set up by the I. L. O.

This was revealed at the meeting of the industrial committee on Plantations held in New Delhi on March 31 with the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, in the chair.

The Committee discussed in general the questions of wage fixation in the industry, medical care and treatment of workers and outlines of legislation to regulate conditions of work in plantations. A sub-committee was appointed to ascertain the common measure of agreement between the employers and workers on the major questions.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Central Government, the Provincial Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Madras, the States of Travancore and Mysore and the organisations of planters and plantation workers.

#### Medical Service

Provision of medical service in tea, coffee, rubber and cinchona plantations on standards not lower than those set down by Major Lloyd Jones in his report was agreed to by the Committee at its resumed sitting on April 1.

There was general agreement that the plantation owners should manage the hospital service subject to Government's specifications and inspection. It was recognised that the standards should be enforced by legislation.

Formulating the outlines of plantation legislative, the Conference accepted in principle that provincial governments should have power to require that the public should have reasonable access to the plantation workers. The Conference also agreed to the ban on the employment of children below 12 years, the setting up of Housing Boards, Wages Boards, minimum standards of housing, and the provision of adequate supply of water and welfare amenities such as creates and recreational facilities.

#### Wage and Housing Boards

It was agreed that legislation should invest power in the provincial governments to set up Housing Boards to acquire and develop suitable areas for the construction of workers' houses, to raise the necessary funds and to prescribe the conditions of tenancy.

In regard to Wage Boards, the general view was that provincial governments should have power to divide the plantation area into convenient wage-areas and to set up a Wage Board in each area to fix and enforce fair wages which may consist of basic wages and cost of living allowances. Arrangements for the supply of food and other articles 3 at reasonable prices should be made with the help of provincial governments. The Wage Boards are to consist of two representatives each of employers and

workers with a Government nominated chairman assisted by one or two assessors. A provincial Wage Board should be set up to review the wages fixed by the local boards and give directions in regard to the principles to be followed for fixing wages.

The Committee agreed to set up a standing committee consisting of four representatives each of Government, employers and workers. It also agreed to establish statutory tripartite Boards, both in the Provinces and at the Centre, to advise the provincial and Central Governments.

Certain questions such as hours of work and spread over, weekly rest and paid holidays, security of service and social insurance schemes were left for reference to provincial governments.

The Central Government was requested to examine the institution of provident fund for plantation workers.

#### Higher Wages

Nearly Rs. 5,00,00,000 a year will be paid as increased wages to the workers in Indian plantations as a result of the unanimous agreement reached on April 2 at the concluding session of the Committee.

It was agreed that the increased wages should be paid from May 1, 1948. The increases are to be as follows in the dearness allowances paid per day: Adult workers in all tea plantations except those in Darjeeling, Cachar and Tripura State—3½ annas; to children between 12 and 18, 2 annas; in Darjeeling, Cachar and Tripura State, adults, 3 annas, children between 12 and 18, two annas. In the Coffee estates of South India, the increases will be: adults, 3 annas; children between 12 and 18, 1½ annas. In the rubber estates, it will be: adults, two annas; children between 12 and 18, one annas; children between 12 and 18, one anna.

The different rates adopted for Darjeeling, Cachar and Tripura tea estates are due to the higher cost involved in transporting essential materials to the hill areas. Similar feasons in respect of production costs were responsible for the different rates adopted in respect of coffee and rubber plantations.

It is expected that the increased allowances will go a long way to provide a better and more nutritive diet to the worker, the lack of which was responsible for his poor health according to Major Lloyd Jones.

The Committee also decided that the wage question should not come up in its future meetings and will only be decided by the Wage Boards that may be set up in consultation with this Committee.

These unanimous conclusions were reached after a full discussion of the report on the cost and standards of living of plantation workers in Assam, Bengal and South India by Mr. S. R. Deshpands.

### EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE mouthly earning by way of sickness or disablement benefit. BILL

OVING in the Indian Parliamenton April 1 that the Employees' State Insurance Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, explained that the changes made by the Select Committee were designed to liberalise the qualifying conditions considerably and make it easier for the worker to qualify for the benefit. The Bill had been modified to apply to all employees in factories instead of only to workers.

The Labour Minister said: Provision had been made in the Bill for the application of the scheme only to factories and the scheme did not apply to clerical employees. It has now been modified to apply to all employees in factories. A new sub-section has been added enabling the appropriate Government acting in consultation with the Corporation and with the approval of the Central Government, to extend the scheme to other establishments, industrial, com-mercial, agricultural or oterwise. The exemption clauses in Chapter 8 have also been amplified to provide, where necessary for the application of one or more parts of the scheme as, for example, the application of the scheme in so far as it relates to compensation for employment injury in say, seasonal factories. They provide the necessary authority to enable the extention of the schemes, as soon as some experience is gained of its working and the necessary administrative organisation is set up, to other categories of workers, whether working in seasonal factories or in other establishments.

#### Speedy Benefit to Workers

The scheme has also been modified in regard to the contributions which should be paid to enable a worker to qualify for sickness or maternity benefits. It had originally been provided that before a worker could qualify himself for sickness benefit, there should have been paid in respect of him at least 17 weekly contributions in a period of six continuous months preceding the week in which he claimed the benefit. It has now been provided that the contribu-tions should be paid for a period of six months known as the contribution period and that in return for such contributions the worker should be entitled to benefits in a subsequent period of six months known as the benefit period. Under the new scheme the Corporation will issue to the worker at the end of the contribution period on authorisation card indicating the benefits which can be claimed by him during the subsequent benefit period. With this authorisation and the medical certificate, the employee will be able to obtain the benefit speedily and without any waiting or harasament.

principle that contributions should be payable for two-thirds of the period is retained, but the minimum number of contributions has been reduced to 12. In calculating the two-thirds number of contributions, periods during

which the worker was not available for employment because of aickness or confinement or disability resulting from employment injury would be excluded irrespective of whether he was in receipt of benefit during the period or not.

Likewise in the case of maternity benefit, instead of 26 contributions in a period of 52 weeks preceding the week in which the claim is made, benefit will be payable if contributions were payable in respect of the employee for two-thirds of the period in the corresponding contribution period, subject again, to the limit of 12 contributions. The number of contributions payable between 35 and 40 weeks before the week in which confinement takes place or notice of pregnancy is given, has been reduced from 5 to 1.

The definition of sickness also has been changed. The limiting clauses have been removed. Under the new definition, a worker will be qualified to receive sickness benefit provided he is sick and unable to attend work, whatever may be the cause of his sickness.

These amendments are designed to liberalise the qualifying conditions considerably and make it easier for the worker to qualify for the benefit.

The clause relating to the payment of contribution has been amended to provide that contributions should be payable not only in respect of weeks during which the employee renders service and receives wages but also in respect of weeks during which he is on authorised leave or is unable to work either because of a lockout or because of a legal strike, with further qualification that in respect of legal strike, contribution will be payable only if wages are paid either in part or in full. This provision is intended to minimise the chances of breaks in service. It has also been made clear that the employee's contribution is recoverable only from the wages due for the period to which the contribution relates and not other-

#### Low Paid Workers

The Bill had provided that only employees whose average daily wages were 10 annas or below should be exempted from the employees' contribu-tion. In deference to the wish ex-pressed in the House the limit has now been raised to include all those whose daily wages are below a rupee a day.

Three more groups have also been added. As originally provided all provided all employees in receipt of a daily wage of Rs. 3 and above were grouped together and the average daily wage of this group was taken to be Rs. 3-8 a day. would have meant that workers in receipt of a wage exceeding Rs. 78. a month, could get sickness or disablement benefit at a flat rate of Rs. 52-8 a month. This would have pressed hard on the higher income groups. Under the revised scheme, workers with a monthly income of Rs. 260 and below will all receive approximately seven twelfths of their

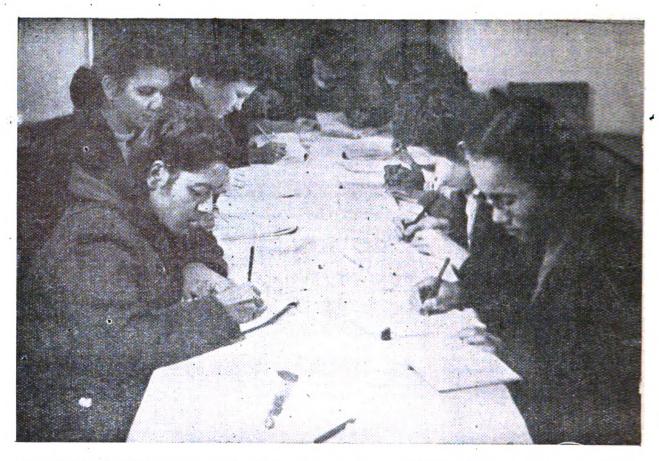
Another important change made in the Select Committee relates to the provision of medical care and attendance to familie. of injured persons. Here again, a compromise has been struck between the desirable and the practicable. Provision has been made for the extension of the benefits, if so requested by the appropriate Government. In other words, if a Provincial Government is in a position to provide for n edical care and treatment not only for the insured worker but also for his family and if the Corporation is in a position to bear the extra expenditure involved, then the benefit would be extended to the family of the insured rerson also.

The Select Committee also con. sidered the question whether the maximum period for which sickness benefit is payable should not be extended to more than eight weeks in a year. There was general agreement as regards the desirability of extending the period. At the same time it was recognised that we should have some experience as to how the scheme will work, what will be the average incidence of sickness, and what would be the financial consequences of such extension. The present scheme has been worked out on the basis of such data as we have regarding the incidence of sickness. The data is not as full and comprehensive as it should be. Further it is a common experience that the incidence of sickness tends to shoot up as soon as a State insurance scheme of this type is introduced. For these reasons, the Committee felt that the existing provision should be allowed to stand for the present. The Committee has however expressed the hope that as soon as circumstances permit the Corporation should make use of the power given to it under the Bill and extend the period of benefit.

#### Government Contribution

I would also like to mention another important change made in deference to the wishes of the House. It relates to the number of representatives of employees and employers on the Governing Bodies. Employers and employees will now have five members each in the Corporation which is the supreme authority and two members each on the Standing Committee.

There was also some criticism that the Bill provides for contributions only from employers and workers and none from Government. This is not correct. Under the scheme Provincial Governments are expected to contribute about a third of the cost of providing medical care and treatment. Most of the Provincial Governments have agreed to do so. We expect that the standard of medical care and treatment for insured workers will be such as will cost about Rs. 6 per head per year. The per capita expenditure now is only about annas 6. The Bhore Committee's recommendation is that it should be raised to Rs. 1-14-0 per head per year during the course of the next ten years. Instead of reaching this figure over a period of ten years, Provincial Governments have been invited to provide for insured workers services costing about Rs. 6 per head per year and bear a third of the cost from now onwards. No mention has been made



VOCATIONAL TRAINING: A stenography class in progress at one of the training centres for women run by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment

either of the per capita expenditure which the Provincial Governments are expected to incur or of their share of expenses because under the Constitution Act we cannot, by an Act of this Legislature, impose a charge on Provincial revenue. The subject, therefore, has been left to be settled by agreement between the Corporation and the Provincial Government.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, it will make a grant equal to two thirds of the administrative expenses for a period of five years. We have made provision for this purpose in Section 27 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee. After the five year period is over, the question whether, and if so to what extent, the Central Government should continue to assist the Corporation financially will be taken up for consideration and a decision taken in the light of the circumstances then existing.

The Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee is a considerable improvement over the one that was referred to it. The question of extending the scope of the scheme or enhancing the benefit is now an administrative or financial problem. but I venture to hope that it will be possible, before long, not only to bring a much larger proportion of employees within the scheme, but also to enhance the period of the sickness benefit and to make provision for medical treatment to the families of insured persons.

## LABOUR MINISTRY'S TRAINING SCHEMES

PRODUCTS ranging from brushware to popular radio sets are being made at the Training Centres organised by the Central Labour Ministry.

An exhibition of the samples of many of these articles was opened at New Delhi by the Labour Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, on April 3. They represent hundreds of cottage industries: handlooms, hosiery, dyeing and printing, woodwork, leather-work, soap-making, bookbinding, button manufacture, basketry, toy making, domestic utensils, blacksmithy, tool-making, carpentry and various other engineering trades.

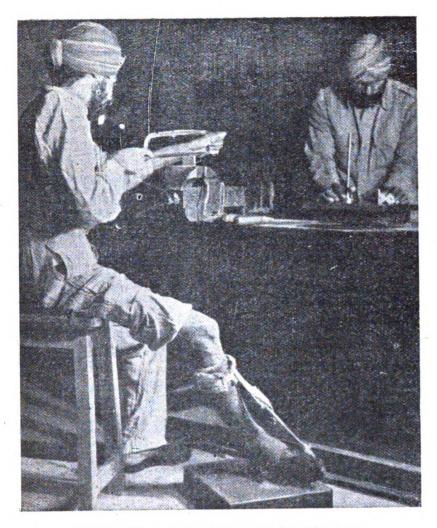
Four types of training institutions are run by the Labour Ministry. The two major ones are Technical Training Centres and Vocational Training Centres. The minor ones are for disabled ex-servicemen and for ex-servicewomen. In addition there is a scheme for apprenticeship training. The total number of training centres is 274 at present, including centres for apprenticeship course.

The technical training scheme was initiated during the war to meet the demands made by the defence forces and war industries for technicians. With a view to the resettlement of demobilised soldiers and discharged war workers.

it was decided to retain the technical training scheme and adapt it to postwar requirements. Vast plans of development had been drawn up for the postwar period and the country's need for technicians remained as great as ever. The technical training centres were, therefore, expanded to train ex-servicemen. The trades were selected with an eye on employment opportunities and the needs of industries. The suggestions of an Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of Government, employers and workers and other interests, which reported in 1945. were incorporated in the scheme.

Nearly 75 technical training centres with a total capacity of 9.366 exist at present in the various provinces of India. Training is given in nearly 50 building and engineering trades upto grade II. The total number of trainees are at present 1,338 in grade II and 3,798 in grade III. The number of trainees in the main trades are: mechanics (general)—1233, carpentry—481, mechanics (motor)—390. electricians—349, tin and coppersmiths—242, cabinet making—243, radio mechanics—185, turners—221, blacksmiths—225, brick-laying—178 and engine drivers (internal combustion)—174.

On passing the trade test, trainees are registered with the Exchanges for placing



Disabled trainees at work in a vocational training centre

in employment. Special efforts are undertaken to overcome difficulties in placing them?

Under the vocational scheme, training in nearly a hundred different occupations connected with agriculture, cottage industries and commercial occupations is imparted. The object of this scheme is to equip men for independent trades which require skill, but little capital outlay.

#### Training for the disabled

There are at present 107 training centres with a capacity of 4,239. The total number of trainees at present is 2,816. According to trades there are: hand-weaving of cotton, art-silk and woollen fabrics—412 trainees; knitting, carpet weaving, bleaching, dyeing, newar etc.—313; cutting and tailoring—380; typing and stenography—303; teaching-239; agriculture—341, metal-ware, utensils and metal toys—48; wood-ware, wood carving, fret-work and toys—106; basketry—71 and leather-work, footwear and leather goods—113 and so on. There are also facilities for training in brushware, button manufacture, earthenware, glass bangles, seap-making, manufacture of cosmetics, inks and shoe polishes, printing, lithography, book binding, proof-reading,

photography, cinematography and confectionery.

Disabled ex-servicemen are provided training in 3 centres in India in Aundh (near Poona), Jalahalli (in Mysore) and Meerut. Their total capacity is over 1500 and 964 disabled ex-servicemen are now actually under training. They are given training in suitable selected occupations and are helped to find employment after training.

Disabled ex-servicemen are also given awards in cash to set up business independently as skilled tradesmen and artisans A sum of Rs. 2,50,000 was placed at the disposal of the Government of India for this purpose by the Central Joint War Committee of the Indian Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation. So far nearly Rs. 25,000 has been spent in awards to about 150 persons.

#### Women's training

Training centres for ex-servicewomen total 11 at present, including private institutions which have been pressed into service for training them. Lately the centres have been utilised for training refugee women also. The number of ex-servicewomen under training until recently was 640 and of refugee women 55

it is expected that the scheme will be converted shortly into one of training refugee girls and women from Western Pakistan. It is proposed to give them training in six principal trades, viz., spinning and weaving, calico printing, tailoring and dress-making, stenography, clerical and commercial work and typing. Other trades will be added as required. 300 seats have now been thrown open for refugee women and girls.

A Technical and Vocational Training Scheme for the benefit of the refugees has been sanctioned and is now in operation. 3,772 seats have already been sanctioned for this purpose. Further extension of these facilities is under active contemplation so as to rise the training capacity, including seats provided under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, to 10,500 seats.

#### Apprenticeship Training

To provide practical training in factories and industrial workshops, an apprenticeship training scheme has now been evolved. The duration of this training would normally be 12 months. Training fees upto a maximum of Rs. 15 a month are also sanctioned in the case of specialised industries. Trainees who have passed grade II test in the technical training centres, are specially selected as also suitable men from the vocational training centres. At present there are about 602 trainees undergoing apprenticeship in 78 industrial establishments.

A Central Training Scheme for instructors has recently been opened in Bilaspus (C. P.). This has been done with a view to providing efficient instructors for the various training centres of the Labour Ministry. The Bilaspur Centre is a combined technical and vocational training centre with a capacity of 200.

All trainees are provided with a number of facilities such as stipends, free board and lodging, workshop clothing and to and fro fares.

## INDIAN INDEPENDENCE (LIABILITIES) ORDER

The Governor-General has issued an Order today called the Indian Independence (Liabilities) Order 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Partition Secretariat on March 31. The Schedule to this Order sets out certain agreements reached in the Partition Council on some specific matters as, for instance, deposits in post office savings bank, post office cash and other certificates, pensions, deposits by local bodies, outstanding money orders, and bonuses and provident fund payable to Government employees. The agreements make clear the positior of the Government of India vis a vis third parties in respect of these liabilities of undivided India.

The question of the liability of the two Dominions for payments on account of services rendered and goods supplied before the 15th August 1947, is also governed by an agreement reached on the subject in the Partition Council. Pakistan however has raised certain points of interpretation and a separate an councement will be made as soon as those points have been resolved.

### 10-YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR TEA WORKERS

10-year plan of medical care for nearly 9,00,000 workers in the tea estates of India is outlined by Major Lloyd Jones, Deputy Director-General of Hoalth Services (Social Insurance), in his report which was taken up for consideration by the Industrial Committee on Plantations on Murch 31 in New Delhi.

Recommending legislation to enforce standards of modical care, Major Lloyd Jones envisages the provision of adequate medical services in two stages. At the first stage attention should be directed to the provision of garden hospitals and dispensaries within a period of 3 years. The second stage would involve a period of 5 to 7 years to set up, in close liaison with the Provincial Medical Authorities, a comprehensive system of group and central hospitals. He estimates roughly that for the provision of garden hospitals the annual capital expenditure would be about Rs. 1/9 and annual recurring expenditure Rs. 7/- per head of population served.

The Report declares that the betterment of the health of tea plantation labourers is dependent on many factors of which an improved medical service is only one. Among the causes for the poor health of the workers it lists undernourishment, inadequate supply and distribution of water for drinking and for washing, bad housing, primitive sanitary arrangements and the ignorance of workers about principles of health and cleanliness.

#### Mortality Rates

According to Major Lloyd Jones, better standards of health were maintained in the plantations of South India as compared with those of North India. As between the Assam and Bengal plantations, the workers in the former province produced the worst impression. Describing their conditions, he says: "Under-nourishment and general weakness were evident even among the people seen working in the gardens or walking along the reads. There seemed a general lack of vitality. Children were rarely seen running about or playing. They ambled along like old men. Women, whether at work or taking their baskets to the factory trudged along silent, morose, their eyes fixed on the ground in front." Comparing them to women workers of Delhi, Major Lloyd Jones concludes that by reason of under-nourishment, their vitality was at such a low ebb that there was none to spare for the lighter aspects of life.

This general impression, says the Report, is confirmed by a study of vital statistics concerning tea estates. The Report reveals that the average mortality rate from all causes in the gardens of Assam for 1946 was 215 per thousand, infant mortality rate 190.9 per thousand and the maternal mortality rate 33.3 per thousand live births. These figures,

Major Lloyd Jones points out, can only be described as lamentable in comparison with the corresponding figures for 1945 for the city of Manchester (which has a large working class population) which were: mortelity from all causes 14.4 per thousand, infantile mortality 55.8 per thousand and maternal mortality 1.02 per thousand.

The corresponding figures for the gardens surveyed in Bengal were: mortality rate 20.1 per thousand, infantile mortality 134.1 per thousand and maternal mortality—14.8 per thousand; and in South India they were: mortality rate—14 per thousand, infantile mortality—122.4 per thousand and maternal mortality—6.5 per thousand.

Diseases prevalent in Assam were malaria, bowel diseases, anacmia and tuberculosis. Blood samples of a vast majority of workers showed Haemoglobin contents of less than 50 per cent. Hookworm was widespread. In Bengal, particularly in the Darjeeling area, pulmonary tuberculosis was on the increase. Kala-azar was also more prevalent in Assam. In Scuth India hookworm and other kinds of worms were common. Malaria was also a problem.

#### Responsibility of Industry

Major Lloyd Jones attributes the responsibility for this state to the history of the tea industry. The industry had to depend on imported labour and during the last 100 years or so many millions of labourers and their families have been uprooted from distant parts of India and transported to tea estates. Even now the local population was still inadequate to meet the demands of the industry.

Major Lloyd Jones ergues that labour was brought to the gardens for no other reason but to increase production of tea and bring profit to the estate owners. The owners had therefore a moral responsibility to see that the labourers and their families are guaranteed decent and human standards of living. Otherwise their condition would be reduced to one of mere slavery.

Describing the existing facilities of medical care in tea plantations, the Report points out that although in certain areas, particularly in South India and in Assam gardens owned by European. the standards were high. In some others medical care was almost non-existent or if it existed was so rudimental as to be hardly worth the name. In general, long-term health planning was almost non-existent. Where organised medical services existed, its degree varied considerably in different parts of India. In the Assam Valley and South India, the commonest form of medical organisation was some form of practice supervised by European medical officer. In Terai and Darjeeling, medical practice

did not exist. Individual gardeus maintained their own doctor usually a licentiate. One disadvantage of this was that the doctors were frequently old and professionally antiquated. There was a tendency to waste large sums of money on proprietory drugs. In many instances they had the poorest medical equipment. The primary essential, therefore, says Major Lloyd Jones, was to bring the backward gardens upto some minimum standards.

The Report sets the following standards to be enforced by legislation. During the first stage, garden hospitals should be organised with 10 beds for each 1000 of population served, in which two should be reserved for mid-wifery cases. There should be not less than one registered medical practitioner for each 2500 of population. Other staff should include not less than one mid-wife or trained dai, a nursing attendant, a compounder and an anti-malaria assistant. For gardens with a population of 500 or less and situated inaccessibly, he recommends a dispensary with five beds under the immediate care of a qualified compounder, but supervised and visited regularly by the nearest garden doctor.

For the second stage of a to 7 years, the Report recommends group or central hospitals equipped and staffed so as to be capable of dealing with any ordinary medical, surgical or obstetric emergency, with not less than three beds for each 1000 of population served. Details of minimum accommodation and equipment are given for both garden hospitals and group hospitals.

Major Lloyd Jones was deputed by the Government of India to visit the plantations and draw up, in consultation with Provincial Governments and Employers' Associations, standard of medical care for plantation labour, in accordance with the decision of the first Tea Plantation Labour Conference of 1947.

#### MOVEMENT OF U.P. GUR

Discussions with leading gur merchants of about 20 mendis in the U. P. were held in New Delhi on April 6, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. L. Khanna, Regional Food Commissioner, Central Region. It is estimated that approximately 130,000 tons of surplus gur will have to move from the U. P. to deficit areas before the end of June, to prevent gur deterioration and a further slump in prices. Through the combined efforts of the Ministries of Food and Transport about 100,000 tons of gur are reported to have moved to recipient areas during the months of February and March. This movement has prevented the collapse of the gur market and arrested the fall in prices.

It is understood that as a result of views expressed at the meeting, the Feed Ministry will represent to the Railway Board the need for increased transport facilities to suit the requirements of individual markets.

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## EATING FOR HEALTH: IMPORTANCE OF supply of iron. A few examples of the foods which contain iron are liver, egg, BALANCED DIET

AT the right food in the right amount and at the right time is a good nutrition rule for everybody. Those who follow this rule usually have more physical and mental efficiency, more stamina, vigour and vitality, and no doubt they reap the richest harvest of their life. They add years to their life as well as life to years.

The human body is just like the engine of your car. The engine of your car needs petrol, lubricating oil and water to run. It will wear out quickly if these things are not put into it in proper proportion. The same is true of our body. Our body is the most wonderful engine of all because it builds and repairs itself. Like the engine of your car it needs fuel, lubricants and other material which we call food and this food should consist of minerals, carbohydrates, vitamins, fats and proteins. Each mineral, each vitamin has its own special work to do in the body. No one mineral can take the place of another nor can one vitamin be substituted for the other. Good nutrition

Hoa'ble A broadcast talk by the Rejkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister. Government of India from A I. R., Delhi, on April 10.

requires all of them in proportion to their work. The proportions are now known to scientists in nutrition research. The food we eat gives us energy to move and work just as the fuel supplies power to run the engine.

There are myriads of cells in our body which turn the food we eat into flesh, bones and blood. They are so small that a drop of blood contains millions of them. They work together in groups and do different kinds of jobs; some build bones and others form the flesh, muscles and blood. They are called the 'little carpenters.' They are busy day and night building up, tearing down and repairing damages occurring in our body ceaselessly.

Our diet must contain (1) body building foods, (2) protective foods and (3) energy foods.

- (1) Milk, cheese, meat of every kind, fish, poultry, eggs, beans, pulses (dals) and nuts are some of the body building foods. Cheese and khoa of milk are just as good as meat for body building.
- (2) Some of the protective foods are milk, butter, green vegetables and fruit which contain proteins, minerals and vitamins. They protect our body against infections and diseases.
- (3) Bread, rice, sugar, butter, oils, honey, and gur are some of the energy foods which keep us active, including strength for work and blood circulation, breathing etc.

You will see from this group that some foods are 'all purpose type'. They supply the three needs of the body. We should, therefore, give them preference to other foods.

All foods give us energy but the primary source of energy is grain products. Fats and sugar are additional sources of energy in the diet. In many parts of India people are in the habit of using polished rice or sieving their grain products before eating. When they make flour from the wheat, they remove the bran-layer which is usually given to cattle. Rice is so refined by various methods before eating that nothing valuable is left. These methods of refining remove most of the protective minerals and vitamins which lie in the bran-layer.

#### **Proteins**

The foods required for growth are called Proteins. Proteins build and repair our tissues, and out of proteins the cells, nerves, skins, hair and nails are formed. Without it life cannot exist. If the diet continues to be low in proteins, the result may be, stunted growth, general ill-health, fatigue, lack of resistance to infections, low blood pressure and low red colour of blood which makes us look pale and haggard and often fell "too tired". Protein is widely distributed in natural foods but meat, fish, eggs, pulses, (dals), nuts, soyabeans, rice, wheat atta and other cereals are the best sources. The good rule to follow is to eat some proteins from plants such as grains, pulses, nuts and some from animal source such as fish, meat, cheese, eggs, and milk. During pregnancy, lactation and growth the requirement of proteins is greater.

The frame work and the functioning of the body are dependent upon the supply of minerals. The most important minerals are Calcium, Phosphorus and Iron. Many of the other minerals needed are so widely distributed in ordinary foods that we rarely fall short of them.

#### Calcium and Iron

Calcium is needed for growing bones and teeth. A rich supply of calcium will increase the general vigour, promote a better state of health and in old age keep the blood vessels in smooth working order, thus even help in living longer. The best source of this mineral is milk. Therefore, liberal supplies of milk and milk products are needed in abundance for growing children. Children who do not get enough calcium grow with weak and badly shaped bones. Their teeth do not develop properly and they lack in strength. During pregnancy and lactation the need for calcium is greater and a diet rich in calcium is necessary. Besides milk other calcium-rich foods are khoa, green leafy vegetables sarson ka sag, palak, salad, etc.

When we lack iron we become pale, anaemic and may get very ill. Our body cannot store much iron; therefore every day we must eat foods containing it. Iron gives our body rich blood colour and pink cheeks. If your body has not rich red colour it will not be able to carry oxygen to all parts of your body. During growth children need a good

1

yolk, gur, dates, tamarind, whole wheat, peas, spinach (palak), chicken ovatera

We have been hearing quite a lot about vitamins. Have you wondered what this word means? This word means "life-giving" substance. Now you can imagine from the meaning how important these vitamins are for our body. An eminent scientist has said that "Vitamins are to your body engine what spark plugs are to an automobile; vitamins supply the spark that makes your engine go". Vitamins help you to grow and keep well.

The vitamin exists in minute quantities in food. Scientists have discovered a number of vitamins and have given names by the letters of Alphabet. The most important vitamins are A, B, C

Vitamin A is necessary for promoting healthy growth and the proper furctioning of the eyes, the skin and the digestive tract. It also has an influence on the body re-actions to infection. Lack of this vitamin results in night. blindness. We can get this vitamin from butter, gh: e, cream, eggs, milk, yellow fruits and vegetables such as papaya, mangoes, carrots and amaranth leaves, palak, etc. Fish liver is richer in it than any other food. Also the red palm oil. The habit of frying things in ghee destroys much of the vitamin contents from it.

#### Sun-Shine Vitamin

Vitamin B is a term which refers to a group of vitamins. This group of vitamins reduces fatigue, increases appetite, improves digestion and intestinal health and builds strong nerves. The foods containing Vitamin B are liver, kidney, heart, fresh peas, pulses (dals) meat, milk, whole wheat, green vegetables, fish eggs, ground-nuts and potatoes.

Vitamin C is necessary for healthy functioning of blood vessels and for strong bones and teeth. Deficiency of this vitamin leads to scurvy. In olden days thouands of sailors died of this disease because their diet consisted of only salted meat and dred bread. It was completely lacking in vitamin C. Most foods such as raw vegetables, leafy vegetables, lemons, tomatoes, oranges, guava fruit (amrood) sprouted whole grams contain this vitamin. But the this vitamin is richest source of this vitamin is "Amla" or Nellikai, known to the Indian of Vaidyas and "Ayurveda", "the science of lengevity", in India from time immemorial as a great saviour of health and preserver of life. Therefore, "Amla" chatni or murabba, jam or pickles are a very helpful addition at meals.

Vitamin D is called sun-shine vitamin because you get this vitamin through the rays of the sun. This vitamin helps your body to build strong and sturdy bones and sound teeth. People living in cold countries where winters are severe and the sun does not come out for weeks or people living in congested parts of the town should use cod-liver oil which is But the regular rich in this vitamin. sun bathing habit will be excellent and prevente had formation of hones.

Years of scientific investigation have made it possible for us to determine what kind of food is required for the maintenance of good health. We can plan our meals in such a way that we may get all the vitamins and minerals which are needed by our body. We should est raw vegetables and fresh fruit every day because a large part of vitamin are lost in cooked foods, and remember that proper methods of cooking are necessary in conserving vitamins and minerals in the foods. But vitamin C is always lost in cooking. We should never throw away the water in which the vegetables have been cooked because certain vitamins and minerals are dissolved in the water. The waste of this water is a nutrition crime. It means a serious vitamin and mineral loss. Cooking vegetables in iron pans is a vary good habit. Milk is deficient in iron and so boiling milk in iron pans provides the iron needed for the body. Among certain sections there is a common belief that by using more and more ghee their children would develop into vigorous adults and they themselves will maintain good health for the longest period possible on a diet rich in ghee. No one denies that glice has its use in the diet but within certain limits. The excessive use of ghee or any other fat may lead to positive deterioration in health in the long run. An intake of 1 to 2 ounces of fat has been considered by physiologists adequate for maintenance of prolonged healthy life. There are some scientists who are of the opinion that about 30 per cent of the fat should preferably be of animal origin.

#### **Danger of Patent Medicines**

Today the market is flooded with numerous patent tonics and vitamin pills which are widely advertised and for which special propaganda methods have been devised by the manufacturers which are not only dangerous but are also usually expensive. These tenics should not be used unless "prescribed" by a competent physician.

Remember there is no such thing as "Brain Food" as is often advertised nor is there any particular medicine which will stimulate the secretion of milk in a nursing mother. If you supply your body with the various nutritious foods of a "mixed" but "balanced diet" you will keep yourself healthy and strong.

A balanced diet will be 4 chhataks of wheat chapaties or 6 chhataks of cooked rice, 1 chhatak of ghee, or butter, or oil 1 seer of milk or curds, 2 chhataks cooked vegetables, preferably I chhatak of green leaves, 2 chhataks meat or dalls or 1 chhatak of nuts and 1 to 1 seer of fruit. If good foods are not available, there should be changes in the variety of dalls used, changes in the vegetables, fruit and nuts, especially where rice is the staple food, green leafy vegetables and variety of dals or chans and oil or ghee should be used without missing a fresh fruit or raw vegetable to compensate for the lack of vitamin C which is destroyed in cooking. A little "Amla shatni and mango chatni will be all that you want to add to the palate and precervation of health.

If everyone were to observe these simple laws of nutrition in their daily lives there would be far less ill health in our country.

## WAR ON TUBERCULOSIS: GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE B. C. G. VACCINATION

N practically all the civilised communities of the world tuberculosis as a cause of death is undoubtedly the most important among the infectious diseases. Based on a few surveys it has been estimated that over 500,000 people die from tuberculosis every year in India. It is responsible, in addition, for an enormous amount of prolonged disability, suffering and economic loss.

The wide prevalence of the disease is shown by the fact that more than half the population, particularly in urban areas, becomes infected by the age of 20, and nearly all some time during life. Fortunately for us, however, only a small proportion of those who are infected develop the disease in a progressive or fatal form. It is also estimated that, in at least 80% of patients spontaneous healing occurs. The primary infection appears therefore to be able to stimulate the production of adequate protective power in the vast majority of people, to a degree sufficient to enable them to escape further infection.

Ever since the discovery of the tubercle bacillus by Kock in 1882 research workers have been trying to evolve an effective method of artificial immunisation. So far the most promising results have been produced through vaccination with an attenuated strain of the tubercle bacilli called B. C. G.

#### First Introduced in France

B. C. G. vaccination was first introduced in France by Calmette in 1921. Since then it has been used in an every increasing measure in most of the European countries, particularly in the Scandinavian countries. When Calmette advocated the administration of B. C. G. to new-born infants it was with no confidence that a strong and lasting immunity would result. He believed, however, that it would provide sufficient protection to save the child from contracting the disease during the first few years of life, when the chance of getting infected with tuberculosis is the highest. B. C. G. vaccination was particularly advocated for children exposed to severe natural infection from parents or relatives suffering from the disease and it was among such classes that the most successful results have been claimed in France.

The harmlessness of B. C. G. has been established beyond doubt by its practical application on a scale exceeded only by a few proved methods of immunisation such as those for smallpox, dephtheria and enteric fever. A considerable measure of protection has been demonstrated for this form of vaccination against tuberculosis by the reliable data which have been accumulated in the countries concerned, particularly those from Norway and Sweden. Though Calmette gave the duration of immunity following B. C. G. vaccination as of the order of 2 to 4 years, recent studies from Norway and Sweden suggest that the immunity might last for 5 to 6 years er even more.

The Ministry of Health in the Govern ment of India, after careful consideration of the question in all its aspects, has come to the conclusion that mass vaccination with B.C.G. constitutes a potent and speedy method of bringing under control the high incidence of tuberculosis which has been spreading rapidly through the country. It is recognised that other measures directed towards improving the standard of life of the people and isolating infective patients are also essential for developing a comprehensive plan of attack. But B.C.G. has its own definite place in the campaign against the disease in order to achieve demonstrable results in its control within a relatively short time. It has therefore been decided to introduce B.C.G. vaccination, in the first instance, on a limited scale under the strict supervision and control of the Central Government.

#### The W. H. O.

The World Health Organisation have very kindly agreed to send a B.C.G. Demonstration Team to India by about the end of May, 1948. The object of the visit is not only to popularise B.C.G. vaccination but also to show to the authorities concerned the process of manufacture of the vaccine and the technique of administration. The B.C.G. Laboratory will be located at the King Institute of Preventive Medicine. Guindy, while the field operations will in the first instance be carried out near Madanapalle under the supervision of the authorities of the Union Mission Sanatorium and later extended to other areas.

The W.H.O. Team is expected to work in India for a period of four months. In order to continue and expand the work initiated by the team, the Government of India have selected an experienced bacteriologist and a technician and propose to give them special training in the manufacture of the vaccine at Copenhagen. As it is extremely important to maintain a uniform standard of potency and efficiency and to prevent all possible chances of contamination with the virulent organisation of the disease, it is proposed. to confine the production of the vaccine to the Guindy Institute at present and to extend it later to one or two more centres. In the countries where B.C.G. vaccination has been carried out on a large scale, Government control over the production and distribution of the vaccine and of its administration to the people is being strictly enforced. In India also these conditions will be fulfilled in order to ensure that the vaccination campaign is developed on sound

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. F. Lodge of the Calcutta High Court for one year as Chief Justice of the newly constituted High Court of Assam, says & Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 3.

### HEALTH MINISTER URGES PEOPLE TO GET Fruit Technology NUTRITION-MINDED

66 HOW, when and what to eat is a science which none of us may ignore. If we disobey the laws of life in this regard we do so at our peril", observed the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, inaugurating the Nurition Exhibition in New Delbi on April 2.

The Health Minister said:

Scientists have carried out wide researches in recent years in the field of nutrition. Their knowledge is at our disposal and it is up to us to take full advantage of it. Food is abodily necessity. How, when and what to eat is a science which none of us may ignore. If we disobey the laws of life in this regard we do so at our peril. I do not suppose there is anyone here who has not suffered because of errors in diet. And yet man continues to commit those errors partly because the conquest of the palate is one of the hardest victories to achievefood that is tarty is generally not the food that is best from the point of view of health-and largely because of our ignorance of food values. I say largely because the vast masses of our people have not got the wherewithal to provide sufficient food for themselves. Just as the incidence of disease and the mortality rate here are highest in the world so in the matter of intake of calories per head we take the lowest place. These are matters which must give us cause for concern.

#### **Epidemic Danger**

An exhibition like this is meant to educate us in food values. It is immensely important for us all, in particular for our pour to know how best they can spend their few pennies in order to increase as far as possible within their means the caloric value of their food. They are victims of poverty in any case and owing to ignorance they do not get the full value of what they can get and lose what they need not lose. In as much as women are queens in the kitchen I do hope they. in particular our poor sisters will come forward in large numbers and be taught how best to feed their families, especially their children.

Our ancestors were wiser than we are in many ways. Their lives were not so complicated in any sphere, and because they lived simply they were healthier. They were not aware of bread made from anything other than whole meal, they were not acquainted with milled rice. Today we of the towns are unable to get these healthful commodities and are therefore less well nourished. An exhibition such as this is of special value because of the hard times in which we live and I do sincerely hope that it will draw thousand. of persons and that those who visit it will return to their homes resolved to put what they have learnt to practical effect in their daily lives.

There is one thing that I do want to stress and that is the necessity of cleanli-

ness in the matter of what we eat. You may have the best prepared meal from the point of view of caloric value, but if it is not prepared hygienically all its value just vanishes. Today we have in our town, due to their piteous circumstances, hundreds of food hawkers sitting and selling their tempting wares on the pavements. Their articles of food are covered with dust and flies, their untensils are not clean, and yet thousands are tempted to eat and drink at those stalls. It is really for the public to demand standards of cleanliness in the matter of food and to refuse to eat and drink where tood and water are infected. They betray gross ignorance if they act otherwile. Such infected food and drink may not only harm those who indulge in them but there is grave danger of epidemics-especially now that we are approaching what is known as the cholera season. The authorities who wish to remove these vendors to more suitable places and who demand more cleanly and unsympathetic but in fact they are only serving the community by trying to protect them from disease. I do ask for intelligent co-operation from all concerned in a matter which gravely concerns the health of this city.

H. E. Lady Mountbatten at the Nutrition Exhibition held in Delhi recently

Started in 1941 as a special scheme for fruit and vegetable preservation to meet the demands of the army during the war time, the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology has now been estabished on a permanent basis at Delhi. It has taken over the work of the Institute of Fruit Technology started by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1945. The establishment of such an instutite has been considered indis-pensable in the interests of the fruit preservation industry.

The Institute offers facilities for advanced training in fruit preservation; conducts research on the preparation and standardisation of different kinds of fruit products such as juices, squashes and marmalades, pickles, sauces and chutneys; offers advice and guidance to the fruit preservers of the country, helps in preparing schemes and plans for new factories and offers technical advice to the Government in regard to various provisions and specifications in the quality control of fruit products.

During the last two years training was given to 44 students coming from all parts of India, from the N.W.F.P. in the North to Trivandrum in the South, and from Sind in the West to the easternmost province of Assam.

Compared to other countries, India, has just made a beginning in fruit research. As against one institute of Fruit Technology in India, in U.S.A. alone there are over 40 institutes, college. and universities, including about 20 Research Stations, functioning exclusively on research on all aspects of fruit and vegetable preservation.



## "REVISED FOOD POLICY PROVING Difficulties have arisen in Madras because of a failure of the North-East SUCCESSFUL," SAYS MINISTER

N regard to her food supplies, India has during the last few years, lived on a ship-to-mouth basis. Now for the first time since 1943 when food control was introduced on an extensive scale in India, it has been possible for the Central Government even while helping Madras considerably, to build up a reserve for meeting any untoward situation. This has been possible largely because of the reduced commitments of certain Provincial Governments, a good kharif crop in most areas and an expected good rabi harvest. This central reserve stands today at a littly over 100,000 tons, and by the end of June it should increase to appro imately 400,000 tons because of large imports.

These facts were revealed by Mr. Jairandas Doulatram, the Dominion Food Minister, addressing a press conference in New Delhi on April 3. He stated: The creation of a Central grain reserve is one of the cardinal features of the revised policy of 'gradual de-control' accepted by the Government last December, which is proving to be successful. All provinces and states report a general feeling of satisfaction among the people following deconctrol.

#### Crops and Stock Position

Under the Central Government's food policy, all imported grain and the surpluses made available by surplus provinces are distributed to deficit areas under Central direction and controlled movement. Under the revised policy accepted by the Government last December on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, specific quantities of exports by surplus areas in the Indian Dominion and specific allocations for deficit aseas were fixed.

The position of the crops and grain supplies in the main recipient provinces is briefly indicated below. While the kharif crop estimates are fairly accurate, as the harvests have already been completed, the rabi figures are at present rough estimates as framed by the provinces. The Government will be keeping itself in touch with the rabi situation as it develops from month to month. The generous response of some provinces in surrendering a part of what the Centre would otherwise have had to send them makes one feel that with the co-operation of the provinces and states, deficit provinces will tide over their difficulty.

BIHAR-The ceiling quota of imports for the Province under the Central Basic Plan of distribution is 100,000 tons. Bihar Government have agreed to forego the demand for an immediate increase in this allotment in view of the more urgent needs of Madras.

The estimated kharif production of 30,31,000 tons is slightly below that of 1946-47. The rabi prospects are good and the present indications are that this crop will be about 100,000 tons better than last year's.

BENGAL (WEST)—The ceiling import quota for the year is 200,000 tons, but representations have been made to increase the allotment. This proposal is under examination At present procurement in Bengal is good and prices are not showing a tendency to rise.

BOMBAY.—In Bombay the crops have been generaly satisfactory but there has been a steep rise in prices. To meet the situation, supplies from imports and from other parts of India are being accelerated. Thus there will be sufficient quantities of grain with the Bombay province during the next six months, to enable them not merely to maintain the existing rations in the four large industrial towns which are at present rationed, but also to send supplies to the districts, including the coastal districts, which need stocking now for the monsoon months. These supplies will be used for distribution through relief quota shops and it is estimated that about 130,000 tons of grain will be available for such distribution during this period.

EAST PUNJAB-The ceiling import quota for the year is 120,000 tons, but because of the improved supply position, the province is not likely to need any assistance from the Centre till September. This has made it possible for the Government of India to divert supplies ear-marked for the Punjab to other deficit

The kharif production is about 100,000 tons below last year's but estimates of rabi indicate an excellent crop.

U. P.—The province had a good kharif harvest estimated to be about 278,000 tons better than last year's. and estimates of the rabi also indicate a good crop. This has enabled the province to surrender 35,000 tons out of its ceiling import quota of 125,000 tons. This province also will not need assistance from the Centre for at least several months to come.

#### Overseas Imports

During the first quarter ended March 31, India has received 886,000 tons of foodgrains from abroad. Expectations for the second quarter ending June 30 are approximately 860,000 tons, and while nothing precise is at present known of likely imports for the period July to September, it is hoped that 400,000 tons will be received.

Large quantities of maize have been imported into India as no other grain was then available, and it was necessary for the Government to have grain to meet an internal shortage. But as maize is not popular with some people, two agreements have been reached to exchange it for rice for which there is special demand from certain parts of the country.

In exchange largely of maize and partiy of wheat, we have secured 20,150 tons of rice from Pakistan and 26,000 tons of rice from Egypt.

monsoon. It is necessary therefore to explain the position in some detail.

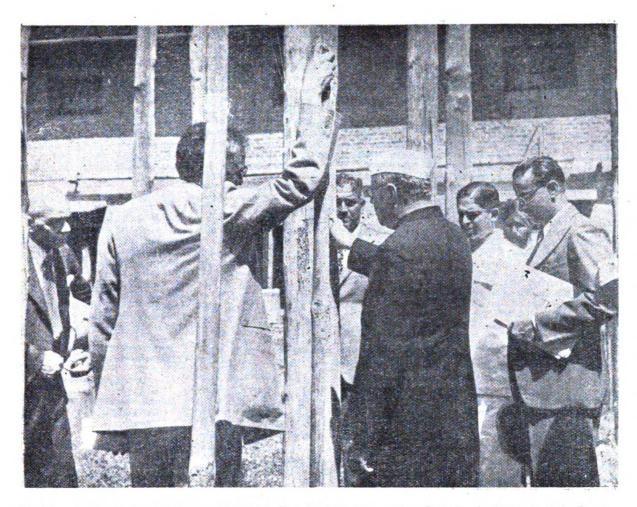
It is true that production in Madrae has greatly suffered because of drought, but some rains in January last have improved the outturn. Compared to the average five-yearly production, the reduction in rice is now estimated at 7,47,000 tons and in millets 5,14,000 tons. The earlier estimate of the deficit was higher by about 3 lakh tons.

In view of the unexpected failure of the monsoon in Madras, and the consequent increase in its requirements, the Central Government have increased the province's original allotment of 200,000 tons to 400,000 tons. They have also accelerated supplies to Madras having sent during the period January to March 180,000 tons as against the earlier schedule of 92,000 tons.

The rationed population in Madras province has recently been about 9 million, whose monthly requirement is 51,000 tons of foodgrains. As against this, the total grain stocks held by the Government of Madras on March 1 were nearly 400,000 tons. The position of the popula-tion which is now no longer on Government rations has also been carefully considered. In the light of the latest review, the Central Government will make available to Madras, grain supplies sufficient along with quantities procured by them, to ensure a relief quota of 6 ozs. per day for the non-producing derationed population, over and above what grains they may purchase in the open market. The Government of India are also arranging a high priority movement for pulses and grams to Madras so that apart from what the Central Government will send to Madras in the above manner, more foodstuffs may be available. A close watch is being kept on the situation. and every possible effort is being made both by the Central and the povincial. Governments to meet any difficulties that might arise later in the year.

After a short period of a steep rise n grain prices immediately following decontrol, prices in most areas are gradually declining. There still are however. reports of high prices from certain areas. This in some cases is due to immobility of grain in surplus areas caused by the difficulty of transport. Steps are also being taken to get price quotations from a larger number of centres than at present. This will enable Government to secure a more scientific analysis of price trends and their causes and therefore help to apply remedies which may be effective. If there are indications of hoarding, the Government will not hesitate to use all the powers at their command to suppress this antisocial crime.

The food position is under the constant scrutiny of the Government, and it has been reviewed by the Foodgrains Policy Committee last month and food officials from the Provinces and states only last. week. The Premiers of the Provinces and states and their Food Ministers will also meet in New Delhi in a few weeks to review the position in the country, and to decide what further steps should be taken to implement the policy of progressive decontrol.



Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram (third from right) Agriculture Minister, tests a piece of timber in the yard of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, where experiments are conducted in timber seasoning

## FORESTS—HANDMAID OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

the academic, the intellectual, the academic, the technical qualifications for public services a public servant may possess, he lacks the highest qualification if he lacks the spirit of service", stated Mr. Jairamdas Deulatram, Agriculture and Food Minister to the Government of India, in his Convocation Address at the Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun on March 30.

"It is the dweller in the rural parts of India who bears the largest burden of public taxation," continued the Agriculture Minister, "and it is he who fills the treasury which feeds us all. For the service of the masses of our country should be dedicated the lives of all of us, whose duty and privilege it is to administer the affairs of the country. Free India can never rise to its full stature unless the public servants become true servants of the public".

Expressing the hope that the Indian Forest College would soon develop as

the best training centre in the whole of Asia, Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram said:

Our forest centre at Dehra Dun is probably the largest of it, kind in the world. We should so plan its expansion so that we could invite and welcome to it students from all over the East even as the famous Nalanda University of Bihar drew to itself the students of half the world. Let us not be satisfied with average or even a normal, high standard of work. I would wish to look forward to the day when instead of India's sons going to the United Kingdom or the United States for training in forestry, young men from the Universities of these countries should feel that they have something to learn from the forest experts of India and from the Centre which has the potentia-lities of the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute.

Our forests lie largely as untapped sources of stupendous wealth for the nation. We in India have hardly begun to tap that wealth, We must make the forests the hand-naid of both agriculture and industry. The forests must protect our agriculture against the consequences of floods and other elemental forces of nature. Our forests n.ust subserve and feed our industries with the raw materials that they need. Judged in the context of the agricultural and industrial needs of a nation of 30 crores, this Forest Research Institute and these forest colleges are hopelessly inadequate to meet the situation. We will fail India if we move with a pace only a little faster than the pace at which the British rulers moved. Not merely double but ten times must be our pace and that too within a limited period of time if the people are to gain and appreciate the fruits of your work. All of us officials or non-officials have quickly to work up that pace and the day should come soon when every square mile of India's forests, which cover one-fourth of its surface, is exploited to its fullest extent in the service of agriculture and industry. Nothing less should satisfy us and for that purpose our administrative machinery should endeavour to adjust itself. Not a hundred or two of officers and rangers must fill the classes at our Forest Colleges but thousands in these two and other coming colleges should receive training for utilizing our forests and their products to make India richer and happier.

But if we want to move and move faster towards this goal we dare not plan our building programme on the basis of iron and steel and coment and brick. We, who deal with forests need not be ashamed if we dwell as foresters or at least in buildings made out largely of materials which the forests can give us. Permanent structures, as has been our experience take a long time. Dehra Dun has waited for long and has seen little progress in the construction of buildings for the expansion of its forest centre. The Institute is experimenting in soil stabilisation or pakki matti. Let us go on quickly with the research and begin to apply its results before the year is out to carry out our own expansion schemes. When better times come and iron and steel and coal can move about in abundance, we may re-construct what we need on a more permanent basis.

The forest authorities in India and others who are interested in forest, have been planning out a programme of activity for the coming five years. That programme has many items of use and value. I have just referred to research in pakki matti. When there is acute shortage or immobility of steel and coal, the nation must fall back on locally available substitutes for all its building needs. I would therefore wish it were possible for Delna Dun to supply to the nation within the shortest possible time full experimental data in regard to this new method of construction.

#### Treated Timber

The plans for producing treated timber in quantities large enough to replace steel in a variety of its uses must be pushed through with utmost speed if the country's progress is not to be held up in more than one direction. I have been thinking whether the Dehra Dun Institute may not itself begin to pilot chemes of producing treated timber and put ap a small model production centre for its manufacture. While this would only be a pilot scheme, suggestions have been made that a State concern on a magnitude big enough for the country's needs should be set up to produce seasoned timber on a large scale for all its varied uses. Treated timber, pakki matti and other more attractive schemes must not divert the energy of our forest officers from the equally important function of helping in the development of the minor forest products and the rejuvenation of our cottage industries. In all our development plans we should not forget needs of the broad masses and our research must be re-orientated to serve the true needs of the people at large. This research should be primarily in the interest of the masses and designed to make their lives less cheerless and less bleak. The research should be designed to bring health and prosperity within their homes.

I have come to feel recently that the Provinces and States would like to share more in the work of research and training in forestry. Until the time is ripe and a larger number of men become available for staffing with the requisite standard many more colleges in the country, I think it may be of value if

we could adopt the suggestion of developing numerous field research stations, coattered in different parts of India designed for specialised research in subjects of local interest. We may also well utilise the Universities of India for a certain type of fundamental research. It may also be considered whether a method can be found so that those who are dealing with private forests or have otherwise something to do with forests may have some minimum training and education in forestry at the hands of the forest officers in the provinces. If a workable scheme to this end could be framed our forest policy night come to be implemented in a witer sphere and receive more extensive co-operation.

#### **Publicity**

I feel that there should be far greater publicity of the work which is being done at Dehra Dun and Coimbatore than has at present been possible so far. I think we may well have a system of show-rooms at the railway stations and other suitable public places. We should organise more frequently forest products exhibitions in different provinces and States. Our publications program me ought to be more frequent and extensive. Camera and film should be exploited much more than today. The co-operation of the press should be sought more assiduously. A pecial Publicity section ought to be attached to the Forest Department. Other methods may also be availed of to put our forest work before those who should know it. Thus shall we have discharged our duty and thus will the people be given what is their due.

In conclusion, the Agriculture Minister said : any cureer which lacks the element of service to the people is a missit with the era of freedom. Let us not forget the association of the forests with the traditions of our nation. It was in the repose of the forests that the Ristis of old lived a life of self-lessions and service and reflecting on the fundamental problem of happiness discovered its solution in the Gita's formula of disinterested daty done for the welfare of others. It was in the forests of India that men of the spirit practised and preached this eternal law of a happy life. It a the forests of India, which still echo with the stories of Rama and Sita, the stories o. a ruler of men like you, who made eve his domestic life and the dignity of his own queen subject to the requirements of public opinion. So let the modern workers in the forest catch a little of the true spirit of the forest and participate in the inheritance not only of the material but also the spiritual wealth of the Aranyas' of old.

Information has been received by the Director-General of Health Services that travellers by all routes from India to the Persian Gulf ports (Arab Coast) should be in possession of valid international certificates of inoculation against cholera and of vaccination against smallpox, says a Press Note issued by the Directorate General of Health Services on April 1.

### NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Government of India have appointed an Expert Committee to consider and report on the advisability of establishing a National Central Library in India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 15. It is proposed that one of the sections of this Library should be a Central Copyright Library to which a copy of all pulications published in India will be sent.

Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India. is the Chairman of the Committee. Other members are. Dr. S. N. Sen, Director of Archives, National Archives of India, Dr. P. M. Josh, Director of Archives. Bombay, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan of the Delhi University, Dr. D. S. Kothari, Dean of the Faculty of Science. Delhi University and Secretary, National Institute of Sciences of India and Mr. B. S. Kesavan, Librarian, Imperial Library, Calcutta, who is the Secretary of the Committee.

The terms of reference of the Expert Committee are as follows:—

To consider and report on

- (a) the scope of legislation, if any, for establishing a National (entral Library;
- (b) the functions of the Library:
- (c) the administration and steff, building, etc., needed;
- (d) finances and
- (e) the relation of the National Central Library with (i the Imperial Library, Calcutta, ii) the Central Secretariat Library and other Central Government Libraries, and (iii) Provincial Libraries.

The Committee held its first meeting in Delhi in the first week of April.

## INDIA AND PERSIAN GULF BANK

The Government of India sometime ago directed the Reserve Bank of India to conduct an inspection of the India and Persian Gulf Bank Limited, under the provisions of the Banking Companies (Inspection) Ordinance, 1946, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 3. Having received and considered the inspection report of the Reserve Bank of India and the explanation offered by the India and Persian Gulf Bank Limited, the Government of India are satisfied that the affairs of the India and Persian Gulf Bank Limited are being conducted to the detriment of the interests of its depositors. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5(1) (a) of the Banking Companies (Inspection) Ordinance, 1946, the Government of India have accordingly issued an Order prohibiting the India and Persian Gulf Bank Limited from accepting fresh deposits with effect from Monday, April 5, 1948.

### MANURE POSITION IN INDIA

NE of the more important causes of the slow progress of food production in many parts of the country and the failure to expand it in others has been an extreme shortage of fertilizers, particularly nitrogen. The other important factor of course is timely water. Where water is not available and the crops have to depend upon the monscon the results are not so satisfactory. The present manure and fertilizer position in the country is briefly as follows:—

Indian soils are particularly deficient in nitrogen and for the bulk of her requirements of nitrogenous fertilizers, India has to depend upon imports. It is estimated that India's total requirements of nitrogen for all crops is 20,00,000 tons per annum as against an allocation of 40,000 tons for 1948. At present there are only 5 net exporters of nitrogen—Chile, Canada, U. K., Norway and Belgium. It is the exports of these 5 countries that have to supplied the needs or supplement the domestic production of nearly 100 importing countries. That explains briefly the reason why India has been able to secure only a small fraction of her chemical fertilizers from abnord.

Manures may be classified broadly into two categories (\*\*) organic manures and (c) chemical fertilizers.

#### Organic Manures

Organic manures comprise of (i) farmyard manure (ii) compost (iii) green manures (iv) oilcakes (v) bone meal.

The value of organic manures lies not only in their supply of nitragen but also because they contain that very essential complex of mpound called 'humus' which is vital for maintaining soil fertility. Large quantities of humus are available in green manures, compost and cowdung.

Although the total production of cowdung in India represents about 800,000 tons per annum the total quantity of cowdung is not used for manuae. Thus from cowdung India gets a little more than 300,000 tons per annum.

#### Green Manure and Oil Cakes

Compost is manufactured from town refuse, sweepings, fodder refuse and night soil. During the last 3 years the Ministry of Agriculture has devoted some attention and a great deal of effort to produce compost from night soil. Out of 4,000 municipalities, 600 are working on such schemes and the total annual production is estimated at 400,000 tons. Although the major production of this manure is used for market garden crops, some of it is also used for cereals and other crops. This manure provides much needed humus for the soil.

The total estimated production of compost in about 7,000 villages is about 10,00,000 tons a year.

Large-scale tests have been carried out by the various Departments of Agriculture in India on the value of green manures in practically every province. The practice has become popular both in Madras and Bengal under conditions of assured water supply.

The nitrogen contents of oilcakes are very small varying from 1.5 per cent. to about 7 per cent compared to India's requirements. The total production of inedible oilcakes in India which are used for manure is about 2,50,000 tons.

In pre-war times India's export in bones averaged 2 lakh tons. These were crushed at the ports and shipped abroad. During the process of crushing, bone meal was produced which is a valuable manure. The quantities of ground bones exported has now been reduced to 40,000 tons per annum which means a reduction in the quantity of bone meal available for manurial purposes.

#### Chemical Fertilizers

These may broadly be classified into (a) nitrogenous manures (t) phosphatic manures and (c) compound manures of the first two.

Among the first those useful to India are(i) ammonium sulphate or all crops, particularly rice; (ii) ammonium nitrate (iii) Sodium nitrate, both useful for dry crops; (iv) calcium cynamide useful for all crops (r) potassium nitrate useful for dry crops.

With the exception of potassium nitrate and to some extent an monium sulphate, no other manure is manufactured in India. Ammonium sulphate is now available to the extent of some 45,000 tons a year from within the country. When the Sindri factory goes into operation the production will be about 420,000 tons per annum.

India's requirements for manuring 30,00,000 to 50,00,000 acres of cereals, particularly rice, are estimated at 100,000 to 150,000 tons a year. Superphosphate can be produced from bone as a by-product of the glue and gelatine industry. Without this industry the production of superphosphates alone from bones is expensive. Experts however are of the view that cheap superphosphate can be produced in India by utilising surplus sulphuric acid and importing ground rock phosphate from North Africa.

It has sometimes been stated that chemical fertilizers are harmful both to land and crops. This question was discussed in detail at one of the meetings of the F. A. O. and the recommendation of this world authority is that the rational use of chemical fertilizers has no deleterious effect on soil or crops. It is unlikely therefore that any Department of Agriculture in the country could have advocated the straight use of chemical fertilizers

#### JUTE CULTIVATION

The question of improving the quality and increasing the acrenge and quantity of jute in India was discussed at an inter-departmental meeting by the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries at New Delhi on April 5 under the chairmanship of Mr. B.R. Sen. Agriculture Secretary, Government of India.

It is understood that as a result of measures taken, the jute acrease in the house Union for the current state. has substantially increased. Steps will be laken to increase the acreage under in proved quality jute further, if this becomes necessary to need the requirements of jute mills in the Indian Deminion.

## AUTONOMOUS ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

The Government of India sympathises with the proposal to make the accountancy profession autonomous and will do everything in its power to achieve that end, declared the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Commerce, addressing a meeting of the Indian Accountancy Board on April 9.

It was unanimously decided to appoint an Expert Committee to examine the scheme for an autonomous association of accountents. The committee, which is due to submit its report to Government before the end of July, consists of:—

Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary, Commerce Ministry (Chairman), Mr. G. P. Kapadia, Mr. M. S. Krishnaswami, Mr. S.N. Banerjea, Mr. S.B.L. Vajsh, Mr N. R. Mody, Mr. K. Santhanam, Mr. A. L. Sahgal, one representative of the Chambers of Commerce (to be nominated later), and Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Indian

Accountancy Board (non-member Secretary).

The Committee's terms of reference are: to examine the scheme for an autonomous association of accountants in the light of the opinions and comments received from Provincial Governments, commercial bodies, etc., to suggest concrete proposals to Government for making the profession autonomous: and to suggest, where necessary, amendments to existing laws or the terms of separate legislation.

The meeting also decided to set up a special committee to examine the provisions of the Indian Companies Act and other enactments which affect the auditor's profession and suggest changes for safeguarding the profession's interests. This committee consists of:

Sir Shapoorjee Billimoria, Mr. S. Suryanarayana Iyer, Mr. B. D. Birdy, Mr. S. C. Dutt and Mr. M. R. Khanna.



## SCHEME FOR UTILIZATION OF SURPLUS STORES

SCHEME for dealing with surplus stores frozen for the purpose of rehabilitation has been prepared by the Rehabilitation and Development Board, says a Press Note includ by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on March 31.

A list of some of the stores available is being issued shortly but the complete scheme will not be put into operation until availability and conditions of steres has been definitely ascertained. An Expert Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Industry and Supply to report on the availability, condition and the utility of the stores.

The Rehabilitation and Development Board has formulated its scheme on the basis of particulars in broad categories of stores as were in hand in December, 1847. The list included machine tools and other equipment which were considered suitable for the inmediate and short-term industrial requirements of the country. Besides 1200 machine tools, the list included Diesel Engines, Furnaces, Generating Sets, Air Compressors, Arc and Gas Welders, Overhead and Mobile Cranes etc. It also included 300 tons of Cutting and Hand Tools, 3,000 tons of special tools, Etecl in assorted sizes and grader and mstallations like Barrel Making Plant, Drue. Making Plant, Vegetable De-hyuration Factory, Flexible Pipe Mean-facturing Plant, Ice Plans and Cold Storage units.

Non-ferrous metals like copper and brass ingots, sheets, wire, rods, tubes, etc., aluminium shoets and ingots were also available. Among other things in the list were Light Railway material, such as Decauville Steam Locomotives, trucks and various watercrafts like folding boate, luxury launches, tuge, motor barges, motor launches, etc.

Besides these stores, there was a large quantity of electric wire and other accessorie, in assorted sizes and grades though the quantities of each type were small. There was also some domestic hardware but only small quantities of each type. There was practically no agricultural or read building equipment, like tractors, stone crushers etc.

It is considered that the stores available now may be less, as issues have meantime been made for works having high priority, such as "Grow More Food" "Pathankot-Jammu Icond", "Sindri Fertilizer Project" and for Railways, and also in connection with Covernment schemes for relief of refugees.

Exact quantities and condition of surplus stocks as now available will be known after the Expert Committee has reported. Certain types of stores will be required in relief work now being carried on under the negis of the Ministry of Rehef and Rehabilitation, and, although the refugees would be the ultimate beneficiaries, there would be no individual allotment. First priority will, however. have to be given to the requirements of the Central, Provincial or State Governments in their schemes of relief.

The Board is setting up a number of townships around Delhi, and there is a possibility of similar townships in other places as well. To obtain a balanced economy in these new townships it may be no essary to reserve certain sites available from surplus stores which may be necessary to provide the normal amenities of town life.

The remaining stores could be useful to displaced persons in rehabilitating themselves in the day-to-day opportunity arising in the normal life of the country. The feld for these is vast and depends on individual effort, but the stores are not likely to be anywhere near the expected demand. It is proposed to publicise lists of the stores available and invite applications from persons

having the following qualifications:-

- (v) The applicant must be a bons fide
- (b) The applicant must have necessary funds for the purchase of the stores, whether a first the purchase of the stores, whether of his own or obtained from Government as Rehabilitation loan;
- (c) The applicant must have sufficient experience or necessary qualifications for running the trade or vocation for which the material applied for would be suited;
- (d) The applicant must have secured for himself the site, accommodation or premises necessary for utilizing the stores asked for:
- (e) In the case of vocations which are controlled by Government, the applicant must be in posse sion of the necessary authority or permit;
- (f) The application must be attested by the local officer, like the Deputy Commissioner or a Sub-Divisional Officer, to certify the correctness of the particulars given in the preceding clauses.

## Tractors For Provinces: Agriculture Minister Explains Position

NSWERING criticisms in the Dominion Parin nent on March 31 on the supply of tractors to Provinces, Mr. Jairamass Doulatram, the Agriculture Minister stated:

I think part of the criticism is due to the fact that some time ago a news item appeared that 10,000 acres of land were being cultivated by mechanical tractors in the U. P. Some time before I took charge, a plan for importing tractors not for the purpose of reclaiming small patches of land here and there but tractors for the purpose of reclaiming large areas of land which could not be handled by man, which was part of a scheme for developing the food resources of the country was sanctioned. It is not my intention that these tractors should be used in this or that province on any other consideration except two. One consideration is the potentiality of that province to place under the plough large areas, to fill in the gap with regard to food deficit. The second considerstion is the readiness of that province to complete the upploying operations, the cultivation operations and then the harvesting operations and it is only where these two considerations apply that tractors will be sent out.

#### Economical Use of Tractors

I know that some tractors are on the move. As a matter of fact a unit of 15 tractors has been sent to the Central Provinces, because it is understood that in the Central Provinces there are large tracts of land which are awaiting reclama. tion. It has been suggested that instead of sending targe units of 15 tractors the unus should be much smaller. It is a matter for consideration whether the overhead expenses will not be unnecessarily heavy. But I have no objection to considering any scheme which will be proved to be economical and only two or three or four tractors to be sent anywhere. But the use and the repair of tuese tractors require fairly high technical skill. Whether it will be possible to distribute this high technical skill to many parts of the sountry I cannot at present straighteway give an answer. But I am prepared to examine this preposal of decretalizing and drawing a plan for tractors.

However my present study of the question shows that it may on the whole prove to le an uneconomicel use of the tractors that we have. We have at present reus steel :60 tiseters. Out of these I think slout 160 or so are still in repair. These traiters were purchased from the army disposal. They are now being repaired and our error for the use of agriculture. Therefore at present we have got about 200 tractors and about 100 or so under repairs. We have given orders for another 440 tractors which are expected to arrive in the course of the next six months. I cannot sey whether they will arrive. It will depend upon the shipping space available and many other factors. There is no question of these tractors being available for this or that province on eny other consideration except what I have mentioned. I am perfectly willing to consider the proposal that we mught have a smaller unit for any prevince but I would plead with the House pot to allow this suggestion to be inspired by what I might call purely local feelings, that this or that province has not had its share. I would really request the House to deal with this matter on an all India havie

Which are the areas where probably this type of reclamation will speed up food production and give us the best receits for the country as a whole- that I think should really be in the presnt emergency the over-riding consideration. At the same time if any province which is deficit in food is ready for work and where loth the Government and the cultivature are ready for that kind of help, I will linke no objection to consider near openmindedly the diversion of a small unit to that particular area.

# "ESCHEW RANCOUR AND BITTERNESS" Pandit Nehru's Appeal to Refugees at Kurukshetra

A FERVENT appeal to eschew rancour and bitterness was made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, addressing a mammoth gathering of refugees on Thursday, April 8 in the wide open space straggling along the holy tank at Kurukshetra. Most of the two lakh population of the Kurukshetra Camp had turned out to hear the Prime Minister. Shri Vinoba Bhave accompanied the Prime Minister on the latter's first visit to Kurukshetra Camp.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said India should do nothing to precipitate a crisis in the world over which clouds of war were already hovering. It would not be possible for India to remain in isolation if a world conflagration breaks out.

The achievement of India's independence, he continued, was followed by unfortunate happenings in the Punjab and N. W. F. P. Lakhs of innocent lives were lost and what was worse honour of women became a plaything. It was no use apportioning blame to one community or another. "Our hands", he declared, "are dyed in blood. This madness should not be repeated. In India we have to treat every one alike. I am aware of your suffering and the consequent bitterness in your hearts. But do not now act in haste because that will only add to your miseries".

#### Sheer Cowardice

Continuing Pandit Nehru said, "If we are invaded from any quarter we will resist with all our might but killing of innocent and defenceless men and women in stray assaults is sheer cowardice. Gandhiji laid down his life to stop such inter-communal strife in India. He wanted truth to prevail and not deception. You are all an integral part of the Indian Nation. If as individuals you rise in normal stature our nation will march from strength to strength.

The Government of independent India, he said, was at its very inception faced with problems unprecedented in history. The communal war which followed achievement of independence had disgraced them for ever in the eyes of the world. Fifty lakhs of more people had to be evacuated from West Pakistan and the task of rehabilitating the majority of these displaced persons still remained. The Government of India had achieved only a partial success in tackling this gigantic problem but he said "We are determined to face it".

Nehru said, 'I am convinced that India will forge its way to the front rank in the comity of nations. We are determined to see that every national of India has a home and a job and that poverty becomes a thing of the past. When, however, I refer to the greatness that India should achieve I speak of its moral and spiritual greatness. We have produced some great spiritualists who won the homage of the world. They symbolised India's genius and greatness. As long as we

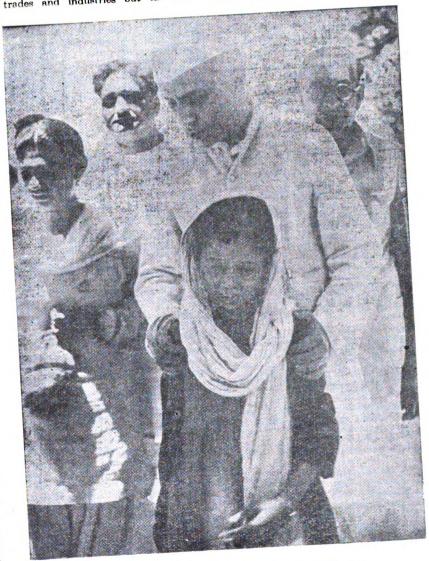
followed the path indicated by them India remained an independent and prosperous country. Let us revive those traditions of moral and spiritual greatness again".

Proceeding Pandit Nehru said that the refugee problem had taxed the Government's resources to the full. The refugees themselves should come frward to share the burden. They should not remain unemployed and be a burden on the nation. Enterprise and initiative on the part of each one of them was needed. Lakhs of rupees were being spent on refugee camps everyday but these camps could not possibly become a permanent feature of our national life. He, however, found that many of them were not even prepard to contribute their share in the social work of the camp. It was, of course, the duty of the Government to plan large-scale rehabilitation on land, in trades and industries but till such

time as they dispersed from the camps they should do everything possible to add to the wealth of the nation. National wealth did not imply production of gold and silver. They could certainly produce consumers' goods through small cottage industries. Only old people, children and those ill and decrepit should be exempted from labour in the camps. Otherwise every one who drew free rations from the camps should be made to work for it.

The Prime Minister revealed that Government proposed to establish the practice in all East Pubjab camps that every inmate should be made to work for his rations. He said that those who had already started working in the camps would receive priority for absorption in the economy of the country. These remarks applied to white collared professions as well, such as those of lawyers, teachers etc.

Continuing Pandit Nehru said that he had been impressed by the set-up of educational institutions in the Kurukshetra camp. Yet he was amazed that with a population of two lakhs in the camp any teacher should remain unemployed. It was said that the teachers still unemployed



Pandit Nehru at the Kurukshetra Refugee Camp

were only willing to work on salary. This was most reprehensible. In the camps the mercenary spirit should not prevail. If there was nothing to do the white-collared unemployed should sweep the roads. If Bapu could do so why should they fight shy of it. This class of people would have no sympathy whatever if they were averse to taking to any type of manual labour. Those who could find employment in vocations to which they were accustomed should do so but others could certainly take to some sort of useful work. For instance, why should the Government provide police and army for maintenance of law and order in the camp. Surely the camp itself could raise its own corps of social workers to do this job.

Proceeding Pandit Nehru referred to the vocational training centre of the Kurukshetra Camp. Over 30 crafts of various descriptions were being taught to trainees in this Centre and plenty of goods produced. Similar centres, he said, should be set up in every refugee camp in India. He also fancied the idea that such centres should be established in various Provinces on an experimental hasis and small townships should be built around them.

#### Have Faith in Government

Pandit Nehru next said that in Kurukshetra Camp refugees had approached him with all sorts of demands. They were becoming restive and wanted to be rehabilitated speedily. They should, however realise, that it was not a task which could be accomplished within a few days. Refugees from Kashmir and N. W. F. P. wanted that they should be sent to hill stations as they were used to cold climate. "I belong to Kashmir myself', Pandit Nehru said, "and would also like to run away from the heat but dictates of duty do not permit me". He too was anxious that refugees from Kashmir should return to their homes. It would not be possible, of course, to send people hailing from Alibag, Muzaifarpur and Mirpur to their original homes because these areas were as yet in the war zone. But they could certainly be sent to other parts of Kashmir and it was the intention of Government to do so, as soon as possible.

An interim Covernment he said, has recently been formed in Kashmir with Sheikh Abdulla at its head and they were waging a war of independence against raiders from Pakistan and tribal areas further west. Raiders had pillaged and plundered their homes and attacked the honour of their womenfolk. It was their duty, in fact, to return to Kashmir in their thousands and participate in its war of independence.

Concluding Pandit Nehru said. "we, who constitute the Government of India, represent the people. We re present you. Have faith in us and we will do the best that is possible under the present circumstances. In fact our difficulties are so great that I sometimes feel like running away from it all and become a recluse. But under this Tricolour I have pledged to serve India with my last breath and the same pledge I gave to Mahatmaji. Give me the opportunity to serve you, but I also want your co-operation—co operation of all refugees in camps and outside them—in sharing this burden with me.

Speaking earlier Shri Vinoba Bhave said, "I regard you with the same veneration as a Hakta bestows on Fhaver." Shri Vinoba, however, suggested that no refugee should remain unemployed in the Kurukshetra Camp. He said that charity was sinful for both giver and the recipient. Even Lord Krishna in his message of life once said, "Those who eat without work are sinners."

When the refugee camps were set up, Shri Vinoba Bhave said, the refugees had perforce to remain idle in the initial stages, but this idleness should not continue There were so many things in fact which could be done in the camps. For instance at present wheat flour was supplied to the refugers. Why could not they be supplied with grain instead which should be ground by refugees themselves. Similarly the refugees could get their requirements of mustered oil from their own oil crushers and not receive it from the Government. About a hundred oil crushers and a thousand grinding wheels would be adequate to meet the requirements of the two lakh population in Kurukshetra Camp. This would mean a saving for the Government and also keep the refugees in good health.

Shri Vinoba said that during his recent visit to Gurgaon women complained that they were in tatters. He had asked them to spin and weave and manufacture their own cloth. He hoped that their grievance had now disappeared. The first essential for the progress of a nation, he concluded, was that every individual should realise the importance of work.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was accompanied by Shri Vinoba Bhave, Shri Peareylal and Shri V. D.Dantyagi, Joint Secretary, Minstry of Relief and Rehabilitation on this first visit to Kurukshetra. Immediately on his arrival at about 9 a.m. he was taken round to all the four towns into which the camp has been divided and the transit camp which has been set up recently.

#### Visit to Hospitals

He completed his itinerary in Kurukshetra through excited milling throngs lining both sides of the road in about three hours. In their outfits ranging from tight fitting pyjmas of the refugees from Jammu to the loose flowing robes of Frontier men, the crowds presented a colourful array. Practically every tent flaunted a miniature tricolour flag.

Pandit Nehru also visited the hospitals for male and female patients, the infectious diseases hospital and the maternity and child welfare centre. Next he visited the Vocational Training Centre, set up by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, which employs about 1000 trained workers and trainees. Other ports of call were the destitute women's home and a creche for children who had lost their parents. Pandit Nehru then discussed the affairs of the camp with Mr. V.D. Dantyagi, Col. N.D. Puri, Camp Commandant and Mr. A. S. Dhawan, Deputy Camp Commandant. listened patiently to the grievances of the refugees who came to meet him singly and in deputations. A company of the 4th Grenadiers and men of St. Johns Ambulance (Bengal Division) who are operating in the Camp presented a guard of honour to the Prime Minister.

## Transport Facilities For Industries

Provision of special facilities for the movement of commodities to maintain production and assist exports, and rationalisation of coal movement with a view to saving wagon capacity were among the subjects discussed by the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport at its weekly meeting hold in New Delhi today, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on April 8.

As a result of the Committee's deliberations, timely assistance was given by the allotment of adequate number of wagons for the movement of raw jute to the mills at Katihar which would otherwise have closed down. Similar aid by way of special trains is proposed for the movement of myrobalan as well as managanese ore for export to the U.S.A.

On a request from the Ministry of Agriculture, movement of groundnut oileake from the C.P. will be given special assistance on the basis of a programme which is to be finalised at the Committee's next meeting.

#### Gur and Coal Transport

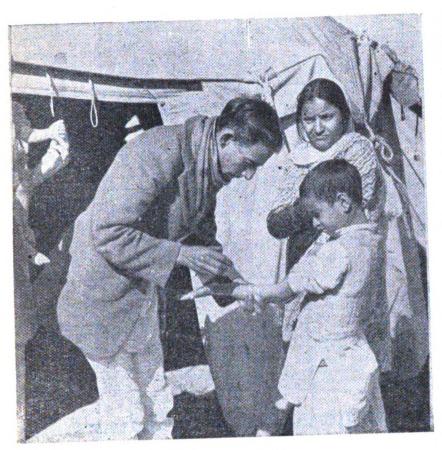
As regards gur, the quantity so far lifted from the Broad Gauge stations in the U.P. is about 100,000 tons and it has been decided to continue the running of special trains from the producing areas. As a special case, despite limitations in the expacity available on the natre gauge, a special train is proposed to be run from the metre gauge stations except Agra.

Stepping up of despatches of coal by sea to reduce the strain on railways was reviewed. The short-term programme contemplates approximately 34 ships per month: the objective is to achieve maximum movement by sea within the limitations set by controlling factors such as shipping availability, port capacity, wagon arrivals etc. The Connittee decided that a slightly longer term plan (not more than one year) should be formulated with the object of inproving on these limitations and stepping up seaborne coal despatches to the maximum extent possible.

Additional petrol quotas have been sanctioned for the transport of raw materials to paper factories, movement of foodstuffs to deficit areas, and for work in connection with the "Grow-More-Food" campaign. Nearly one lakh gallons of petrol have been allocated to the Madras Province for food production and movement of foodgrains.

#### ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Bind Basni Prasad, at present an Additional Judge, to be a permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court, in the vacancy caused by the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Bidhubhusan Malik as Chief Justice of the said High Court, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 7.



A vaccinator at a refugee camp

## DELHI CAN TAKE NO MORE REFUGEES

EI.HI is experiencing today one of the strangest invasions in history. The invaders do not come in serried array ready for onslaught. They come instead broken in body and spirit, a caravan of the homeless, an army of destitutes, plodding a weary trail across the borders of Pakistan. Delhi does not beckon to them, as of yore, with its lure of loot and rapine but with a distant glimmer of hope and a call of its traditional hospitality.

There is little doubt, however, that its hospitality has reached the breaking point and the City can take in no more rerugees. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, only voiced the feelings of the refugees already here and the old dwellers when he recently appealed to the refugees to desist now from coming to Delhi "as this will not help them in any way." He added: "Delhi cannot possibly absorb or accommodate fresh batches of refugees. If fresh batches come they will have to be sent on to Kurukshetra or other places. I would earnestly request that no further refugees from Pakistan should come to Delhi. They will merely add to their difficulties as well as ours. We can help them in other places and we intend to do so."

Since partition, it is estimated, that over five lakes of migrants from West

Pakistan have flocked to the Capital of India. Not even the biggest city in the World, one may be sure, could cope with such a sudden influx of population. Apart from the difficulty of finding accommodation for the new entrants, the sanitary arrangements, smooth supply of water and electricity are threatened with complete disruption unless a stop is put to further immigration. The local authorities and the Central Government have willy-nilly made arrangements for those who have already come but they can certainly take no more.

That Delhi has reached its saturation point becomes patent to any newcomer as soon as he detreins at the railway station of the old City. He finds the platforms cluttered with the worldly belongings of recent arrivals and refugees huddled together in knots wherever there is space to sit or stand. One has positively to wade through a seething sea of humanity to reach the exit from the railway station. These are the refugees waiting patiently for their turn to be cleared to the Wavell Canteen situated only at a stone's throw. The staff of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation prepare a daily report on the refugee situation at the railway station, fresh arrivals, their origin and the purpose of coming to Delhi. They also keep in touch with the local Ad-

ministration and help refugees as far as possible to secure transport and other facilities. Bona-fide refugees in transit are provided food at the Wavell Canteen and for those who are destitutes, accommodation is arranged in the local camps.

Thu the pressure of refugees on the main platforms is relieved to a certain extent and the refugee population at the railway station has been recently brought down from anywhere between five and ten thousands to about a thousand. While the harassed officials of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have to contend against the reports from various local camps that "they can take in no more refugees" more and more keep pouring in.

If the ca.ual visitor to Delhi strolls across to Chandni Chowk through the Company gardens lying at the foot of the local Town Hall, he is suddenly transported into a veritable bedlam of noises. He will hear a thousand, ten thousand hawkers proclaiming wares at the top of their voice, mingling with the hooting of cars and shouts of tonga drivers. The cameo presented to his startled gaze is in truth like a Rabelaisian dream. He sees three rows of improvised pavement stalls, apart from the original shops on both sides of this main business centre and thoroughfare of the capital city of India. Majority of these stall owners have their household effects piled up alongside with members of their families grouped around. The stalls serve them as business premises as well as their homes. Despite the valiant efforts of the scavenging department of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the resultant squalor and filth can be easily imagined.

#### Terrible Overcrowding

Chandni Chowk is only an instance in point, however. Every alley, by-lane and street of Delhi today suffers from terrible overcrowding. Jay-walkers are the rule rather than the exception even on roads in New Delhi because there is not enough room for people to walk on the foot paths. Every tram is packed to overflowing and then the others swarm over it like bees on a beehive.

Every home is virtually a serai with half a dozen families crowding into a house designed for one. Intending refugees, therefore, would be well advised to refrain from rushing to Delhi which cannot really absorb any more without serious detriment to those who have already arrived. Some of them are eking out a mere subsistence and have built for themselves a precarious economy. If more rush in, the livelihood of even these will be put into jeopardy.

By about the beginning of January with constant swelling of the ranks of refugees in Delhi it appeared that more people were living outside in the streets of the city than within built houses. Then Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came forthwith his assurance that not a single refugee will remain without shelter within a week's period and he was a good as his work. Working round the clock, nearly 700 workers converted the Purson Qila into an improvised camp

for sheltering refugees. The ancient shelters of the Qila were divided into 300 big rooms, each about 40 x 40 by erecting partition walls. The huge compound of the Qila was also studded with tents to provide accommodation for about 7,000 refugees and these were paved with brick floors. All amenities of a self-contained colony wese provided. The Purana Qila camp has now a food ration shop, a fuel depot and a kerosene oil shop. It is electrically flood-lit at night and electric installations have been provided for those inmates who are willing to pay for it. Moreover the camp has a hospital with 12 beds, a school for children up to the primary standard and a small bazar set up by the refugees themselves on the lawns of the Qila. Soon, it is hoped, a flour mill and a centre for small-scale industries will also be set up inside the camp. Within a week all the shelterless refugees in the streets of Delhi and the Railway platforms were lodged in this camp, of course, excepting those who were not willing to avail of this facility. The total population of the camp now is about 3,400. It is estimated that the camp can accommodate a total refugee population of about 10,000.

#### Kingsway Camp

Of the other camps set up in Delhi the biggest is the Kingsway Camp lodging 28,520 destitute refugees, who are given free rations and clothes. Next to Kurukshetra, it is perhaps the second biggest camp in India. Similar facilities are provided at the Kalkaji Camp accommodating 1,599 refugees and Wavell Canteen which functions as a transit camp. The number of refugees lodged in the Anand Parbat Camp and Bela Road barracks is 2,500 and 1,818 respectively. In these two camps the inmates pay for their own rations. Another camp has been recently set up at Tis Hazari to provide accommodation for those who have been cleared from the various mosques in the city. Some refugees are also lodged in Tibya College, Agriculture College and in some Government buildings in Karol Bagh. Thus according to the latest reports the camp population in Delhi is in the neighbourhood of 40,000.

An occupational census of all camps is now in progress with a view to formulating schemes for the eventual rehabilitation of the camp population. A large number of refugees are at present receiving training in various arts and crafts. Offers have been received from various private manufacturing concerns to provide training to the refugees and their subsequent absorption. One fact however stands out unmistakably that more refugees are coming into the camps than going out and with the solitary exception of the Purana Qila camp, the saturation point has been reached.

The Government have now taken in hand the plan for building four satellite townships around Delhi where the present inmate, of the camps could be dispersed. These townships are expected to provide accommodation for about 200,000 people. Plans are being drawn up by the architects and the area

which will comprise some 3,500 acres of building ground has been surveyed. The task of acquiring this land will, it is estimated, take some time as landowners on the site of the new townships must be given two months' notice according to law.

These townships will eventually be connected with New Delhi and Delhi by a suburban railway service on the same pattern as in Bombay. Work will start on the actual sites in about four months' time. Kalkaji and Sheikh Sarai sites proposed for two of the townships will be the first to be built.

Sites are also being reserved for refugees in the Shadipura Extension scheme of the Delhi Improvement Trust, the biggest single construction scheme in Delhi Province since the building of the Capital.

The townships will be self-contained. Each will have a civic centre, shops, markets, schools, in addition to residential accommodation of different kinds. In time to come, these little towns will be joined to New Delhi also by a tube train service if the Town Planner's dreams come true.

Mr. Govind Seth, who has been appointed Rehabilitation Commissioner, has been given the task of helping refugees to settle down pending the completion of the townships, which, it

is hoped, will solve the accommodation problem.

The Rehabilitation and Development Board have also taken in hand arrange ment to acquire 80 acres of developed land in the Northern Extension Area where, it is proposed to build ten porary houses for refugees.

These rehabilitation schemes however apply only to those refugees who were registered in Delhi before November 30, 1947. In a Press Note dated 7th January 1948 the Government made it perfectly clear that later immigrants to Delhi will not be entitled to any rehabilitation assistance locally. The Government have now decided to divert the fresh arrivals to Bihar, Assam and Madras. They will, in the first instance, be sent to Chakulia in Bihar and arrangement for necessary trains is being made accordingly.

In view of the world-wide shortage of petroleum products the Central Government lave with great reluctance agreed to a further cut of 331 per cent in Superior Kerosene and 20 per cent in Inferior Kerosene for civil consumption with effect from 1st April, 1948, in order to obtain requisite quantities of High Speed Diesel Oil and Furnace Oil required for the maintenance of food and industrial production. says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Works, Mines & Power on April 14.

### Educational Drive in Kurukshetra

Thousands of adults and children who might have been doomed to life-long illiteracy have been redeemed by the educational drive launched in Kurukshetra Camp. Over 3,000 adults are attending the literacy course in 17 adults educational centres and 18,196 boys and girls are on the rolls of 35 educational institutions set up in the camp during the past six months.

Not only has the camp life provided educational facilities to thousands of refugees, mainly from the rural areas, but it has also afforded occupation to 312 displaced teachers. The rapid progress in educational activities is evidenced by the fact that while on December 31, 1947, the camp had 15 schools with 5,568 students and 72 teachers, by the end of March 1948, the number of schools had risen to 35 with 312 teachers and 18,196 students.

#### Vocational Training

In the curriculum of the various educational institutions, special emphasis is laid on the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi which now form the media of instruction in other subjects as well. Effort is also made to impart a patriotic bias to education and the life stories of the architects of India of today are related to the students.

The co-operation of the Industrial Department at Kurukshetra has been sought and the students of the Middle and High Classes are being sent to vocational training centres in hatches of 20 to 25 to imbus them with

a technical and industrial mentality and to impress upon their impressional leminds the dignity of labour. In this connection, arrangements have also been made to set up a vocational training centre in one of the Middle or High Schools to educate 200 students in various basic arts such as carpentry, basket-making, embroidery and manufacture of toys. Children in the primary and middle classes are taught to make toys, paper flowers, cardboard houses, clay models etc. Likewise, girl students are given instructions in sewing, needle work, knitting, embroidery, first-aid, etc.

The co-operation of the Health Department has been sought to make arrangements for medical examination of children in schools on approved scientific lines. Rapid progress is being made in giving them medical facilities. Several serious cases of detective vision, sore throat, ear disease, injured spleen anaemia, malnutrition, scabbies and even heart disease, have been detected and treated in hospitals. Visual education by means of films also forms an important item in this educational set-up.

Apart from primary and secondary schools, the camp has seven nursery schools with over 2,000 children between the ages of three and five. In all the schools, free books and stationery are provided and milk is supplied to all the children during school hours. About 1,000 lbs. of dried powder is the daily consumption. To the needy children shorts, jerseys and shirts are also supplied.

## Railway Refugee Relief Fund: Mrs. John Matthai's Appeal

In an appeal on behalf of the Railway Railugee Relief Fund, issued on April 14, Mrs. John Matthai, President of the Fund, stated:

"Many Railway employees were left in Pakistan under the Standstill Agreement, the intention being that they would be relieved by Pakistan opting staff and come to India under normal transfer conditions. But communal disturbances in a very acute form broke out before the exchange of staff could be effected. Many Railway staff bravely stuck to their posts as long as they possibly could, and many lost their lives by doing so. Thousands are missing, and many have lost their near and dear ones. Nearly all lost their belongings, and most of those who came to India did so in the bare clothes they were wearing. They are without adequate clothes, blankets, household goods or the money to buy them. Their present resources are quite insufficient for their immediate needs.

"Worse still is the condition of families and orphaned children whose breadwinners were killed. They have lost their all, and relatives who would have rendered them help, have been killed or are themselves destitute. Any Provident Fund, Gratuity, etc. that may be due to them cannot be paid until records are received from Pakistan. This may take a very long time and even then the amount may not be sufficient to set them up again. For the widows and orphans of temporary staff or staff with little service, the amount they will receive will be little indeed. Unless aid is given, and given at once, such families and orphans are faced with terrible miscries and starvation. We cannot give them back their parents, but at least we can try to make life worthwhile for them once again.

"To ameliorate the distress of the victime of this tragedy, it has been decided to start a RAILWAY REFUGEE RELIEF FUND, and a Central Committee consisting of representatives of Railways and Railway Unions and non-officials.

#### One Day's Pay

"Local Committees are being set up en all Railways for collection of funds and it has been suggested that, for a start, a voluntary subscription of one day's pay should be given by all Railway officers and staff. Your own Railway will shortly give you all the necessary particulars.

"This appeal is addressed to all Railwaymen in India. It has the blessings of the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who himself attended a meeting in New Delhi of representative Railwaymen and relief organisations on the 10th February, 1948 and offered invaluable advice as to how the Fund should be administered. This fund, will be a part of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, but will be primarily utilised for the purposes

of alleviatin distress among the Railway community. The All India Railwaymen's Federation, individual Railway Administrations and the Ministry for Railways have offered their wholehearted cooperation".

The Prime Minister states, "I commend this appeal to all Railwaymen. I think the object is praiseworthy and it is right that Railwaymen should help their comrades in distress, and thus not only assist in a humanitarian task but also give a visible instance of solidarity among workers of all grades".

#### HIGHER CHARGES FOR AIR TRANSPORT

As a further measure of interim relief, the Air Transport Licensing Board have decided to allow all air transport operators to increase passenger fares on all routes upto a maximum of annas four per mile with effect from April 15, 1948, says a Press note issued by the Ministry of Communications on April 9.

On routes and sectors where the passenger fares already in force exceed four annas per mile, they are allowed to remain unchanged.

The freight rates may be charged upto a maximum of half percent per pound of passenger fares. Where the freight rates already in force are in excess of the above rates, they are allowed to remain unchanged.

## Road and Rail Projects In West Bengal

Proposals for the construction of a broad gauge railway line to connect the northern districts of West Bengal, construction of a road-rail bridge across the Ganga in the form of a barrage so as to provide irrigation facilities and development of a direct road link between Calcutta and the northern areas of West Bengal were discussed at a special meeting of the Central Board of Transport held in New Delhi on April 4.

The Hon'ble Dr. B. C.Roy, Premier of West Bengal, who made these proposals, also took part in the discussions.

Preliminary examination of the proposals has revealed that without the barrage and the river training which it involves, provision of a bridge would be impracticable. In other words, the project would have to be developed as a multi-purpose scheme. It was agreed that engineering surveys should be immediately carried out with a view to establishing a suitable site for the barrage with the assistance of and under the direction of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

The meeting also agreed that the road links should be completed quickly as they had an important bearing on movements of food and the rehabilitation of refugees.

As regards new railway connections in the West Dinajpur District the requisite survey parties are not available as they are all engaged in the Assam-India direct rail link project. As a result of the discussions at the meeting the parties would be released quickly and the survey would start during the course of the year.

## Tribunal For Classification Of Railway Workers

As agreed upon by Government and by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, Mr. T. Waterhouse, Chairman, Trade Testing Panel, Assam and West Bengal, has been appointed neutral chairman of the Railway Workers Classification Tribunal, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on April 1.

The setting up of the Tribunal had been delayed pending the acceptance by the Federation of the neutral chairman from a panel of four names suggested by the Ministry of Labour.

The chairman and the representatives of the Railway Board have already taken over their duties and the Tribunal will assemble immediately on the arrival of the third Member, Mr. Khedgikar, who represents the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. The Tribunal will tour all Indian Government Railways commencing with the East Indian Railway.

Mr. Waterhouse brings to his new post varied experience of engineering trades gained in well-known engineering concerns including the English Electric Company and the Ford Company's Works

at Ontario. Mr. Waterhouse arrived in India in 1941 as Technical Instructor to the Government of India in the Labour Department. He was Workshop Superintendent, Calcutta Engineering College, and Trade Testing Officer before being appointed in 1946 as Chairman of the Trade Testing Panel Eastern Circle, succeeding Lt.-Col. S. E. Ewen.

According to another Press Note issued on April 4 the following are the terms of reference of the Tribunal:—

- (a) To classify, for the purpose of the application of the prescribed scales, artisan staff employed in the Mechanical, Engineering and other departments of Indian Government Railways into skilled or semi-skilled, and
- (b) To recommend, where possible, uniform designations for such staff, who are doing the same kind of duties on various Railways but under different designations.

Soon after completing their tour, the Tribunal will announce their decisions which will be binding both on the Ministry of Railways and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

### CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

THE Central Advisory Council for Railways met on April 10, 1948, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Dr. John Matthai. Among the subjects discussed were, catering at railway stations and on trains, abolition of the first class, eradication of the beggar nuisance, and the feasibility of appointing conductor-guards for third class passengers, says a l'ress Note i sued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on April 10.

The Council decided that refreshment rooms should provide food both vegetarian and non vegetarian and cooked in Indian as well as Western styles. Considerable discussion centered round the question of retention of dining cars. While the concensus of opinion in the meeting was that greater attention should be paid to the provision of meals in refreshment rooms at stations rather than in the trains, it was felt that this would cause a lot of inconvenient detention to longdistance trains, and the Council decided that the present arrangements of attaching dining cars to long-distance trains should continue with the proviso that both Indian and Western style food should be provided in the dining cars.

#### **Vending Contracts**

Another important point raised was of rendering assistance to displaced vendors from Pakistan by giving them vending contracts. It was felt that all steps should be taken to help displaced persons in earning a living by giving them vending contracts, but this should not be done at the expense of existing small-scale contractors. It was decided that except in cases where existing contractors were involved, displaced persons should be given preference whenever any contracts fell vacant. It was also decided that contracts which involved catering and vending at a large number of stations should be split up wherever possible and practicable, the deciding factor being efficient service to the public.

The Council agreed to the proposal to ban the serving of liquor in refreshment rooms and dining cars.

The prevalence of begging at wayside stations was also discussed. It was considered unethical and anti-social to allow this nuisance to continue at atations especially as a large number of these beggars were children who would grow up into undesirable citizens if allowed to continue in this profession. The Council recommended that some arrangements should be made to take some of the culprits away and in cooperation with the Provincial Governments to send them to orphanages or children's homes as this in itself would act as a deterient.

The proposal that the Central Advisory Council Members should be allowed to tour over railways for making surprise inspections and for looking into the grievances of the travelling public and also for checking ticketless travel would, the Council thought, lead to indiscipline, disorga isation and some demoralisation among staff due to interference by legis-

lators in executive and administrative matters. The meeting felt that this would be detrimental both to the interest of the members of the Council as well as of the officials concerned. After some discussion it was decided that some scheme should be drawn up for members of the Council to visit and inspect stations or premises on their own railway in the same way as non-official visitors now inspect jails, hospitals, etc.

The question of conductor guards on trains was examined and it was felt that such appointments would be tantamount to 'putting the cart before the horse', and that it would be more appropriate to remove some of the causes that make such conductor guards necessary. The inconvenience to the third class passengers particularly mentioned was the lack of water during hot weather both for drinking and washing purposes. For another major grievance the Council felt the remedy would be to keep booking windows open a considerable time in advance of the arrival of the trains, and provision for advance third-class booking for long-distance journeys.

### Import of Raw Silk

In a Press Note dated the 22nd December 1947 it was snneunced that Government had decided to purchase in Japan and import on Government account 3,000 bales of raw filatured silk 13!15 denier and 20:22 denier, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 9. The raw silk has begun to arrive and is being distributed through the Governments of Madras, Mysore and West Bengal.

There is an impression in some quarters that the Government of India have freely licensed the import of raw silk and that the prices of indigenous silk will consequently be depressed. This is not correct. No licences have been issued for the import of raw silk from the non-sterling area since the middle of November 1947. A few licences for the import of raw silk from the sterling area were issued by the Import Trade Controllers early in January 1948. A ban was, however, imposed on the issue of all further licences at the end of January 1948. and licences already issued for the current period have been cancelled to the extent irre-vocable commitments have not been made.

## Simplification Of Rates Structure On Railways

Another important step towards simplifying their goods rates structure has been taken by Railways with the decision to revise the existing schedule of rates for grains and pulses and oil seeds with effect from April 15, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on April 8. This revision would facilitate the understanding by the trade of the basis on which these rates are calculated.

At present each individual railway has its own schedule of rates for these commodities and as such the basis of charge on each railway varies and has to be separately calculated to arrive at the total rate for any movement. From April 15, 1948, the different schedules applicable to grains, pulses, seeds common, husks of grains and pulses and bran moving in wagon loads will be abolished and replaced by two scales only, one operating over the B. N., B.B. and C.I., G.I.P., M. and S.M., N.S., Bikaner, Jodhpur, Mewar, Jaipur, G.B.S. and S.I. Railways (Group I) and the other a slightly lower scale to traffic over the E.I., E.P., O.T. and Assam Railways (Group II).

Normally the desideratum would be to have one scale of rates applying to all Indian Government Railways; but investigations show that the application of the level of rates in Group I which would appear to be the appropriate basis would have resulted in considerable enhancement in frieght charges for movements over E. I. and other railways in Group II where the trade were already enjoying a comparatively low level of rates; it was accordingly decided that

the trade should not be deprived of this advantage and railways were, therefore, divided into two groups for purposes of charges.

In regard to traffic in less than wagon loads also a common scale applicable on all railways has been laid down.

The basis of charge for oil seeds which are not otherwise classified will be slightly higher than those for grains and pulses and seeds common.

All the rates are telescopic in character with a ceiling limit which for wagen load traffic works out to Rt. 1/141- and Rs. 1/51- per maund for grains and pulses over railways in Group I and Group II respectively and Rs. 1/1101- per maund for cil seeds not otherwise classified in Groups I and II respectively.

The formulation of a common scale applicable to all railways involves an increase in rates in some cases and a reduction in others, but the scales have been devised on the fanest possible basis. The estal-lishment of the common basis for different railways will not in any way affect the existing station to station rates on which a large volume of this traffic moves except where such rates are higher than the through rates arrived at on the new basis in which case the lower of the two viz., rates based on the proposed scale of charges will apply.

The details of the changes have been notified by Railway Administrations in their Rates circular, particulars of which can be had from the Commercial Managers of the Railways concerned or from the nearest Station Master.

## ROADS-ARTERIES OF BODY OF Disposals Utilisation NATION

.. By their advice, practical work and guidance Indian Roads Congress are doing immense good to the country. They are successfully pioneering the way to progress and advancement through Roads—arteries of body of Nation or National body", declared the Hon'ble Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim, Minister for Communications, United Provinces, in his inaugural address at the twelfth session of the Roads Congress in Roorkee on April 11.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Minister his address was read by Mr. S. N. Chakravarti, Chief Engineer, United Provinces.

Over two hundred Engineers and Road experts attended the session which was held in the hall of Thompson Engineering College. Mr. C. G. Kale presided. Those present included the Chief Engineers of U. P., East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, Mr. G. M. Mckelvie, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India and Mr. B. D. Puri, Principal of Thompson Engineering College.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim, in his address paid a tribute to the work of the Indian Roads Congress in the field of Communications and Transport and acknowledged the guidance given by it in drawing up Road programmes. He said that the U. P. Government had adopted the Nagpur plan which when applied to this Province was estimated to cost rupees seventy crores in the first stage and that work on this scheme was being pushed through.

#### Rural Communications

Referring to rural communications, he said, "Unless our villages were connected with roads, it will not be possible to. improve the lot of the common man. His economic, social and cultural development depends on this to a great extent. But it is not possible within our financial resources to have a vast mileage of first class metalled roads specially at this time when there is scarcity of material and lack of transport facilities. Therefore we will have to depend on cheaper quality of roads constructed out of the material that may be available in the locality. I hope it will be possible for the Congress to devise ways and means which, while giving to the tax-payer the best values for the Rupee, will enable the road work to be pushed in spite of the existing difficulties.

What I mean to say is that Congress. will not base its suggestions purely on scientific principles but in formulating them also take into consideration such factors as the vastness of the country, its financial resources, the present day conditions in the country and difficulties in obtaining machinery from abroad. Now as we are a free nation, there should be no difference between Government point of view and the point of view of their experts and Government should

have no difficulty to act according to their guidance".

The Minister supported establishment of a Road Board and stressed the importance of a Non-lapsing Road Fund. In U. P., he added, they had already a Road Fund the continuity of which was being maintained.

After the President's concluding remarks, messages wishing the Congress success were read.

In the afternoon papers on Road problems were read.

## Committee

In order to assist the Government of India in ensuring that all surplus stores which are capable of being utilised for industrial production or similar purposes are put to the most appropriate and expeditious use, a Committee (known as the Disposals Utilisation Committee) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. T. Thadhani, formerly Deputy Director General, Supply, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 15.

The Committee has so far inspected surplus stores in various depots at Calcutta, Makum, Madras, Bangalore, Cochin and Vizagaptam. Its report is expected to be in the hands of Government by the end of May 1948.

### Dr. John Matthai's Advice to Engineers

"If the manifold resources and teeming manpower of our country are to be utilized for the benefit of the common man they must be harnessed to the chariot of production and move along the lines of communications, particularly road communications, the science of which it is your aim to promote", said the Hon'ble Dr John Matthai, Minister of Transport, Government of India, in a message to the 11th Session of the Indian Roads Congress which opened in Roorkee on April 10.

Dr. John Matthai in his message said: This is the second Session of the Indian Roads Congress during the period of my office and the first since India became free. In this new era which began on the 15th August, 1947, there is more scope than ever before for a body like the Indian Roads Congress which has power to render such great service not only in the planning but in the actual building of the New India of our dreams. If the manifold resources and teeming manpower of our country are to be utilized for the benefit of the common man they must be harnessed to the chariot of production and move along the lines of communications, particularly road communications, the science of which it is your aim to promote.

My colleagues and I are fully aware of the excellent work which your Society has done in the past and the zeal and enthusiasm with which you have advo-cated the cause of the development of roads in our country. We are also alive to the importance of your work despite our many pre-occupations with the gigantic problems which have arisen in the wake of freedom and you may rest assured that the Government and the people of India will always watch your proceedings with great interest.

We have become free. The glow of freedom may exhilarate us but let it not make us forget that freedom has placed much greater responsibilities than before on our shoulders, responsibilities which we must bear with sincerity, courage, and fortitude. I use the word 'fortitude' advisedly for India is still a poor country and the present generation must sacrifice itself to make it great and a fit home for its peoples. It is we who must take

India forward from adversity to prosperity so that she may live with honour in the future. I entertain the hope that you will apply your minds in this missionary spirit of sacrifice, enthusiasm, and zeal, to the tasks ahead.

Your achievements in the past have been of no mean order and, although your Society is young, it has already set up high standards and worthy traditions. I am not unconscious of the fact that you have drawn up plans for the benefit of the country which will be regarded by posterity as milestones along the road of progress. I am also fully aware of the fact that your recommendations have not all been implemented in action by the Government of India. Let me say that non-acceptance is not due to any lack of realisation of the important place which roads must take in the development of the country but because, in democracy, it is necessary to create en-thusiasm in the people and their representatives and obtain their support.

#### The 'Big Silent Man'

Too often Engineers appear to play the role of big silent men. I have always felt that, with their education and their experience as men of affairs, they could achieve much more if they would only emerge from their shell and take the trouble to explain their views while at the same time being prepared to be guided by the will of the people. The attitude of the 'big silent man' is akin to that of a dictator—at any rate, it conveys that impression—and I hope you will appreciate that such an attitude is out of tune with the rule of democracy. Therefore, go forward fearlessly and dauntlessly, doing your duty irrespective of results and strive to advise the people and the Governments in India honestly and sincerely. We, in the Government of India have great faith and confidence in you and shall always value your advice and examine it with earnest consideration.

I shall watch your deliberations with interest. I wish you great immense your work and ardently hope success in that the Indian Roads Congress will always be in the vanguard of progress in India.

### **CODIFICATION OF HINDU LAW**

### Dr. Ambedkar's Speech in Parliament

POLLOWING is the full text of the speech made by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Law Minister, in the Dominion Parliament on April 9 while moving that the Bill to amend and codify certain branches of the Hindu Law be referred to a Select Committee:—

It is a matter of great pity and also of great regret both for myself and I believe also for the Members of the House that so important a measure as the codification of Hindu Law should have come for discussion before the House almost at the fag end of the session. We have, according to the arrangement announced by the Honourable Speaker this morning, to conclude the debate on this motion by 7 o'clock with an interval of half an hour.

I think it my duty that within the limitations in which we are placed I should give more time to Members of the Legislature to express their views on the various points raised by this Bill and I should like to contribute my own mite to the fulfilment of this wish which I have expressed. The only way by which I could do it is to set an example by making my opening speech as brief as I can possibly make. I regret it very much to have been required to come to that decision because this Bill is of such a vast character that if one were to expound it fully and thoroughly, and to explain its provisions as against the background of the existing Hindu Law, I have not the alightest doubt that such an effort would take not less than four or five hours. But that is impossible, and the House therefore will forgive me if I confine myself to placing before it the most salient points which mark a departure from the existing law as we know it today.

#### New Principle of Inheritance

Sir, this Bill, the aim of which is to codify the rules of Hindu Law which are scattered in innumerable decisions of the High Courts and of the Privy Council, which form a bewildering motley to the common man and give rise to constant litigation, seeks to codify the law relating to seven different matters. Firstly, it seeks to codify the law relating to the rights of property of a deceased Hindu who has died intestate without making a will, both female and male. Secondly, it prescribes a somewhat altered form of the order of succession among the different heirs to the property of a deceased dying intestate. The next topic it deals with is the law of maintenance, marriage, divorce, adoption, minority and guar-dianship. The House will see what is the ambit and the periphery of this Bill.

To begin with the question of inheritance, under this head the Bill enacts a new principle, at least for certain parts of British India. As many Members who are lawyers in this House will know, so far as inheritance is concerned, the Hindus [are governed by two different systems of law. One system is known as Mitakshara and the other is known as

Dayabhag. The two systems have a fundamental difference. According to Mitakshara, the property of a Hindu is not his individual property. It is property which belongs to what is called a coparcenary, which consists of father, son, grandson and great grandson. All these people have a birth-right in that property and the property on the death of anyone member of this coparcenary passes by what is called survivorship to the members who remain behind, and does not pass to the heirs of the deceased. The Hindu Code contained in this Bill adopts the Dayabhag rule, under which the property is held by the heir as his persona property with an absolute right to dispose it of either by gift or by will or any other manner that he chooses.

That is one fundamental change which this Bill seeks to make. In other words, it universalises the law of inheritance by extending the *Dayabhag* rule to the territory in which the rule of the *Mitakshara* now operates.

#### Four Changes

Coming to the question of the order of succession among the heirs, there is also a fundamental difference of a general character between the rule of the Mitakshara and the rule of the Dayabhag. Under the Mitakshara rule the agnates of a deceased are preferred to his cognates under the Dayabhag rule the basis of heirship is blood relationship to the deceased, not so much the relationship. That is one change that the Bill makes; in other words, here also it adopts the rule of the Dayabhag in preference to the rule of the Mitakshara.

In addition to this general change in the order of succession to a deceased Hindu, the Bill also seeks to make four changes. One change is that the widow, the daughter, the widow of a pre-deceased son, all are given the same rank as the son in the matter of inheritance. In addition to that, the daughter also is given a share in her father's property; her share is prescribed as half of that of the son. Here again, I should like to point out that the only new change which this Bill seeks to make, so far as the female heirs are concerned, is confined to daughter; the other female heirs have already been recognised by the Hindu Women's Right to Property Act of 1937. Therefore, so far as that part of the Bill is concerned, there is really no change in the Bill at all; the Bill merely carries the provisions contained in the Act to which I have made reference.

The second change which the Bill makes so far as the female heirs are concerned is that the number of female heirs recognised now is much larger than under either the Mitakehara or the Dayabhag.

The third change made by the Bill is this that under the old law, whether the Mitakshara or the Dayabhag, a discrimination was made among female



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

heirs, as to whether a particular female was rich or poor in circumstances at the death of the testator, whether she was married or unmarried, or whether she was with issue or without issue. All these considerations which led to discrimination among the female heirs are now abolished by this Bill. A woman who has a right to inherit gets it by reason of the fact that she is declared to be an heir irrespective of any other considerations.

The last change that is made relates to the rule of inheritance in the Dayabhag. Under the Dayabhag the father succeeds before in preference to the mother; under the present Bill the position is altered so that the mother comes before the father.

#### Intestate Succession

So much for the order of succession of heirs to a deceased male Hindu. I now come to the provisions in the Bill which relate to intestate succession to females. As members of the House who are familiar with Hindu Law will know, under the existing law the property held by a Hindu female falls into two categories; one is called her sthreedhan, and the other is called "women's property". Taking first the question of sthreedhan, under the existing law sthreedhan falls into several categories; it is not one single category, and the order of succession to the abreedkan of a female under the existing law varies according to the category of the sthreedhan: one category of sthreedhan has a different law of succession than another category and these rules are alike both as to Mitakshara as they are to the Dayabhag. So far as sthreedhan is concerned the present Bill makes two changes. The one change it makes is that it consolidates the different categories of sthreedhan into one single cate gory of property and lays down a uniform rule of succession; there is no variety of heirs to the sthreedhan in accordance with the different categories of the

sthreedhan—all sthreedhan is one and there is one rule of succession.

The second change which the Bill seeks to make with regard to the heirs is that the son also is now given a right to inherit the sthreethan and he is given half the share which the daughter takes. Members will realise that in formulating this Bill and making changes in rules of succession, it is provided that while the daughter is getting half the share in the father's property, the son is also getting half the share in the mother's property so that in a certain sense the Bill seeks to maintain an equality of position between the son and the daughter.

Coming to the question of the "women's estate", as Members of the House will know under the Hindu Law where a woman inherits property she gets only what is called a "life estate". She can enjoy the income of the property, but she cannot deal with the corpus of the property, except for legal necessity; the property must pass after the death of the woman to the reversioners of her husband. The Bill, here again introduces two changes. It converts this limited estate into an absolute estate just as the male when he inherits gets an absolute estate in the property that he inherits, and secondly, it abolishes the right of the reversioners to claim the property after the widow.

#### Dowry As Trust Property

An important provision which is is ancillary to the rights of women to inherit property contained in this Bill is a provision which relates to dowry. All members of the House know what a scandalous affair this dowry is; how, for instance, girls who bring enormous lot of property from their parents either by way of dowry or sthreedhan or gift are treated, nonethelss, with utter contempt and tyranny perhaps and oppression. The Bill provides in my judgment one of the most salutory provisions, namely, that this property which is given as dowry to a girl on the occasion of her marriage shall be treated as a trust property the use of which will inure to the woman and she is entitled to claim that property when she comes to the age of 18, so that neither her husband nor the relations of her husband will have any interest in that property, nor will they have any opportunity to waste that property and make her helpless for the rest of her life.

Coming to the provisions relating to maintenance, there is mostly nothing new in this part of the Bill. The Bill prescribes that the dependents of a deceased shall be entitled to claim maintenance from those who inherit this property either under the rules of intestate succession or who inherit the property under his will. There are 11 different kinds of dependents enumerated in this Bill. I believe, at least speaking for myself it is an unfortunate thing that even a concubine is included in the category of dependents, but there it is; it is a matter for consideration. The liability to maintenance is cast upon those who take the estate of the deceased. As I said, there is nothing very new in this part of the Bill.

There is another part of the Bill which is important and it relates to the rights of a wife to claim separate maintenance when she lives separate from her husband. Generally, under the provisions of the Hindu Law, a wife is not entitled to claim maintenance from her husband if she does not live with him in his house. The Bill, however, recognises that there are undoubtedly circumstances where if the wife has lived away from the husband, it must be for causes beyond her control and it would be wrongnot to recognise the causes and not to give her separate maintenance. Consequently the Bill provides that a wife shall be entitled to claim separate maintenance from her husband if he is (1) suffering from a loathsome disease; (2) if he keeps a concubine; (3) if he is guilty of cruelty; (4) if he has abandoned her for two years (5) if he has converted to another religion and (6) any other cause justifying her living separately.

### Question of Marriage

The next topic to which I wish to make a reference concerns the question of marriage. The Code recognises two forms of marriages. One is called "sacramental" marriage and the other is called "civil" marriage. As Members will know, this is a departure from the existing law. The existing Hindu Law recognises only what is called "sacramental" marriage, but it does not recognise what we call a "civil" marriage. When one considers the conditions for a valid sacramental marriage and a valid registered marriage, under the Code there is really very little difference between the two. There are five conditions for a sacramental marriage. Firstly, the bridegroom must be 18 years old, and the bride must be 14 years old. Secondly, neither party must have a spouse living at the time of marriage. Thirdly, parties must not be within prohibited degree of relationship. Fourthly, parties must not be sapindas of each other. Fifthly, neither must be an idiot or a lunatic.

Except for the fact that similarity of sapindaship is not a bar to a registered marriage, so far as other conditions are concerned, there is no difference between the sacramental marriage and the civil marriage. The only other difference is that the registered marriage must be registered in accordance with the provisions in the Bill while a sacramental marriage may be registered if parties desire to do so. Comparing the rules of marriage contained in the Bill and the existing law, it may be noticed that there are three differences which the Bill makes. One is this, that while the existing law requires identity of caste and sub-caste for a valid sacramental marriage, the Bill dispenses with this condition. Marriage under the Bill will be valid irrespective of the caste or sub-caste of the parties entering into the marriage.

The second provision in the Bill is that identity of gotrapravara is not a bar to a marriage while it is under the existing law. The third distinctive feature is this, that under the old law. polygamy was permissible. Under the new law it is monogomy which is prescribed.

The sacramental marriage was a marriage which was indissoluble. There

could be no divorce. The present Bill makes a new departure by introducing into the law provisions for the dissolution of marriage. Any party which marries under the new Code has three remedies to get out of the contract of marriage. One is to have the marriage declared null and void; secondly, to have the marriage declared invalid; and thirdly, to have it dissolved. Now, the grounds for declaring a marriage null and void are two: One, if one party to the marriage had a spouse living at the time of marriage, then such a marriage will be null and void. Secondly, if the relationship of the parties fell within what is called the amit of prohibited degrees. The grounds for invalidation of the marriage are four. First, impotency. Second, parties being sapinda. Third, parties being either idiotic or lunatic. Fourth, guardian's consent obtained by force or fraud. In order not to keep the sword of the Bill, in my judgment very wisely, has provided a limit to an action for invalidation. It provides that a suit for the invalidation of marriage must be filled within three years from the date of the marriage otherwise the suit will be barred and the marriage will continue as though there was no ground for invalidity. The Bill also provides invalidity. The Bill also provides that even though the marriage may be invalidated and may be declared invalid by a Court of Law, the invalidation of marriage will not affect the legitimacy of the children born and they would con. tinue to be legitimate just the same.

Then coming to the question of divorce, there are seven grounds on which divorce could be obtained. (i) desertion (2) conversion to another religion (3) keeping a concubine or becoming a concubine (4) incurably unsound mind (5) virulent and incurable form of leprosy (6) venereal diseases in communicable form and (7) cruelty.

#### Adoption

Coming to the question of adoption there again most of the rules embodied in the Bill are in no way different from the rules obtaining under the present law. There are two new provisions in this part dealing with adoption. Firstly under the Code it will be necessary for the husband if he wants to make an adoption to obtain the consent of his wife and if there are more than one wives, at least the consent of one of them. Secondly it also lays down that if the widow wants to adopt she can only adopt if there are positive instructions left by the husband authorising her to adopt and in order to prevent litigation as to whether the husband has, as a matter of fact, left instructions to his wife, the Code provides that the evidence of such instructions shall be either by registered deed or by a provision in the will. No oral evidence would be admissible, so that chances of litigation are considerably mitigated. The Code also provides that the adoption may also be evidenced by registration. One of the most fruitful sources of litigation in this country is the question of adoption. All sorts of oral evidence is manufactured, concocted; witnesses are suborned; widows are fooled; they one day declare that they have made one adoption and subsequently they make an avowal that they have not adopted and in order



that all this litigation may be put a stop to, the Code makes a salutary provision that there may be registration of adoption by a Hindu.

Then there is the question of minority and guardianship, the last subject which the Bill seeks to codify. There is nothing new in this part of the Code and therefore, I do not propose to say anything so far as that part in the Bill is concerned.

As members will realise the points which arise out of this Bill for consideration and which are new are these: First the abolition of birth-right and the abolition of the right to take property by survivorship. The second point that arises for consideration is the giving of half-share to the daughter. Thirdly, the conversion of the woman's limited estate into an absolute estate. Fourthly the abolition of caste in the matter of marriage and adoption. Fifthly the principle of divorce. I have sought to enumerate these points separately and categorically because I felt that in view of the limited time we have at our disposal, it would be of help to the Members of this House if I could point out what are the points of debate on which attention may be con-centrated. These departures which are made in this Bill undoubtedly require justification, but I think it would be a waste of time if I at this stage undertook any defence of the departures enacted by this Bill. I propose to hear Honour. able Members as to what they have to say on the points which I have enumerated, and if I find that it is necessary for me to enter upon a justification, I propose to do so in the course of my

#### REPLY TO DEBATE

Replying to the debate on the motion, the Law Minister said:

My task is considerably lightened by the fact that the Bill has received such an ample measure of support from this House. I shall, therefore, confine myself to replying to some of the points which have been made by the speakers who have participated in this debate.

I would begin with the observations made by my Honourable Friend, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad. Sir, I thought that the Legislature was not a court and that a Member of this House who is a lawyer certainly does not come here either to practise or to plead. But somehow my friend, either for fee, or out of pure generosity, undertook the task of representing the views of some of his clients who probably had not the courage to say what they had in their mind. I shall, however, not raise any technical objections, but deal with the points that he has made.

Sir, his complaint was that the Bill had not been given sufficient publicity and that the public was not given as ample an opportunity as the importance of the measure required. I should have thought that the clients of my Honouranle friend had rather misinformed him on this point. This Bill had its origin in a legislation which took effect in the year 1937. Ever since that year the provisions of this Bill have been bandied from one side to the other, from committee to committee. For instance, in the year 1941, the Home Department appointed a Committee to consider some of the difficulties that arose out of the Women's Rights

to Property Act of 1937, to report upon the difficulties and to suggest remedies. This Committee which is known as the Rau Committee made its report on the 19th June 1941. My Honourable friend, if he had referred to this report, would have seen the immense amount of publicity that Committee gave to its proposals, the number of questionnaires that it issued, the statements that it received, the witnesses that it examined and the peregrinations it undertook from province to province in order to ascertain local public opinion.

Again in 1942 this very Committee submitted two draft Bills, one on succession and the other on marriage. The Succession Bill was introduced in the Assembly in 1943. That was referred to a joint Committee of both Houses. That joint committee again invited public opinion and a volume of them were collected and circulated to the then legislature in existence. Having regard to all these, I am sure that the statement made by my Honourable friend that the Government had not given sufficient publicity cannot be accepted as true.

#### Minority Report

He also referred to the report, the Minority Report, of Justice Mitter, where also he has analysed the pros and cons of the various points contained in this Bill. Sir, I do not like to say anything derogatory of a Member of a Committee, who has done such useful work, but I cannot help saying that this Member really ran away from his own opinion. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad were to read the report of the majority he will find that all the propositions contained in that Bill which give rights to women were really based

upon a publication of this Member of the Committee in the year 1930. In that book he had propounded the view that the case law which had limited the rights of the women had no foundation. Ultimately for reasons best known to him he did not subscribe to this very opinion which he had expressed in that book. I, therefore, submit that there is no point in this argument.

My Honourable friend also referred to the fact that this Bill is after all confined to property other than agricultural land. The conclusion he drew from that fact was that this codification was only a partial codification, because a large part of the property which is the subject matter of inheritance is left untouched by the provisions of this Bill. Sir, there are two explanations for the non-inclusion of non-agricultural property. My Honourable friend, if he refers to the Schedules to the Government of India Act, where the subject matter of legislation for Centre and the Provinces have been set out, will find that land is put in the "Provincial List". As a result of the judicial interpretation given by the Federal Court it was held that the word "land" or item "land" which is included in the 'Provincial List' not merely covered tenancy land, but also covered succession to land and consequently any provision with regard to the succession of land made by the Central Legislature would be ultra vires. In order that this may not happen the Committee very deliberately excepted agricultural land from the provisions of thia Rill.

But what I would like to say is something different. I should have thought that the omission of land from this Bill far from being a flaw or a fault in the Bill was probably an advantage, because

# No Passports Needed For Pathans Visiting India

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to press reports to the effect that all Pathans have been declared foreigners in the Indian Dominion and have been ordered to leave immediately, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 31. These reports, which have naturally given rise to apprehensions in the North-West Frontier Province, are completely incorrect. No orders to this effect have been promulgated by the Government of India, or by Provincial Governments, and there has been no change in the position that nationals of Pakistan, including Pathans of the N. W. F. P., do not require passports for entering Indian Dominion territory or for staying there.

The only orders recently passed which may have given rise to the misapprehension are the following:—it has been the practice for a very long time for a large number of Afghan nomads to spend the winter months in India. These people were specially exempted from the provisions of Rule 3 of the Indian Passports Rules, 1921, and did not therefore require passports or visas for entry into India. Afghan nationals who did not fall in the category of nomads had to obtain passports in the usual way before

visiting India. With the coming into being of the Dominion of Pakistan, India ceased to have a common frontier with Afghanistan and the necessity for exempting any class of people, as a matter of convenience, from the operation of the Indian Passport Rules ceased to exist. Instructions were, therefore, issued last February making it necessary for all Afghan nationals, irrespective of whether they were nomads or not, who desire to come to India, to be in possession of valid passports and visas, just as for other foreign nationals.

It is emphasized that these orders do not, and were not intended to, apply to any national of Pakistan, whether of Pathan or of other race. Nationals of Pakistan are exempt from the operation of the Indian Passport Rules and are, therefore, free to visit or stay in India without having to obtain a passport or visa.

Certain practical difficulties in the implementing of orders in respect of some Afghan nationals have been the subject of friendly discussion between the Government of India and the Afghan Embassy at Delhi and suitable stay orders have been issued in all cases mentioned by the Embassy pending further examination

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I believe there is no necessity that a uniform law of inheritance should apply to all sorts of property. Property varies in its nature, varies in its importance in the social life of the community and consequently it may be matter of no mean advantage for society to have one set of law of inheritance for agricultural property and another set of law for nonagricultural property. It may be that on a better consideration of the situation Indian, or Hindu society may come to the conclusion that land which is the foundstion of its economic life had better be governed by the law of primegeniture so that neither the junior sons nor females may take part in the inheritance. As I said, the question having been left open it is to the advantage of the society that it may consider the matter de nove and afresh. I do not, therefore, regard that this comment made by my Honourable friend on the part of this Bill is really a matter to be apologised for.

Coming to my friend, Mr. Choudhuri, he considers this piece of legislation as a communal legislation. I agree that in asmuch as it refers to Hindu society, which is one of the many communities inhabiting this country, it might well in a logical sense be called a communal piece of legislation. But what is the alternative? If my honourable friend's alternative was that there ought not to be communal laws of inheritance and communal laws of marriage, but there ought to be a common civil code, applying to all sections, all communities, all persons; in fact applying to citizens without discrimination as to religion, creed or caste, I am certainly one with him. Certainly, that is not his conclusion. His conclusion is, if I understand him that this legislature by reason of the fact that the other day a view was expressed that the future society here would be secular, had no right to legislate for a community, that would be a most disastrous conclusion.

This country is inhabited by very many communities. Each one has its special laws, and merely because the State desired to assume a secular character it should withdraw itself from regulating the lives of the various communities, undoubtedly would result in nothing but chaos and anarchy. I certainly myself am not prepared to subscribe to that sort of a proposition.

#### Customary Law

His second comment was that the Bill had not taken into consideration the customary law. He cited some ruling of the Privy Council. I should have thought that at this hour of the day it was unnecessary to cite any authority of the Privy Council because it has been well established by a long course of decisions, so far as the Hindus are concerned the custom proof would override the text of the Smriti. We all know this. But what are we doing? What we are doing is this. We are shutting down the growth of new customs. We are not destroying existing customs. The existing customs we are recognising because the rules of law which are prevalent in Hindu society are the result of custom. They are born out of custom and we fee that they have now grown so sturdy that we can indeed give them flesh and life in the body politic by our legislation.

He also said that we had not taken into consideration the question of the

tribal people, whose life is undoubtedly governed in a large measure by customary law. If my friend had read the definition in this code as to who is a Hindu and who is not and to whom this Code applied, he would have seen that there is a clause which merely said that persons who are not Muslims, Parsis, or Christians, shall be presumed to be Hindus: not that they are Hindus. The result is that if a tribal individual chooses to say that he is not a Hindu it would be perfectly open to him, under this Code to give evidence in support of his contention that he is not a Hindu and if that conclusion is accepted by the Court he certainly would not be obliged by anything contained in this Bill.

SHRI ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHRI: My point is that he did not like to be called a Hindu and still wanted to retain all the customs of the Hindus.

THE HONOURABLE DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR: The position taken is this: that once a person chooses to call himself a Hindu, he must accept the generality of law which is prescribed for the Hindu. We do not want this anarchy. A Hindu is a Hindu for all purposes. If a tribal person does not want to be a Hindu the way is open to him to prove that he is not and that Bill will not apply to him.

#### No Retrospective Effect

Then my friend, Dr. Sitaramayya asked me to tell him whether the rule of law contained in this Bill, whereby the women will acquire absolute estate in the property which they inherit, will apply to widows who have already taken the estate before the passing of the Act. I am afraid I must say that the Bill has no retrospective effect. The Bill comes into operation after the Bill is passed. Nor would it be possible to give retrospective effect to the principles of the absolute property of women, for the simple reason that long before this Bill will come into existence, vested rights would have been created in that estate, and it would not be right and proper to

divest them however much our sympathy may be with the widow.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta raised several questions indicating that the women, and particularly herself, were not satisfied with some of the provisions contained in the Bill relating to the rights of women. It may be that in an ideal sense the Bill does not come up to expectations. But I would like to tell her that she must remember that this society is an inert society. The Hindu Society has always believed that law-making is the function either of God or the Smriti and that Hindu society has no right to change the law. That being so, the law in Hindu society has remained what it was for generations to come. Society has never accepted its own power and its own responsibility in moulding its social, economic and legal life. It is for the first time that we are persuading Hindu society to take this big step, and I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that a society which has plucked courage enough to tolerate the large step that we are asking it to take by reason of this Bill, will not hesitate to march on the path that remains to be trodden and reach the goal that she has in mind.

Sir, much has been made of the fact that there is a great deal of public opinion which is opposed to this Bill. certainly weighed the opinion that we have received, but I do like to say this. that this is hardly a question which we can decide by counting heads. This is not a question which can decide in accordance with the opinion of the majority. When society is in a transitory stage, leaving the past, going to the future, there are bound to be opposing considerations: one pulling towards the past and one pulling towards the future, and the test that we can apply is no other than the test of one's conscience. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the provisions of this Bill are in perfect consonance with the conscience of the community, and I have therefore no hesitation in putting forth this measure although it may be as a matter of fact, that a large majority of our countrymen do not accept it.

### Indo-Pakistan Currency Problems

The tripartite talks between the representatives of the Government of India and Pakistan and of the Reserve Bank of India on the currency and exchange problems concerning the two Dominions which commenced in Bombay on March 10 have now been concluded and the decisions arrived at are embodied in an Order issued under the joint signatures of the Governors-General of India and Pakistan in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated March 31, 1948, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on March 31.

According to this Order the Reserve Bank will manage the currency of Pakistan and carry on the business of banking in that Dominion until June 30, 1948 and not until September 30, 1948 as contemplated under the original arrangements, but contrary to the provisions made in the original Pakistan Monetary System and Reserve Bank Order of 1947 the Pakistan Government will not now assume responsibility in respect of its

exchange operations and the management of Public Debt from April 1, 1948: and until June 30, 1948, the Reserve Bank will continue to function in Pakistan all respects as at present i.e., as the currency authority, as banker to Government and as agent for the management of Public Debt and for the exercise of Exchange Control.

Until June 30, at least there will be no exchange control as between India and Pakistan nor will any restrictions be placed on the transfer of funds or securities from one Dominion to the other, whether such transfers are on capital account or current account.

A provision has also been made in the Order regarding the withdrawal of India Notes from Pakistan, the manner in which the assets of the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank will be shared between the two Dominions on the termination of the monetary arrangements and other consequential matters.

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### HIGH COURT FOR ASSAM

### Chief Justice Kania's Inaugural Address

THE Assam High Court was inaugurated on April 5 in the old Comthissioner's office by Sir Hiralal J. Kania, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of India.

In his inaugural speech, Sir Hiralal Kania stressed that High Courts should act as a check on the arbitrary powers of the executive, that the judiciary must be independent of the executive and that communal and political considerations in recruiting of Judges would be a denial of the basic idea of justice He said:

"The establishment of a High Court in a province marks a great step forward in its evolution. This is clear when the functions, duties and the status of the High Court are appreciated. As is well known, the law is made by the Legislature. The executive Government of the land carries on the administration of the state. Whether the actions of the executive are within the limits prescribed by law, [ has to be determined by some one. The function of the Legislature ends with making the law. It cannot determine whether the act of the executive in question is within or without the law. It is the function of the judiciary to determine that. It is for this reason that the judicial system of a state is considered very important, because on its decision rests the security and liberty of the

This aspect of the function of the judiciary acquires a great importance at the present stage in the evolution of India and the development of the provinces. We are passing through a transitional stage. Till the 15th August, 1947, we were working under the Government of India Act, which, in law, permitted restricted powers to the Legislature to make laws. The executive Government was not responsible to and did not depend on the vote of the Legislature and therefore could act even against the wishes or directions of the Legislature of the land. That stage also had been reached in the evolution of India towards freedom after decades of progress.

"For several generations people were therefore, trained to think in terms of that state of affairs and act accordingly. At that time the people of India, who were struggling for a larger measure of freedom and who showed impatience at the the opposition. They were the intelligent and vocal political fighters for the rapid progress of India. After the Indian Independence came into operation, the whole aspect of Government has changed. It is realised by political thinkers, who have the interest of the country at heart. including the members of the legislative bodies themselves, that a good opposition is necessary and useful, as by its criticism it is able to check and keep in control the impulsive activities of the executive er administrative officers.

"In view of the fact, however, that the opposition at present is negligible,

the position of the Judiciary becomes all the more important. In the Legislative Assembly a bill could be passed and made into an Act without much difficulty. Indeed, the records show that in certain provincial legislatures more than half a dozen bills were approved in the course of an hour or less in the Upper House. Having regard to this position of the Legislature, if the executive Government, which is now responsible to the Legislature, does act which encroach upon the liberty of the subject, the only form which can give redress against the irregular action of the executive, is the court.

### Independent Role of Judiciary

"The duty of the court will be to decide that the particular action being not authorised by law, was wrong. After the verdict it is open to the executive to approach the Legislature and get a Law passed which would justify the action taken by the executive. That, however, is an important and useful stage because the decision of the Court will show to the thinking members of the Legislature what consequences were likely to ensue if the legislation was passed as asked for by the executive. After that knowledge if the Legislature passed an act, it becames the law of the land and the people have to be governed according to the laws framed by its selected representatives.

"Having regard to this important function of the judiciary in the constitution of the country and the fact that in the province the High Court performs these functions, the importance of establishing a High Court in a province becomes clear. The High Court differs from the other courts of the province because its decisions are binding on all parts of the province. Moreover being a court of record, it has the high prerogative rights to issue writs of habeas corpus, certiorari, mandamus etc. To those who are conversant with law these powers of the High Court are the most powerful weapons which a citizen could claim for redress against an irregular and very damaging action of the executive. These powers represent the overriding prerogatives of the ruler of the land and the High Courts are invested with these powers as the representatives of the ruler in the sphere of justice.

"Having regard to all these circumstances, it is clear that the judiciary must be independent and free from the control of the executive. If this is not done, it is obvious that a citizen cannot feel confident in getting impartial redress, when the action of the executive is in question. If a judge has to go to the executive officer for his salary or emoluments or facilities, the grant of which is in the discretion of the executive officer, it is bound to be thought that it is difficult, if not humanly impossible, for the judge to ignore that factor in coming to his conclusion. For these reasons it has been recognised that the Judicial

officer should not be under the control of the executive. The Judicial officer does not object to his jurisdiction being under the control of the Legislature for the purpose of laying down whiat law he has to administer or for definng the sphere of his work. But beyond that to put a judicial officer under the control of anyone else will be to strike at the root of the good administration of the State. It may be noted that even before the Indian Independence Act the High Courts were kept independent of the executive Government and the efforts of different executive departments of the Government to bring the High Court under one of them were successfully resisted.

#### Dearth of Administrators

"Having regard to these principles, the outstanding question will be how to find suitable men for the High Court. With the retirement of several senior officers from India and the departure of some others on the partition of India there has been a great dearth of experienced administrators. Several experienced judges have also left the High Court in India for the above reasons. Two courses would be open to those responsible for the administration of the country under those circumstances. One was to combine different departments or courts so as to make available the services of the experienced men for larger areas in respect of decision to be taken at the top level. The other was to retain or create a provincial department or court in which the provincial officer will be supreme in his sphere. This second course will naturally find favour with men having provincial patriotism. You have decided to adopt this second course elected to establish a seperate High Court for Assam. You have thus assumed the responsibility of finding suitable judges for the High Court. Best men should be found to accept the posts and that they should be men capable of acting according to the highest tradition of the Judiciary system. Two avenues are open for this purpose (1) from the subordinate judiciary, and (2) from the Bar.

"During the last few years, communal considerations were made to play a prominent part in the selection of judges. inspite of the opposition of the judiciary mind to that principle. Few people realize that the question of judges belonging to a certain community is directly in conflict with the idea of justice, Justice, proverbially, is considered to be blind. It is not a respector of rich against the poor, of more civilised persons against less, and knows no distinction of casts, creed or sex. People who suggest that a particular person should be appointed a judge because he belongs to a certain community, and when the argument is pressed on the ground that otherwise members of that community may not have confidence in the judiciary, completely forget the basic idea conveyed by the word JUSTICE. If such a man is appointed on the ground that he belongs to a certain community and his community will have confidence in him or will not have confidence in others, the necessary corollary will be that in the event of a case being brought before that man he is supposed to show a leaning towards members of his community. In contrast, it could be suggested that

when the litigation is before a judge of another community, justice is not expected because the litigant is of the other community.

"It is obvious that this line of reasoning cannot be tolerated at all in any civilised state. Yes, if two persons have equal merit and there is one appointment, it is possible to give the appointment to a person belonging to a community which has not had any opening till then, but it must be recognised, that this is after the test of learning, merit, character and all other requirements to make a person a suitable judge have been applied and found to weigh even in the scale. It is recognised that because two persons have the same degree of law they have not equal merit. To make a good judge, in addition to an academic degree, several other far important factors are required in him. I hope this consideration in making appointments has now gone for good. I should, however, take this opportunity of emphasizing that it should not be replaced by another consideration, namely, political consideration.

### **Emolument Consideration**

"With the Government of the land constituted as it is in democratic states, there is bound to be a tendency to get or provide jobs for persons belonging to the party in power. It is realized that on the administrative side it may be difficult to rule out this consideration completely. It has, however, no place at all in appointments to the judicial offices. Immediately it is thought that a person is appointed a judge because he belongs to a certain party, the confidence which a citizen is entitled to have in the impartial administration of justice is undermined. If he owes his appointment because he belongs to a certain party and is useful to it, or because he is an obstruction as an opposition and is thus being removed, confidence in his impartial judgment is bound to be shaken.

"It will be realised that persons who are working in the sutordinate judicial services are not ordinarily likely to have a larger vision and a depth of study of law expected in a High Court Judge. Far be it for me to suggest that in the provincial judicial service such persons cannot exist. I am only pointing out that by reason of the circumstances and surroundings under which they have to work, it is not easy to find such persons in large numbers there. The Bar therefore in large numbers there. The Bar therefore is normally the fountain from which independent judiciary for the High Court could and should be recruited. Very few people know that the salaries and emoluments which the High Court judges are drawing at present were fixed over 70 years ago and at a time when there was no tax on income. That salary has not been increased at all. I ife was then cheap and the buying power of a rupee was considerably more. In maintaining their independence from the executive and standing on their dignity, the judges of the High Court have not voiced their difficulties outside, as tradition prevents them from speaking on public platforms or writing in the Press. They have suffered in silence.

Be it however stated to their credit that while many departments of the Government have been charged with slackness or malpractices, the Judiciary taken

as a whole has remained free from any such insinuations. This, I believe, is largely due to the fact that the people who have taken the office of a judge have done it in a spirit of service to their country. Generally people with a much larger income at the Bar than what a judge would get by way of salary only are offered a judgeship of a High Court. When he accepts the appointment, he does not look forward to save any more money. It is therefore incumbent on the state to provide the man sufficient means while in service and on retirement, to maintain his independence and dignity.

"It will be an evil day for the State if judges have to look in other directions to obtain facilities, conveniences and to meet their necessary requirements because their salary is insufficient. Such acts will give rise to expectations in the other party to receive some advantage, the granting of which could never be thought of by an upright judicial officer.

"In considering the emoluments of a judge there is a school of thought which compares them with the salaries of the Governor and the Ministers. They overlook the obvious fact that the Governor and Ministers take office for a short time and before they take over and after they leave, they have their otherwise normal activities in life. By accepting office they are only interrupting their normal channel of life for a limited period. As regards judges, the tradition is otherwise. The man, if selected from the Bar, gives up his freedom of speech and cannot mix with all persons as he likes. It interferes materially with his social and economic life. Moreover he has to give up for good the activities which he was following till then, riz., his practice at the Bar. On retirement he cannot resume his practice in the court he was practising before. He has to remain content with the pension provided by the terms of his office. Few people realise that in the western countries judges are paid a handsome salary and on retirement their pension is about two-thirds of their salary. In most cases no age of retirement is prescribed.

"These factors compensate the change in the life of a man when he is appointed a judge. Unfortunately the tendency to select certaim aspects only of the judicial system of other countries, without taking in also the counterparts of that system, has grown here. The result is that you will not find it easy to get the beat people of the Bar to take judgeships, if offered to them at present.

"The High Courts in India are all connected closely in the work of administering the law commonly applicable to citizens of the Union of India. By establishing the High Court in Assam you have thus connected the province with the others of a strong link. Provincial patriotism, if kept within bounds, is useful to develop the innate virtues of a man. As, however, you are closely connected with the rest of the Union of India this patriotism should be put in the back-ground when questions affecting the whole of India arise. Therefore in selecting the judges or developing the High Court your vision should not be limited to the province only. Your High Court will have to stand comparison with other High Courts. You will require men who are willing to work to a

certain extent in the spirit of service to attain the good of the whole country.

"The next imortant question will be of the relations of the provincial Government with the High Court. It is accepted that the High Court has to be independent of the executive officers and free from political influence; the solution is not difficult, if the acceptance of these principles is not to remain only in words but has to be translated into action.

### Gandhiji's precept

Mahatma Gandhi died over two months ago. Since then on public platforms and in press it has been stated by persons small and big that we must follow Gandhiji's teachings. One great thing that universally respected person taught us was to think and find the truth for oneself. When he reached the conclusion in a particular line of thought he acted upto it fully, sincerely, and truthfully. That was the one characteristic of Gandhiji which made him respected by everyone. I trust it is the sincere ambition of all to follow that line of thought and action. You have done so in having a separate High Court for this province. I am sure you will wish to follow the same course of action in this matter also. You take care when you select your permanent Chief Justice. Select the man in whom you have confidence to maintain the independence of the Court and who will take care of the administration of justice in the province. Having done that, do not try to assume responsibility in matters which lie in his sphere.

"In the public eye the High Court is considered responsible for the proper administration of justice. If cases are not correctly decided, the High Court is blamed. If there are arrears and the matters are not disposed of within a reasonable time, the High Court is blamed. If so, why should not the High Court have the controlling voice in the selection of its judges. Will it be fair to blame the High Court for wrong decisions or for slowness if the selections made by the highest judicial officers are not accepted as the most suitable for the courts. Unless therefore there is justification to point out some factors which you think he may have overlooked, his selection should safely he accepted. I do not think anyone can ever seriously consider the suggestion that a Chief Justice having the highest traditions of his office behind him will dream of selecting a man, who in his judgment is not the best suited person for the post under the circumstances existing at the time of appointment.

"Assam upto now has been an agricultural province. It is rich in its natural recources. Its importance has increased considerably during the last war. The establishment of a separate High Court for the province under the circumstances could be well understood.

"I am quite sure it is recognized that having got a High Court, the responsibility to maintain the high traditions of that name devolves on the Government and people of the province and I feel certain that they will cheerfully bear the same. I am quite sure, with wisdom in husbanding the resources of the province and not

(Continued on Page 604)



Generalissimo Chiang kai-shek photographed with Mr. K. P. S. Menon at a ferewell reception held in honour of the Indian Ambassador

## HAPPY RE-UNION OF INDIA AND CHINA

### Mr. K. P. S. Menon's Farewell Speech

Speaking at a farewell party given by the Indian Merchants' Association and Chinese Indian Foundation at Shanghai on April 11, India's retiring ambassador Mr. K. P. S. Menon said:

On behalf of my wife and myself I thank you sincerely for the honour you have done us by holding this function. I am also grateful to you for the kind things you have said about us. But you really must not exhaust all your kind sentiments on me. You must reserve some for my successor. And I am sure he will deserve them far better than I do.

I am happy to think that my successor and I have something in common. We belong to the same part of India, Travancore. We speak the same language, Malayalam, a language which is spoken by about fourteen million out of the four hundred million in India. We have even written poetry in that language. But while I stopped writing poetry after my marriage—I do not mean this as a reflection on any one in this hall-Sardar Panikkar, I gather, is still addicted to this weakness. Moreover, we were both in the same University, Oxford, and in the same College, Chrart Church, though he was some years senior to me. We read for the same school, obtained the same class won the same research scholarship. In India his path and mine have lain in different directions. While I entered what they used to call the heaven-born service, his service was mostly with the heaven-born Indian Princes. Even so he found time to delve into history and pouder over contemporary problems and write some thought-provoking books about them. Our experience of inter-national affairs has also been somewhat similar. While I attended the Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco and the first session of the General Assembly, Sardar Panikkar attended the second session of the General Assembly.

From what I have said, however, I hope you will not think that my successor is altogether a replica of mine—a kind of diplomatic twin. Even twins are sometimes more interesting when they are dissimilar. I am sure you will find in Sardar Panikkar many qualities and virtues which his predecessor did not possess.

In a few hours we shall have left the country which both my wife, and regarded, and will continue to regard, as our second home. We shall have left the country where we spent four and a half years of the happiest part of cur-life. To be accurate we did not spend four and a half years here. We came to China four and a half years ago; but of the 54 months which have passed since then we spent no more than 27 in China. The remaining period was spent at the San Francisco Conference, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, in the Little Assembly of the United Nations, on the Korean Commission, and in that fascinating overland journey which I performed from India I am happy to see here, my friend, philosopher and guide, Mr. Gillett. But even when I was on these special Missions I felt that I belonged to China: and when I got back to China after a spell of special duty I felt like one who— I hope you will not suspect that I am speaking from experience—gets back from some illicit adventure to the bosom of his family.

My thoughts now go back to the autumn of 1943 when I first came to India. At that time things were not going well for China—or indeed for the Allies. The entire sea coast of China was in Japanese hands. It looked as if the Japanese were determined to cut China not merely from East to West but from North to South. The Burma Road, China's lifeline, had fallen to the Japs; and China's only access to the outer world was across the Hump through India. At that time an early prospect of victory seemed doubtful. "Europe first" was the motto of the allied strategy; and the Chinese were fighting with flesh and blood against steel and iron. And the Japanese tentacles were closing viciously in on the very heart of Chira. Indeed towards the end of 1944, when the Japanese had taken Kweilin and were moving on to Kweyang it looked as if the much-moved capital of China would have to move once more, to the remote province of Sikiang near Tibet. And I remember Sir Horace Seymour with his dry humour, asking me: "Well Menon, are you getting ready to be captured by the black Lolos"?

In India too all was not going well. It is true that unlike China we escaped the actual horrors of war, thanks largely to our soldiers who fought against aggression in the Western as well as in the Eastern theatre. Still we had our troubles, economic as well as political. Famine stalked the land. Three million men died in what is now acknowledged as a man-made famine. When men and women were dying in thousands and tens of thousands for want of food the Central and Provincial Governments solemnly discussed whether the supply of food was a Central or a Provincial subject. Our own national leaders had no part in the administration of the country. They had all been form into country. They had all been flung into prison for the unpardonable sin of demanding the freedom of their country at a time when a war for freedom was being waged. The independence of India was still to us, a dream and, to Mr. Churchill, a nightmare.

### Present position

Such was the state of our two countries in 1943. What is the position today? China has emerged out of the war not orly victorious, but internationally recognised as a Great Power. It was with genuine emotion that I saw with my own eyes the representative of China taking his place as one of the Big Five at the San Francisco Conference. Since then China's voice has always been listened to with respect in international Conferences; for here is, as it has been through the centuries, the voice of reason, of sanity, of serenity.

India too has gone through a revolution, not the less significant because it was non-violent. India has become independent. Thanks to Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence she has achieved independence without shedding a drop of British blood—a phenomenon unique in history. The very man, Lord Mountbetten, who, as Supreme Commander of South East Asia, had been directed not to meddle with politics and mind his business, played, as Providence would have it, an important part in the establishment of

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Indian Independence. And now India, under the magnificent leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, is engaged in the gigantic task of national reconstruction.

I do not mean to suggest that all is well with India and China. It has not been a case of roses, roses all the way. It will take time before India or China or indeed any other country in the post-war world attains political and economic equilibrium. The gravity of the economic situation in China can be judged from the fact that while, on our arrival in China, the index of the cost of living was 7,000 per cent. it is now over 11 million per cent over prewar level. And both in China and in India we have had the ghastly spectacle of fratricidal strife, brother killing brother for they know not what.

Thus the picture is one of sunlight and shadow. In my country the shadows have been getting smaller and smaller; and that, I feel sure, will be the case in China too. I am confident that if only we are true to ourselves, true to those ideals of truth, justice and non-violence which lie at the foundations of both Chinese and Indian philosophy, a time will come when the shadows will disappear altogether and India and China will bathe in the sunshine of freedom and democracy.

### 800 Million People United

Even in the most dismal period of the war there was one feature from which we could take comfort. That is the fact that India and China have come together. 800 million people have come together. Half the population of the world has come together. They were by no means strangers. For a thousand years since the beginning of the Christian era the Chinese and Indian were comrades in the arts of civilization, in the pursuit of spiritual matters, but during the last thousend years we somehow drifted apart. The Himalayas lay across our path like a huge monster. But during the war the Himalayas were conquered from the air, and China and India have again had a happy re-union. It was indeed a pleasure to be present, even to assist, at this meeting—a second meeting—of two ancient civilizations. One is reminded of the lines of Wordsworth written at the time of the French Revolution:

> Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive. But to be young was very heaven.

I cannot say that, with my graying hair, I was young enough to be in very heaven but it was certainly blissful to be the representative of my country in China when our countries were being reborn from the furnace of war into what I am sure will be a fuller, freer and richer life. The memories of those years and the kindnesses, hospitality and affection which we have received from our friends, Chinese, Indian and foreign, will remain ever green.

With effect from April 1, 1943 the fee for registration of articles in inland and foreign post has been raised from three to four annas, says a Press Note issued by D. G. P. and T. on April 3.



Fifteen modern Indian pointings were presented by Mr. K. P. S. Menon on behalf of the Government of India to the Chinese Government. (L. to R.) Dr. Wang Shih-chieh. Mr. K. P. S. Menon, General Chang Chun, ex-Premier of China, and Mrs. Menon.

### Gift Of Indian Paintings To China

The immemorial bonds, cultural and spiritual linking India and China were highlighted at a historic ceremony on April 1, when India's Ambassador in China, Mr. K. P. S. Menon, made a gift to the Chinese Government on behalf of the Government of India, a collection of 15 paintings by contemporary Indian artists.

Presenting the paintings, M1. Menon said: "I describe these paintings as specimens of modern Indian art. They are modern in the sense that they have been executed by contemporary painters. Some of them are also modern or perhapsultra-modern in technique. But most of them owe their inspiration in style and theme to the immemorial life of India, her culture and her folklore. Both China and India have in the course of their history gone through various political vicissitudes. But despite these vicissitudes they have maintained an unbroken continuity, cultural, spiritual and artistic tradition. It is this continuity which gives Chinese and Indian civilisations glow and vitality which nothing can destroy".

The paintings include those by Jaimini Roy, Mrs. Rani Chanda Amulya Gopal Sen, D. P. Roy Choudhry, S. D. Ghavda, V. A. Mali, J. M. Ahivasi, Kanwal Krishna, D. Badri, K. K. Hebber and K. B. Abdur Rahman Ghughati. The paintings will be housed in the National Central Museum of Nanking.

Accepting the paintings on behalf of bis Government, Dr. Wang Shihchieh, the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs said:

"I venture to suggest that the donation of this collection of modern Indian paintings to the Central Museum will prove to be a very valuable addition to the series of inspiring gestures from you which went further to buttress the very cordial relations so long maintained between India and China. May I hope this gracious act to be a prelude to the renaissance of that cultural contribution from India to China as represented by the translation into Chinese of the Buddhist sum s during the 8th Century. The influence of that period of cultural contact is still tangible in China today. When there is a free flow of culturas across the boundaries of nations, I have little doubt that other aspects of their relations will grow proportionately more friendly and closer. In this sense I would, on behalf of my Government, thank you for this gift of Indian paintings".

Paving tribute to Mr. K. P. S. Menon's work in China as India's Ambassad's during the past four years, the Nanking Press says, scarcely has a diplomat ever enjoyed the confidence and the respect of the Government to which he has been accredited as Mr. K. P. S. Menon during his tenure. Mr. Menon has assisted materially in the rebirth of Sino-Indian relations. In this regard he has accomplished a great political achievement in the world—an achievement comparable in magnitude to what H'Suan T'Sang and other great Buddhist missionaries had accomplished in the religious and cultural fields.

In pursuance of their general policy of liberalising exports, the Government of India have decided to continue the free licensing of indigenous silk fabrics for export to all permissible destinations, including Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 2. They have also decided similarly to license freely the export of indigenous art silk fabrics. The present decision will remain in force till September 30, 1945, when a further review of the position will be made.

### MR. K. P. S. MENON'S TRIBUTE TO CHINA

N a farewell broadcast from the Central Broadcasting station, Nanking, on April 10, Mr. K. P. S. Menon, then Indian Ambassador in China, said:

I am very happy to have this opportunity of saying a word of farewell to my friends in China. Among my friends I reckon not merely officials and diplomats, from whom my wife and I have received more kindness than we can ever repay, not merely scholars and professors, with whom we have spent many hallowed hours, but many men and women in humbler walks of life, with whom we have come into contact during our travels in China.

In one respect I have been extremely fortunate. I have been able to travel more, see more of China than a diplomat normally does. Normally a diplomat's life revolves round the Foreign Office in Nanking, the Cathay Hotel in Shanghai and perhaps the curio shops in Peiping. But my lot in China was not cast in normal times. Out of our four and a half years in China, two and a half were spent in that abnormal city, Chungking. There, it is true, we lacked many of the minor amenities of life. But this lack of animal comforts was more than made up by the almost spiritual exaltation of living in a place which was the centre, the symbol of Chinese resistance to aggression. Let me read out to you a passage from a letter which I wrote to the Foreign Secretary, Government of India two years ago on the eve of our departure from Chungking to Nanking.

#### Chungking

"In a few hours I said we shall be leaving Chungking. When, 21 years ago, you so very kindly saw me off to Chung-king I did not quite realise what you were letting me in for. Yet we have, on the whole, liked Chungking. With all its drawbacks-its fogs and mists, mud and alush, shops and dust, flies and sandflies Chungking has a fascination of its own. It has an individuality of its own. It is a city with character. Perched on the high cliffs above the Yangtze Kiang it is picturesqualy situated and, believe it or not, it is almost beautiful at night. The view from our house, situated at the confluence of the Yangtze and the Chialing rivers, is simply lovely. You see myriads of lights, clinging to the hills like barnacles and reflected in the Yangtze and the Chialing. We are sorry to leave it all.

"Socially, too, we have had our compensation. Not a weak has passed without some entertainment or other—a drama, an exhibition of pictures, a reseption or a cocktail party. More fragrant are the memories of those homely dinners which the Chinese excel in giving. Good wine, rare dishes, pleasant conversation and a charming hostess what more does one want? And most Chinese women have charm, and some, a kind of translucent charm which even the women of Malabar cannot heat. "Of the seamy side of Chungking much has been written. We have heard a great deal about hoarders, racketeers and blackmarketeers. Their names will perish in the dust. But Chungking will live, a rock of resistance which for seven years stood four-square to the winds that blew".

That was, and is, our impression of Chungking. But it is not Chungking alone which has left an indelible impresssion on our minds. Who can forget Kunming, with its blue skies and bracing air, the headquarters of General Chennault's Flying Tigers, the terminus of that amazing aerial highway over the 'Hump' which, at that time, was China's lifeline, her only means of access to the outer world? Who, again, can forget Chengtu, "Little Peking", with its beautiful campus which sheltered thousands of students from refugee universities who lived in singular scholarly discomfort? I am very happy to think that three of our own daughters were privileged to share the hardship of Chinese student in wartime China. When I was thinking of bringing them with me to China I remember Sir Olaf Caroe, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, solemnly telling me, "If I were you I should think twice before subjecting my daughters to the wartime hardships of China". I did think twice; but I am glad I did not think a third time and drop the idea. For I feel that our daughters have been physically, mentally and, in a real sense, spiritually enriched by their experience in Ginling College in the charming company of their Chinese sisters and under the loving care of that distinguished educationist. Dr. Wu

### Overland Journey

It was also during the war that I performed an overland journey from India to China in the footsteps of ancient Chinese pilgrims. That, too, was a grand experience. It was more than an experience; it was a revelation. When I stood on the height of the Mintaka Pass, 16,000 feet above sea level, over which runs the border between India and China; when I passed through the Toilebulung Gorge where Hsuan Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, lost, in an encounter with robbers, the elephant which he had brought all the way from India; when I motored over the Silk Road, one of the most ancient caravan routes in history, over which silk and other commodities, for which China has been famous from times immemorial, went to Bokhara, Samarkand and even to the Roman Empire, when I saw the old rock-cut temples in Kuchar and Bugur with their gracious paintings, so reminiscent of the cave temples of Ajanta and Ellora; when I descended into the Turfan depression, a thousand feet below sea level, and tasted the delicious grapes which used to be reserved for the Imperial family in Peking, then indeed the whole panorama of Chinese history un-rolled itself before my eyes. Then, indeed. I realised more than I have ever

done beore, the vastness of China and the greatness of her civilization. Then also I appreciated more than ever before how strong and yet how tender, how firm and yet how delicate, were the ties of friendship between India and China.

Such is China to me. To me China does not mean Nanking and Shanghai. with even Peking and Hangchow thrown in. To me China does not mean a country where inflation is rampant. To me it does not mean a land which has been thrust into ideological warfare. I do not suggest that these things are unimportant. They are undoubtedly important, for after all we have to live in the present. As a very distinguished personage told me when I made goodbye to her a few days ago: "We have to live from day to day and hour to hour. We have to fill every day and hour with the best we can give. That is the sumtotal of our lives". That is true; that indeed is the sumtotal of our individual lives; but that does not constitute the sumtotal of the life of a

Nations like China and India have their roots in the immemorial past. They are timeless, ageless, fathomless. They have seen much, suffered much, survived much. After years and decades of suffering they have risen again and again, with their bodies bruised but their souls unscathed. And I feel convinced that out of the present political and economic turmoil, China will rise again, for her heart is strong and her spirit is immortal.

#### **ASSAM HIGH COURT**

(Continued from Page 601)

frittering them away in idealistic projects or schemes, the Government would profitably consolidate its position internally first. With a compact High Court manned by efficient judges who are experienced, quick and well trained in Law, the Province may not have to spend an excessively large amount for the distinction of having its High Court. As I have pointed out, the task of selecting proper persons is not easy. But I am sure that with the realization of the necessity of an independent judiciary as an important part of the state the task is not impossible.

"I am sure you will not consider what I have stated as deficiencies in the administration of the country. I have drawn your attention to these aspects because it is profitable always to bear in mind certain fundamental principles particularly when a new and grave responsibility is accepted by the province in establishing an independent High Court of its own. At certain stages in the transitional period the development of all countries clouds appear. But with courage, faith, goodwill, tolerance for the views of others and humility, I have no doubt, that India as a whole and your province will much forward and reap the fruits of Independence which was recently received after decades of waiting. I wish the High Court a good start and a sound career. I am sure that it will maintain the highest traditions of the judicial system and hope that it will be an ornament in the administration of the province".

# SARDAR K. M. PANIKKAR ON INDO-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP

POLLOWING is the text of a farewell message by Sardar K. M. Panikkar, Ambassador-Designate to China, broadcast on April 12 from All India Radio, Delhi.

On the eve of my departure to China to take up my appointment as Ambassador, I should like to convey to the Government and people of China a message of goodwill. Between the two ancient countries of India and China there has always existed an unbroken tradition of friendship. This has been one of the major factors of Asian history in the past. Its significance for the people of Asia is only now coming to be realized.

India and China are not only two ancient nations, but can claim to have between them a very large portion of the world's population. By temparament and by tradition they are pacine nations who have no desire to interfere in other people's affairs, or to encroach on others' rights. Their approach to international problems therefore is similar, for their one object is to serve the cause of peace. No two countries desire peace more ardently than India and China. Both have great schemes worked out for the transformation of their ancient civilisations into great dynamic forces in the modern world: plans for raising the standard of the common man, for providing essential conditions of decent living, for eradicating disease, for greater utilisation of their large resources.

### Close Understanding

Besides, both countries have to face problems of economic reorganisation and soc al construction to bring them tip to the level of national efficiency attained by the great nations of the world. This is possible only if an era of peace is assured to us which will enable our governments and leaders of the people to devote their energies exclusively to internal reconstruction. Peace is therefore what India and China most ardently desire and the co-operation between our two countries can have no other object than of helping to maintain peace not only in Asia but all over the world.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to the people of India that though the new chapter of our diplomatic relations is less than seven years old, it has already ted to a close understanding of each ether's problems and policies. I have every confidence that this relationship will not only continue unimpaired but will gain strength and volume in the years to come. We have no rivalries and hardly any controversies. Every one in India desires to see China, a great, powerful and united nation. I am assured that the people of China have an equal measure of friendship for my country. In the circumstances, we can look forward to an increasing sphere of fruitful co-operation not only in the realm of political relations, but of

commerce, transportation, economic and industrial life, and perhaps more important than all, in the field of culture.

For hundreds of years now there has hardly been any contact between the two great civilisations of India and China. It is unnecessary to go into the reasons which led to the essection of that amazing traffic in knowledge and arts, so useful to both which was a notable feature of world history for over 700 years. But whatever be the causes, during the last thousand years the contacts between India and China in the cultural field have been few and far between. But today the process has begun over again. The imagination of Generalisimo Chiang Ki Shek in helping to found the "Cheena Bhavan" the House of China, in Santiniketan, and the attachment of Indian Professors to leading Chinese Universities are the significant first steps in a great programme which is pregnant with results for both our countries.

In conclusion I would like to say how happy I feel that the great mission of maintaining and developing the friendly relations between India and China should have been entrusted to me by my Government. I look forward to a period of happy association with a people for whom I have always had an intense admiration and I feel no doubt that in the critical period through which the world is passing the friendly association of India and China will be a source of strength to both.

### INDIA'S ENVOY IN BRAZIL

Mr. Minocheher Rustom Mastini has been appointed as India's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Brazil, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on April 13.

Mr. Masani is a Barrister of Linecoln's Inn, a member of the Constituent Assembly and a well known author. He was Mayor of Bombay in 1943.

### MAILS FOR PALESTINE AND TRANSPORDAN SUSPENDED

Mail communication by surface route to Palestine is suspended with immediate effect, says a Press Note issued by the D. G. P. & T. on April 14. This step has been necessitated by the decision of the British Postal Administration in Palestine to disclaim all responsibility for the maintenance of the postal services in Palestine from April 15 next.

Mail communication to Transjordan, the route for which lies through Palestine, is also suspended with immediate effect.

Parcels for the following countries will henceforth be sent only by the route win Iraq:

Syria, Lebanon, Turkey.

For parcels to Egypt the direct route will be exclusively utilised.

# Indian Consul-General's Tour Of Indonesia

Mr. N. Raghavan, Consul-General for India in Batavia recently concluded a tenday tour of East Indonesia and Sourabaya. Wherever he went he was received with great enthusiasm.

On his arrival at Sourabaya he was accorded a warm welcome by a Representative of the Indonesian Government and representatives of the local Indian Community and Pakistan Nationals. At formal community reception, held in his honour by the India Sports Club and other Indian Associations in Sourabaya Mr. Raghavan explained the immense changes taking place in secular India.

A meeting of representative Indians in Sourabaya—Hindus, Muslims, Sikht. Christians, and others—was held at which Mr. Raghavan presided. The Indian Counsul-General said that he was gratified to notice the new spirit of mutual cordiality and unity prevailing among the Indian people in Sourabaya. The meeting unanimously decided to form a United Indian Association as the

only representative national body in Sourabaya.

Following Mr. Raghavan's visit the Indians in Macassar Celebes also dissolved all sectional associations to form one United Indian Association.

Assurances of the highest respect and friendship for India were the key-note of an address presented to Mr. Raghavan, by Ministers and high officials of the East Indonesian Government.

"We are sure your personal contact with our State", added the address, "will contribute to an ever-growing mutual understanding and the beginning of a regular exchange of views in the political, cultural and economic spheres".

In his reply Mr. Raghavan said "Please do not hesitate to call upon our services whenever necessary for the promotion and strengthening of the friendly relations which have always existed between our two countries".



EGYPT WELCOMES INDIA'S AMBASSADOR: Photograph taken after the presentation of credentials by Dr. Syud Hossain, India's first Ambassador to Egypt. (L. to R.) Mr. S. N. Haksar, Dr. Syud Hossain, Mohammad Abdul Aziz Badr Bey, First Chamberlain, and Mr. Avtar Singh, M. C.

# STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

### Dr. Syud Hossain's Address to Journalists

A DDRESSING the representatives of the Egyptian, Near and Middle Eastern and Foreign Press, at a reception held at Cairo, on April 6, Dr. Svud Hossain, India's Ambassador to Egypt, said:

It gives me a special pleasure, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, to greet you as I am myself an old journalist and therefore feel akin to you.

In the second place, it is my profound conviction that, in the present troubled state of the world, the Press can play a vital part, for good or for evil, in international affairs. The promotion of goodwill and the removal of misconception among nations, and the vindication of the truth, as you are well aware, are among the prime duties and sacred responsibilities of the Public Press in all civilised countries.

When I presented my respects to His Majesty King Farouk, he remarked that the coming of Free India's first Ambassador to Free Egypt was an historical event. I agreed with His Majesty because I feel that my appointment has more than a mere diplomatic significance or

function. It is a symbol of the Renaissance of the Orient. Both India and Egypt had been struggling for their independence from alien domination for generations. It is an interesting coincidence that the last phase of both our fights for freedom began at the same time, in the year 1919, under the respective leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Zaghloul Pasha. The sainted memory of each is revered today as that of the Father of his Country. It was my privilege to have known them both personally.

### India and Egypt

I want to tell you that during the last 30 years while we in India were engaged in a life and death struggle for our freedom, we were all the time keenly and sympathetically aware of your own, and indeed looked upon it as a complementary and parallel movement to our own. We have, in spirit, suffered with you in your sorrows and rejoiced with you in your happiness.

Now that we can look at ourselves face to face as free citizens of Sovereign States, that sentiment of attachment, to which I

have referred, assumes a brighter colour, and becomes invested with the promise of a new and vital co-operation between out two peoples. This will embrace a better understanding of one another's cultures and ideals, a better knowledge of our respective problems and a greater expansion of our economic relationship. During the last few days I have been discussing some of these matters with responsible Egyptian statesmen, and I have found them most sympathetic and responsive. I found, indeed, that their basic point of view was identical with my own. Before long, I trust concrete results will follow from our consultations.

My appointment as Ambassador does not connote a mere contact between Governments. It necessarily includes a national and cultural mission not only to Egypt, but also to the Arab and Islamic world of the Near and Middle East of which Egypt is the centre and the headquarters.

May I say to you that, like Egypt and India, the countries of the Near and Middle East are also having a new birth of freedom, and it is absolutely necessary, in my opinion, that we should all rediscover ourselves, and re-establish those forgotten bonds of fraternity and friendship to which our joint history testifies.

I am well aware that international inter-racial and inter-religious conflicts have formed an integral part of history. They may even be indispensable for biological evolution. But what I am concerned to point out to you now is the

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fact that the Religion, Art and Literature of the entire areas comprised within the ancient landmarks of Egypt and India testify to organic and reciprocal interelationships between and among themselves from time immemorial. But in recent centuries they were sundered and segragated. Our days of separation however are now over. And, as I have suggested, we must now reorientate ourselves, and create new and fresh currents of mutual helpfulness.

The Cultural Commission of the Arab League, I am glad to note, has already stressed the need for our moving in this direction. We of the Orient have for a great many years been perhaps too exclusively focussed to the Occident. We must now take at least as much interest in Eastern History and Art as we have had in those of the West; and particularly in the lives of our neighbours who in many instances, owing to political vicissitudes, have become all but strangers to us. We must know our neighbours.

As I mentioned to you, at the outset, I believe that the Press can play a very great part in promoting concord and amity in our distracted world of today. I shall count upon you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, to help me in my mission, whose purport and principles I have indicated, just as I shall be always at your disposal for any information or counsel you may care to seek from me.

Lastly I would say a word to you specifically about India. We have gone through a very long and bitter travail for the attainment of freedom. And even in the hour of our deliverance from British imperialism we could not escape grievous wrongs and injuries that we—the people of undivided India—inflicted upon ourselves.

This tragedy, like the political partition of India, is now a legacy of history. It is a matter to be understood and spiritually redeemed rather than to be politically exploited. This applies to all the parties concerned.

### Pakistan .

We for our part wish nothing but well to Pakistan, and hope that it may develop into a prosperous and progressive State, and become a seat of culture and enlightenment. That would be a good thing for Pakistan and also a good thing for India, because the former is our next door neighbour and, inspite of political separation, cultural associations and affinities of a thousand years unite the people of the two States. I believe responsible leaders on both sides are anxious to iron out the differences that exist, because it is to the mutual interest of both countries that normal and peaceful conditions should be restored and maintained. While we should not minimise difficulties neither should they be magnified out of focus, and perverted to the purposes of sensationalism and misleading propagands.

We in India have just announced to draft Constitution, which has been drawn up by the Constituent Assembly, for the future governance of India. It lays down that India shall be a democratic Sovereign Republic, where all citizens, irrespective of race or religion, caste or sex, shall be

equal before the law, shall have equal educational and social opportunities, and shall, all of them, be assured of complete rights of conscience and security for religious beliefs and cultural traditions and values.

India today constitutes the world's second largest country in the number of its population, which comprises many faiths, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Siklis, Parsis and others. India still has some 40 million Muslims among its citizens who are the heirs of a common heritage, and whose well being and destiny are bound up with those of the rest of their compatriots. I am confident that they will play a vital and worthy part in building-up of the India of our dreams.

As I have indicated the creation of this new India, as forecast in our Constitution, is a large aim and connotes an ambitious enterprise. But that a precisely the kind of India that we, who accepted the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi 30 years ago, fought for, and that is precisely the kind of India which the present Government, handed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, of which I am an envoy and representative, seeks it to implement and fulfil.

For five months Brigadier L. P. Sen's troops have been guarding the approaches to the Srinagar valley. In spite of repeated efforts by raiders either to storm Uri or to bypass it, Indian troops under the able leadership of Brigadier Sen have been hitting the raiders and inflicting casualties. Indian troops in that sector have had to operate in snow, cross gorges by ropeways, eat, sleep and fight in rain. They suffered from frost bite and have had little rest but they are eager to complete the task that has been assigned to them.

### Reversal of Seasons in Upper Air

When it is winter on the ground in North India, it is summer in the air at a height of about 9 to 13 miles. Similarly there is a complete reversal of seasons in the summer months as between the land and the atmosphere at that height.

This strange phenomenon is due to the presence of a layer in the upper atmosphere during the months of October to May and its absence in the monsoon according to a memoir published by the Indian Meteorelogical Department on the 'thermal structure of the atmosphere over Agra'.

Systematic soundings of the upper air are made daily from about 12 stations in India by sending up radiosondes. These are miniature radio transmitters which signal the pressure, temperature and humidity at various levels in the atmosphere as they are carried aloft by hydrogen-filled balloons. Refore the radiosondes came into vogue, upper air soundings were being carried out by sending up "sounding balloon meteoro-graphs". Balloon meteorograph ascents were first started in India in 19.5 from the old Upper Air Observatory at Agra, and since then have been extended to various other stations. However, there have been more intensive and systematic meteorograph ascents from Agra than f. om any other station in India. In this Memoir the results of over 500 meteorograph ascents over Agra during the ten years 1929 to 1938 are analysed and discussed at length.

Evidence is adduced in the paper in support of the view that radiative cooling of the atmosphere plays an important role in producing and maintaining the observed thermal structure in the winter months, while vertical convection brought about by the condensation of water vapour plays the dominating role in the monsoon months.

In the Memoir the variation of lapserate (i.e. the rate of decrease of temperature with height) with height over Agra in the different months of the year has been considered in detail both on the mean as well as by a statistical analysis of the frequency of occurrence of different values of lapse-rate at various heights up to 26 kms (about 16 miles) above the surface. In the lower atmosphere where the temperature normally decreases. with height, a level of minimum lapserate is noticed in all the months of the year which lies between 1 and 2 kms in the winter months and between 5 and 6 kms in the summer months. Above this level, lapse-rates generally increase with height in all the months, but the increase stops abruptly at about 11 kms (about 7 miles) in the months of November to April. In these months lapserates are smaller above 11 kms and change over to an inversion (rise of temperature with height) between 16 and 17 kms (about 10 miles). In the monsoon months—June to September lapse-rates continue to increase up to 14 kms and decrease rapidly above 15 kms changing over to an inversion at about 17 kms. The highest lapse-rate in these months occur between 11 and 15 kms.

To get a closer insight into the observed peculiarities of the variation of lapse-rate with height, the frequency of occurrence of inversions (layers in which temperature increases with height) and isothermals (layers in which temperature remains constant with height) over Agra has been studied and the close connection between the levels of sharp changes of lapse-rate and the levels of maximum frequency of occurrence of inversions and isothermals in the lower atmosphere (troposphere) is brought out in the paper. The analysis shows that the inversions and isothermals over Agra can be broadly divided into two systems. One system confined to the lower troposphere is present in all the months of the year: the other system confined, to the upper troposphere is very conspicuous in the months October to May but is absent in the monsoon months.

The annual variation of temperature at different heights over Agra, shows a double maximum, one between 7 and 11 kms and the other between 16 and 18 kms. Between 15 and 20 kms. there is a reversal of seasons over Agra, the winter mental being the warmest.

### Valorous Achievements of Indian Airmen

Broadcasting from the All India Radio, Delhi on April 1, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Royal Indian Air Force, the Hon'ble Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh said:

It gives me great pleasure to participate in today's celebrations of the lifteenth Anniversary of our Air Force. The pleasure is greater, for this anniversary is the first in free India. Today we are citizens of a free country and we all share together your joy and pride in the splendid organisation you have built up.

As years go, you are a young Force. Fifteen years are not many as we look back. But precisely for that reason, you should be justifiably proud of what you have today—a sound and united Force, a body of men, efficient, patriotic, keen and loyal to the core.

Today as you celebrate your anniversary in the free atmosphere of independent India, you will look back on the thrilling story of your exploits and adventures in peace and in war; on all you accomplished in your earliest years of growth and development with so much grit and so much labour. The beginnings of any new venture are never easy. You can be justly proud of having laid the foundations for your Force, truly and well We share this pride with you. We recall with admiration your many valorous achievements in the last war during the Burma campaign and more recently your most valuable work in North India particularly where local disturbances put so severe a strain on the Armed Forces of India.

#### Exploits in Kashmir

It is a thousand pities that so soon after the achievement of our freedom, we found our Motherland stricken with an unparalleled outbreak of sordid crimes. This is not the occasion where I should refer to these ghastly days and months of our sorrow and anxiety. I do so because in that period of distress and gloom, there was one bright spot and that was the magnificent role which you Officers and men played, side by side with our other Armed Forces—with such unsurpassed devotion to duty. I recall with pride the deeds of courage and skill you performed unmindful of the risks involved. in moving out large numbers of our fellow-countrymen marooned remote areas in the interior and dropping food to thousands of those who were stranded and were without any succour. How many of these unhappy refugees owe their lives to you, perhaps no one will ever know. But your work and worth will ever remain enshrined in unnumbered memories.

And as if this was not enough strain on your resources, you were called upon to take the lead in a menace to our country's security. I refer to the horrible infiltration in Kashmir of thousands of murderous gangs of tribesmen and Pakistan nationals who ransacked homes and fields, killed and looted men, women and children in utter defiance of all laws of human decency. The problem we

faced was of utmost gravity. It was a problem of speed and transport under very severe difficulties. It was you men of our Air Force who rose to the occasion and while a whole nation gasped in fear that the worst might befall us, you landed armed men, equipment, materials and everything the Armed Forces needed and thus saved the beautiful valley of Kashmir. You defied weather and untried and indifferent landing grounds. You fought against time. You improvised novel methods of landing, repair and servicing. You won. Shrinagar was saved in the nick of time. You have since been operating in Jammu, Poonch and elsewhere. Your achievements are indeed unparalleled. I have no doubt that you have gathered these together to spur you on to yet greater deeds and more useful service of our Motherland. It is the first time in Indian History that you have been called upon to fight for free India. You have acquitted yourself admirably well and the nation can con fidently rely on your stead-fast loyalty for safeguarding the freedom of this

#### Powerful Air Force

While I say all this to you, I am not unmindful of your many needs and desires. I share with you and hope that as time goes on, we will provide the Air Force with more and better Aircraft and latest scientific appliances to increase your efficiency and fighting strength. India needs a powerful Air Force. We must have more trained pilots and technical men. We must keep pace with the progress of aeronautical science and do everything we can to bring it up to the level of the best Air Force in the World. I can assure you that the Government of India is determined to do everything possible to achieve this end and in fact we are already taking measures to fill up the gaps as fast and as well as we can.

Our Air Force is by now almost wholly nationalised. In a free India that was natural. The few Officers of the Royal Air Force we have, have been retained to train up our own personnel as speedily as possible. They remain here as our friends. We are grateful to them for their helpful collaboration.

Friends, Freedom has thrown many and new responsibilities on us. On this day of your fifteenth anniversary while congratulating you, one and all, for your good and trusted work and labour, I good also remind you that it is with hard work, unfinching loyalty and discipline that we can steer clear through the many difficulties and problems that lie ahead. We are living in grave times. No one knows what the morrow will bring. You have proved your worth. Be watchful and be true to your calling. We know that our future is bright. Indiscipline is disastrous. Do not be misled. Strict discipline and loyalty to your service are essential qualities for building up a really good force. India's greatness is your strength. I wish you everything that is worthwhile and true. May every year bring you many new glories."



Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukherjee

## FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE

Air Chief's Review

A IR Vice-Marshal S. Mukherjee, Chief of the Air Staff and Air Vice-Marshal Commanding, Royal Indian Air Force, in a broadcast on April, on the 15th anniversary of the Royal Indian Air Force, said:

"I speak today on the 15th anniversary of the R.I.AF. As the youngest of the Armed Forces—the Air Force has achieved a lot in these few years. The man expansion took place during the last war in which it acquitted itself with courage and fully justified the confidence placed in it. From the day of its formation young men have come from all parts of the country to serve together as Indians regardless of caste or religion. Many of our old comrades gave their lives in the building up of this force and it is now for all of us to safeguard this proud record and to do our utmost in adding to it, for there is still a lot for us to do.

This is also our first anniversary in free India and my thoughts turn in all humility to the honour and privilege that is now ours as we now have the opportunity to put our training and experience at the service of our country. It is for us to prove worthy of the great trust that has been placed in us. New and greater responsibilities have devolved on us. The RIAF, in its present form is the nucleus of the Air Forces that will be built up before long in India. It will be up to each and every one in us, in whatever capacity we serve, to make personal sacrifices so that eventually we may emerge, a service strong enough to defend the honour and liberty of our country and the ideals for which India stands.

At the present moment our country is faced with numerous problems, and many of these without doubt are of great interest to us and affect us closely. In

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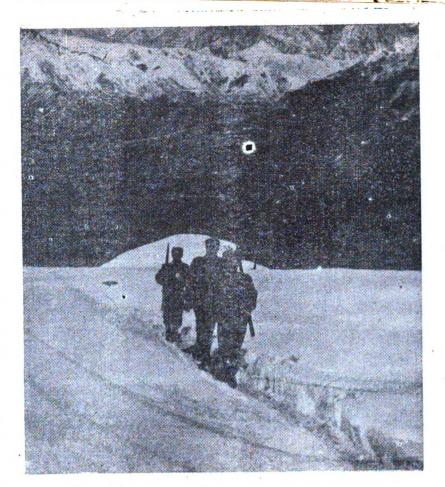
India today is a Democracy in which we desire freedom of thought and freedom of speech. It is right that as citizens we should take an intelligent interest in the affairs of our country, but let all of us seriously remember, that above all else and at all times we are Airmen, and that our primary duty is to serve our country loyally. There is no place in an Air Force for any who think otherwise, but for those young men with intelligence, courage, and initiative who are prepared to work loyally and conscientiously, there is an honourable career. We are now only at the beginning of the Air Age, and an immense future lies before us.

I would like to say a word or two regarding conditions of service life. No one can be more aware than myself of some of the inconveniences we have to put up with today, but let me assure you that every effort is being made to remove these as soon as possible so that a happy and efficient force is built up. We have done a great deal to improve conditions during the last few months but it will take some time before we can implement all our plans. I would now like to refer to an important aspect of service life. As you all know, the Air Force has to function as a team. It is not only the Pilot who makes it possible for an aircraft to fly but. each officer and airman in every branch and trade in the force. Through naturally shared tasks and common understanding and that sense of discipline so essential to the proper functioning of the Armed Forces, we cannot fail to reach our objective.

To-night I also take this opportunity of expressing my admiration of the work accomplished by officers and airmen of the RIAF in the Kashmir Operations. Units were moved to Kashmir at short notice and with little time to be properly organised but I must say all these difficulties were soon overcome and our aircraft were in the air to fight raiders. The courage, high sense of duty and the spirit displayed by our Air and Ground personnel have already won great commendation. The Kashmir campaign has shown the calibre of the RIAF and it is now for all ranks to safe-guard the proud record and to add to it further by applying themselves to their tasks with still greater devotion and determination. In the forthcoming year I wish you all happiness and good fortune and together may we work to make this Air Force an example of steadiness and a source of pride and strength to our country.

### CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

The Government of India are pleased to appoint Vice Admiral W. E. Parry, C. B whose services have been placed at their disposal by the Admiralty with the approval of His Majesty the King, to be the Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, in succession to Rear Admiral J. T. S. Hall, C.I.E., says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on April 12. The appointment is to take effect in July 1948.



Indian troops on patrol on the snow-clad mountains of Kashmir

### Exploits Of Kumaonis And Ahirs In Kashmir

Among the troops who have performed a notable task are Kumaonis and AHIRS.

In the middle of January a party of 1,500 raiders tried to carry out a surprise move north of the Jhelum towards Mahura, in order to cut off our line of communication as well as to destroy the power house. They started moving before heavy snowfalls had actually begun, in the hope that with the road blocked and Srinagar cut off from the rest of the world. Indian troops would not be able to deal with them. Our troops got information about 7 O' clock one evening that the raiders had complete I their concentration north of Mahura and were preparing to attack Mahura.

At midnight in a heavy snow-storm Kumaonis and AHIRS moved out on foot—transport could not be used as the road was blocked by snow—and concentrated on the bank of the Jhelum. These troops crossed the river using a steel cable slung across the river. The breadth of the river is 100 yards, its depth about 10 feet and the drop from the bank to the surface of the water about 50 feet. With ropes tied round their legs and by means of pulleys our men got across and ammunition was also ferried. One company established itself on a hill 7,500 ft. above sea level (Mahura itself being 5,000 ft. above sea level). This hill dominates the whole area to the north of the river.

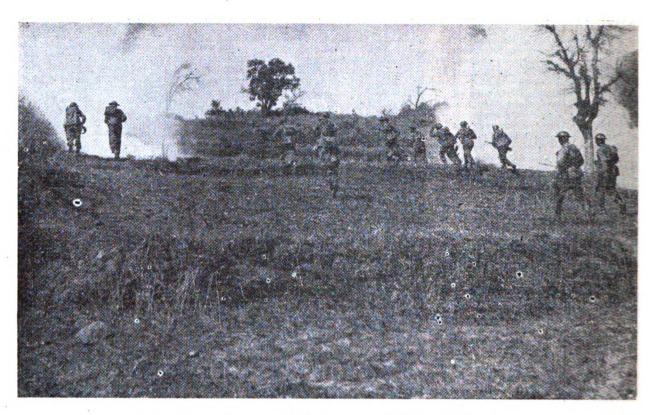
Next day another company was sent aross. They left their base at midnight,

going through 6 feet of snow and in a heavy snowstorm. They surprised the raiders and captured hundreds of 3 inch mortar bombs. The raiders were asleep in a house. The Major commanding the raiders was killed, as also his escort. The rest of the raiders realized their position and fled. Our infantry inflicted some casualties. In addition the Air Force and artillery accounted for 50 raiders killed and wounded. Our own casualties were four wounded. The result of this action was that the raiders never came near the place for the next two months. The Company which carried out this action consisted of AHIRS from Gurgaen, Rohtak and Hissar.

On March 4 our troops again attacked a concentration of raiders across the Jhelum and captured a high hill, inflicting nearly 200 casualties. One platoon led the assault against two companies of raiders in prepared positions. Our casualties were one killed and one wounded. The N.C.O. who was killed, died while collecting arms. This hill is 7,760 feet high and was covered with 6 feet of snow.

A notable point about this attack was that it was carried out by young men of 18 and 19, soldiers who were until recently in Boys' Companies. They had been instructed to make a reconnaissance but they went further and finished with a gallant bayonet charge which surprised the raiders.

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Indian army troops advance in Jhanger area under cover of smoke

# Welfare of Troops in Kashmir: Appeal For Funds

The Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, in an appeal has called for generous contributions for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers from Jammu and Kashmir and for the general welfare of troops. The appeal reads:—

"The Indian Forces Welfare Ladies Committee is doing very useful work for the welfare of our troops as by providing them with necessary amenities while they are engaged in national work under most trying conditions. The care of the sick and wounded is our special responsibility and it is heartening to see the ladies taking up this work with so much zeal and enthusiasm.

In response to my request Their Highnesses the Mahrajas of Jammu and Kashmir, of Gwalior, Baroda, Mysore and Faridkot and the Nawab of Rampur have already contributed generously towards this cause. I appeal to the general public to send in their contributions, big or small, and help in the relief of the Kashmir sick and wounded, and general welfare of the troops".

Formed in January, 1948 the Indian Forces Welfare Ladies Committee consists of wives of Service and Civilian officers and has as its President Mrs. Bucher, wife of General Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army. The Chairwoman is Mrs. Mukerjee, wife of Air Vice-Marshal Mukerjee, Chief of Air Staff.

A Sub-Committee under the presidentship of Mrs. Kalwant Singh, wife of

Major-General Kalwant Singh, G O.C. Jammu and Kashmir Forces, organises visits and other welfare activities in the Combined Military Hospital at Delhi Cantonment where patients from Jammu and Kashmir, are undergoing treatment. Members of this Committee and other ladies in Delhi invite batches of patients from the hospital to tea twice weekly. This affords welcome relief to the patients during their convalescence.

At the request of the G.O.C. in-C., Western Command, Lieut. General Cariappa eight ladies visited Jammu recently with comforts and amenities for soldiers and airmen stationed there. To ensure a regular supply of gift parcels to the forces in Jammu another Sub-Committee under the Chairwoman ship of Mrs. Shrinagesh, wife of Major-General Shrinagesh, Adjutant-General Indian Army, has been formed. The parcels contain sweets, cigarettes, hairoils, toilet articles, stationery, gramophones and wireless sets.

Those desirous of sending gift parcels or contributions either in cash or kind may send them to Mrs. Chaudhuri, Hony. Secretary and Treasuer, I. F. W. L. C., 13 York Road, New Delhi.

In the past welfare work for the forces was being carried out by various small groups of women volunteers and it has now been considered to co-ordinate all their activities to obtain better results. This has been achieved by formation of Indian Forces Welfare Ladies Committee.

## NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY

The Government of India have given careful consideration to the report of the Committee that was appointed in May 1945 to prepare a scheme for the establishment of a Military Academy to train future officers of the RIN, the Indian Army and the R.I.A. F. and have accepted the recommendations of the Committee to establish a National War Academy at Kharakavasla near Poona, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence on April 2. Candidates between the ages of 15 to 17 years will be eligible for admission to the Academy, which will be solely on the basis of merit. The course of the Academy will be common for the three Services in the first three years at the end of which Naval and Air Force cadets
will leave the Academy for specialised training, while Army cadets will continue to complete their fourth year's training.

Pending the construction of the Academy it is proposed to start from the beginning of next year an Inter-Service Academy at Dehra Dun. There will be a common interservice course for two years which will be followed by further training for two years in the particular Arm which a candidate wishes to join. Candidates who are matriculates or possess equivalent qualifications and are between the ages of 15 to 19 years will be eligible to compete for admission to the first course which is expected to commence in January 1949; admission will be solely on the basis of merit. The age of admission to subsequent courses will be announced later.

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Bulldozers clear snow in Kashmir to help maintain Indian troops' lines of communications

## R. I. A. F. SUPPLY MISSION TO POONCH

Flying at night without proper night landing facilities, aircraft of the R. I.A.F. carried out some time ago a supply mission to Poonch, landing after dark on the rough, pitted, fairweather airstrip which only a few hours earlier, had been under continuous shell fire from the raiders' 3.7 howitzers.

Earlier in the day two Dakotas piloted by Wing Commander Bhatia and F.Lt. Garewal had landed on the airstrip while shelling was actually in progress and delivered certain urgently required supplies for troops. Two other Dakotas which were approaching the airstrip were directed on the radio telephone to return to base.

The mission was completed in the night when two Dakotas flew to Poonch with the undelivered supplies. In one of them was F.Lt. Garewal and in the other Flying Officer Pushong. Two other Dakotas and a Tempest were already over the Poonch area looking for any flash in the dark which might betray the positions of the howitzers. The raiders' guns were quiet. As these three aircraft

kept the raiders' attention diverted, the two Dakotas carrying supplies silently stole through the darkness and making a difficult low circle landed on the airstrip. Even the unloading party at the runway did not notice the landing until the aircraft had taxied in.

The supplies were swiftly unloaded and the aircraft took off as silently and joined the protecting "wings" over the hills.

Air Commodore Mehr Singh, D. S. O., personally supervised the supply mission and was in one of the Dakotas that kept circling over Poonch, as co-pilot to Flight Lieutenant Dhawan. The other Dakota was piloted by Flying Officer Barty. Pilots and airmen who took part in the operation received praise from all quarters for their courage and skill.

It has been decided that the Government of India Secretariat shall hereafter be known as the "Central Secretariat" instead of "Imperial Secretariat". The "Imperial Secretariat Library" shall also be redesignated as the "Central Secretariat Library".

### A PROUD MOTHER

Mrs. Subbalakshmi Ammal whose son a Major, lost his life in Kashmir fighting, does not curse her lot but is proud that her son had been able to serve the country, "which we all love".

In a letter to the Defence Minis'er, the grief-stricken mother, robbed of her "darling", prays that "his example may instil fresh courage in the minds of his brother officers in the same proportion and make them evert more and more for our beloved country".

She recalls the words her son wrote on the eve of his departure to Kashmir. He had written: We are not slaves. Now we are free. If we have to fight for our country we have to be happy over it. One has to be prepared to go to any place at any time".

The officer, Maior A. K. Ramaswami, who comes from Malabar in South India, was killed near Bhajnoa kidge while attempting to evacuate a wounded sepoy, after a spirited encounter in Nau hehra Area on Jan. 16.

The grateful sepoy later told his battalion how the officer, casting away considerations of personal safety, rushed to his (sepoy's) rescue.

# FORMATION OF TERRITORIAL ARMY

### Defence Minister's Statement

THE Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, made a statement in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative), on April 8 relating to the Territorial Army, restoration of pensions to ex-Military pensioners forfeited on political grounds and the progress of nationalisation.

Following is the full text of the statement:—

There has been a persistent demand in this House and outside in the country for imparting military training to young men. In a free country this demand is natural and our people are justified in their concern for securing and preserving our hard-earned freedom. This explains the popular demand for military training and as I indicated in an earlier speech, the Government realise the force of this demand and have given this matter careful attention for the last few months.

There were two main reasons why we could not proceed with the scheme of this Corce sooner than now. First, we needed well-trained and first class officers for training purposes-for, obviously, if we employed inferior or incompetent men, the Force would be of little use. Secondly, we did not wish to throw additional burden on the taxpayer and wanted to start the scheme simultaneously with the demobilisation of the present Army. Altough the difficulty of getting trained officers is more acute today than before, on weighing the problems afresh and in view of the wider issues involved, the Government have come to the conclusion that the scheme of the Territorial Force should be implemented without delay. They hope that the proposed Territorial Force along with the scheme of the National Cadet Corps will go a long way to meet the public demand.

#### Broad Features

I should like to indicate the broad features of the scheme for the information of the House:

The role of this force would be (1) primarily to form a second line to the regular Army in the event of a national emergency, in other words to provide additional units and formations to reinforce the regular Army immediately an emergency arises, (2) in a national emergency to take on internal defence duties and relieve thereby the regular army of this responsibility, (3) to be responsible for anti-aircraft and coast defence and above all (4) to give the youth of India an opportunity of receiving part of the military training so that, in emergency, they would be capable of bearing arms for the country.

The Territorial Force will be composed of combatant, technical and administrative units to form a balanced force. It is always difficult to raise technical units

quickly and therefore emphasis is being laid on the raising of such units. For example, it has been decided that volunteers from the staff of the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and Port Trusts should be formed into units for the operation of such services in the event of an emergency. The responsibility for anti-aircraft and coastal defence is generally undertaken in other countries by the nor-regular army and on that analogy it has been decided that in India the Territorial Army should take on this responsibility.

In its final picture, the Territoria Army would be officered mostly by Officers and Territorial Army Commission, but at this stage at the start, it will be necessary to post officers of the regular army for the raising and the training of the units of the Territorial Army. The period of training and the terms of service are being worked out in detail. The broad idea is that every individual joining the Territorial Army should be required to undergo a period of intensive continuous training for a month or two every year and a certain number of drills each month. The age of entry would be so determined as to enable any able-bodied person who so wishes to join the Force.

### Total Strength

The total strength of the Territorial Force for the present is envisaged at approximately 1,30,000 and it will be raised and maintained on a zonal basis. The tentative plan is to divide the country into 8 zones, zone 1 comprising Eastern Punjab, East Punjab States, Rajputana including Delhi Province; Zone 2 United Provinces; Zone 3 Central Provinces and Eastern States; Zone 4 Bombay and Kathiawar; Zone 5 Madras including Mysore and Travancore; Zone 6 Bihar and Orissa; Zone 7 West Bengal including Cooch Bihar; Zone 8 Assam including Tripura and Ranipur. These zones correspond more or less to our present Area Commands.

It is hoped that it will be possible to raise all the non-Technical units including the infantry battalions, the Railway and Port units and a number of other technical units, included in the plan, within one year. As the House will appreciate, the progress of this scheme will depend on the availability of instructors and equipment. The Hon'ble members can rest assured that every effort will be made to implement the scheme with utmost expedition. I am glad to say that we have already got started and an Officer of Brigadier's Rank has been appointed the Director. Territorial Forces in the Defence Ministry. He will go ahead inmediately in laying the foundations of the Force and begin building it up as fast as circumstances permit.

The Ministry of Defence have had under consideration the question of restoration of the pensions of ex-military

Pensioners forfeited on political grounds I promised to inform the House of Government's decision during this Session. The position is as follows:

The rules regulating grant of military pensions provide that an Indian Military Pensioner convicted of a serious crime or who is guilty of grave misconduct of a political nature shall be liable to have his pension withheld or suspended in full or in part. In November, 1924, for the first time, instructions were issued to District (now Area) Commanders to enforce these orders and the power to withhold or forfeit pensions was delegated to them. A number of pensions payable to persons who participated in such movements since 1919 were forfeited under these instructions.

The instructions in force provide for the restoration of these pensions "in consultation with the local Government or Administration concerned" on application by the pensioner and on his giving an undertaking of future good conduct. In case of pensioners sentenced to imprisonment, action could only be taken on the pensioner's application after release and the pension is not payable for the period of imprisonment.

The Government have now decided that all these pensions should be restored with retrospective effect from the date they were forfeited and that there should not be any necessity to consult the local authorities before restoration is ordered.

These orders will quite naturally, apply only to those who are domiciled in India and those who have migrated from Pakistan to India as a result of the Division.

### Progress of Nationalisation

At a Press Conference in December 1947 I gave an outline of the programme and pace of nationalisation as planned at the time. I am glad to inform the House that except for a small variation in regard to few individual appointments, we have been able to keep to the programme. We will need for some time the services of some British Officers and their number will be about 300. All these Officers will be employed mostly in instructional establishments, technical arms and a few on the staff and as advisers. Their number will be reduced as and when Indian Officers become available.

On the 15th August 1947 only half a dozen of the Brigade and Sub-Area Commands were held by Indians and there was no Indian Officer Commanding a Division, an Area or any of the Army Commands. The position today is that all the Battalions and Regimental Commands are held by Indians except the Command of three Regimental Training Centres which is held by British Officers. The three Army Commands, all Divisional Commands, Area Commands, Sub Area Commands are or will before the end of this month be held by Indian Officers.

In the Navy and in the Air Force also it has been possible for us to keep the programme of nationalisation. For example the plan was that out of a total cadre of 620 commissioned and 20 warrant officers, 60 commissioned and 70 warrant officers only would be British. This programme has been adhered to.

In one important respect, however, Government have found it necessary to depart from the programme. It was hoped that by the 1st April 1948 it would be possible to appoint an Indian Officer as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army and that then, General Bucher, the present Commander-in-chief would become the Senior Adviser.

Due to the rapid progress of nationalisation during the short period of few months, Indian officers have been called upon to hold charge of important positions which many of them ordinarily could not have held. In this position they have had to shoulder heavy responsibilities, in many instances without adequate experience. To their credit I must say that they have proved themselves remarkably able and competent. The enthusiasm with which they undertook new and big tasks was phenomenal. The House will, I am sure, be glad to know this. The changes have been so many—so rapid—and conditions in the country so abnormal—that the situation was not as it was expected to be. We have ex-cellent staff in our Indian Officers. Their zeal and capacity for work is unbounded. But they do need the opportunity of more experience and after very careful consideration of every aspect of the situation, the Government have decided that it would be in the best interests of the country generally and of the Army in particular, to retain for some time longer the services of an experienced officer, like General Bucher, as Commander-in-Chief.

### **CLAIMS FOR PROTECTION TO INDUSTRIES**

The Government of India's Resolutions on the Indian Tariff Board Reports dealing with claims to protection made by industries producing the following articles are published on April 12 in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 10.

- 1. Chloroform, Potassium Permanganate and Ether Sulphuric P. B. and Anaesthetic industries.
  - Starch.
  - Glucose.
  - Cotton amd hair belting.
  - Electric motors.
    Dry batteries.
  - 6.
  - Plywood and Tea chests.

The Board has held that in the case of Chloroform there are no natural advantages for its production and that no case has been made out for grant of protection. With regard to Ether Sulphuric P. B. and Anaesthetic industries, it has suggested that the case should be kept open for further enquiry at a future date as the industry is not yet in a position to produce sufficient data in respect of costs of production...

The Board's principal recommenda-tion in respect of the other industries enumerated above, except Plywood and Tea chests, is that the existing revenue duty should be converted into a protective duty at the same rate. With regard to Plywood and Tea chests, the Board has recommended that the present revenue duty of 30 per cent should be converted into a protective duty but that on the basis of present costs a duty of 25 per cent ad valorem would be adequate.

The Government of India have accepted these principal recommendations of the Tariff Board, though in the case of Plywood and Tea chests they have decided that the rate of duty should continue at 30 per cent.

The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have sanctioned a final location survey being carried out by the Agency of the G. I. P Railway Administration for a line of railway on the Broad Gauge from Ghoradongri to Pathakhera coalfields, a distance of about 11,5 miles.

The survey will be known as Ghoradongri-Pathakhera final location survey.



ARMED FORCES TATTOO IN DELHI: A woman volunteer offers a copy of the Tattoo programme to the Prime Minister on his arrival



# EXPENDITURE ON UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WILL YIELD GOOD DIVIDEND

### Lord Mountbatten's Address

recent British committee on post-war university education felt it necessary to complain that the total grant for the universities in the United Kingdom was the 'cost of 4 hours' war,' and that expenditure on university education would give 'a better dividend than on most forms of public works'. What is true in the United Kingdom is even more true in India," said His Excollency Lord Mountbatten in the course of a speech at the Convocation of Patna University on April 13.

Following is the full text of the speech:

It is a very great pleasure to me to attend the Convocation at Patna University this afternoon and I am deeply honoured to receive the Degree of Doctor of Science, Honories Causa. I have not been to Patna for more than 26 years and I have long wished to re-visit this city because I have always been struck by its importance in the history of India; for Patna, as you all know, is the modern of the ancient name Patliputra, and was the capital of many famous rulers, chief among whom was Asoka.

Asoka was a unique combination of soldier, statesman, ruler and humanitarian. It is appropriate that his emblems (the lions and the wheel of Dharma) placed on his famous pillar at Sarnath in the monastery of the Buddha, should now have become the emblems of new India.

#### Nalanda

Patliputra has also been the meeting place of various cultures. A Greek colony flourished here. A Greek princess, the daughter of Seleucus, the greatest of Alexander's generals, was married to a King of Patliputra. Magasthenes lived here as an Ambassador. Later, in Asoka's days, religious embassies issued from here northwards and eastwards to Tibet and China, southwards to Caylon and westwards to Syria, Egypt, Macedonia and Epirus.

The Province of Bihar was the scene of the ministrations of the Buddha. The place where he attained his enlightenment and other places connected with his life and teachings belong to this Province.

To this Province, also, belonged the University of Nalanda, the foremost Buddhist University in India from the 4th to the 12th century after Christ. Among its visitors and pupils were world-famous scholars like Huien Tsiang and Itsing of China and others. The heads of this University (Chancellors or Vice-Chancellors as we would now call them) were drawn from all over India—a Tamil nobleman from Madras, a scholar from the Andhra country and another from Assam, etc. Its scholars were invited to Tibet and China on cultural

missions. The King of Java and Sumatra endowed a residential home at Nalanda.

It is thus clear that no city in the world could wish for a better cultural background of history, tradition and educational associations.

I am glad that education is being given a high priority among development schemes, and that special attention is being given to improving the quality of education, as well as the quantity. It will be necessary to fill in gaps in women's education, scientific and techno logical studies, art and social sciences. With regard to the first of these subjects -that of women's education-I understand that the women of Patna have been making use of their opportunities to a considerable degree, and it is gratifying to learn that they have been competing so successfully against the men and have such outstanding achievements to their credit. I wish them all encouragement; but feel at the same time that the men should take note of it and look to their own laurels. Cultural studies are also being replanned on a strictly nondenominational basis, that is on a secular and international basis.

- As is well known the overall objective of Government policy is to raise the standard of living and to plan such other developments as relate directly to national welfare.

Finance has been a vexed question almost everywhere and particularly during the period of these two World Wars. A recent British Committee on post-wer university education, for example, felt it necessary to complain that the total grant for the universities in the United Kingdom was the "cost of 4 hours' war", and that expenditure on university education would give "a better national dividend than on most forms of public works". What is true in the United Kingdom is even more true in India.

#### New Universities

The Government of India have realised this and have recently allocated large sums of money to the Provinces for development projects including those of university education. New universities in Saugor, Rajputana, and Utkal, have recently been established, and some more are in the process of formation in Poona, Indore, Assam and Gujarat. Funds being limited, the Government are naturally anxious to see that these developments are carefully planned, co-ordinated and economical. University Grants Committee of England has conducted its difficult and essential task with great success since its formation in 1919. The University Grants Comin 1919. mittee of the Government of India since its inception about three years ago has discharged a similar function in India and has recently had its scope enlarged so se to include besides the three Central

Universities of Delhi. Aligarh, and Benarres, the Provincial Universities.

Provincial autonomy or university autonomy, or any kind of autonomy for that matter, has to be exercised without detriment to co-ordinated national development. The universities generally are anxious to aid in and be aided by "all-India" developments in education.

Now I have spoken much about education and plans for the future of university education in India, but there is more university life than the simple acquisition of knowledge. With education should go hand in hand character development, with which I also include moral courage and leadership. All these processes are vital ones for those who will be pioneers in the development of India, and I would like you to remember that in all the universities, and this particularly applies to all of you here today, you have a very special chance to acquire these two thingseducation and character development.

Now, as you all know, education is not a thing that can be spoon-fed into you like medicine. You have to pick it up for yourselves. Often one doesn't appreciate the immense value of the opportunity of being at a college while one is still there. One doesnot realise that the whole of after life can be interesting or dull, according to the amount you have learnt about things and according to whether you have picked up the knack of acquiring knowledge. Here you have the chance to learn how to learn, and lay the basis for continuing your aducation all your life.

#### Defence Services

It is important also to make up your mind what sort of a character it is that you want to develop. Many people have tried to define the ideal character. but it is not easy to put into words. I suggest that you want to be the sort of man that other men look up to. don't mean only your subordinates or your contemporaries, but also your seniors. How can you become that First of all I think by setting yourselves a standard of integrity, of nioral and intellectual honesty so that you never deceive yourselves, but know exactly where you stand. Develop wide open minds so that you can see both sides of any subject and other persons' points of view. Strive for a reputation of fairmindedness which is justified because you really are fair-minded, so that when you come to make a decision, people will have confidence in it, and know it is honest. After that, you must have the moral courage to stand by that decision, even at a time when it might prove to be unpopular and cause you to be sneered at.

Here I would like to draw your attention particularly to the opportunition that are open to young men in the Defence Services, in which discipline and training of character play so large a part, and to the start that can be made in this direction by joining your U.O.T.C.—a guard of honour from which I have just inspected. In these days I consider that the O.T.C. is a sphere of University life which should be developed to the fullest.

To acquire the sort of character which I have described you have got to work hard. It will not just come to you by itself. You have got to make the most of your opportunities here. Think to yourselves everyday—am I improving? It is no good sitting back and saying when you leave here—"I have been to the Patna University; I am a graduate, therefore I am better than others", because, believe me, although you ought to be better, many men who have risen from below without the facilities you have here, will be better than you if you have not made the most of your opportunities.

I am afraid I have been preaching to you, but please don't think I imagine myself perfect: I know that I am very far from it. I have only one real advantage that I know of, and that is that no one is quite so aware of his short-comings, as I am myself. I spend much time trying to improve myself. I am getting a bit old to do it successfully—but at least I try not to deceive myself.

You have a great opportunity here of fitting yourselves for life in the future, and on your labours and on the labours of thousands of others like you the future of a great India will depend. So when you go out from here please remember you have a very special responsibility as a result of your privilege of having been here at Patna University. Live up to it and good luck to you.

### SYED KASIM RAZVI'S SPEECH CONDEMNED

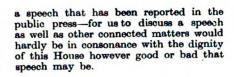
THE speech of Syed Kasim Razvi, Ittehad leader, at a mass rally of Razakars in Hyderabad on March 31, was the subject of an adjournment motion by Prof. Shibbanlal Saxena in the Dominion Parliament on April 9.

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, while speaking on the admissibility of the motion said:

Sir, may I say, to begin with, that I deeply regret that notice of this Adjournment Motion has found its way to the Press. If I may say so, I entirely agree with the remarks that fell from you that this is a very undesirable practice and I trust that that kind of thing will not occur again.

The Motion for Adjournment appears to me inadmissible from a large number of points of view. It is for you to decide. I am not going to deal with those rather legal and technical pleas, but I wish to say this that I think that any discussion on a speech like this, that is to say,

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister. visited the Vigyan Kala Bhavan, Daurala, on April 4. The Bhavan was established four years ago to train young men in Industrial Chemistry.



Let me, however, say this that this speech, although it is a private speech, nevertheless it comes from the leader of an organization. I do not know and I cannot say straight off how far the report is correct or not, without further enquiry. But presuming that it is basically correct, the speech is perhaps the most amazing and irresponsible utterance that I have ever come across—not only irresponsible, but as has been said in this Motion, a direct incitement to violence and murder—and Government have given the most careful thought to it and are giving the most careful thought to the situation, as is developing in Hyderabad. They cannot obviously ignore such speeches or the consequences that such speeches might produce. That is as much as I can say before the House now.

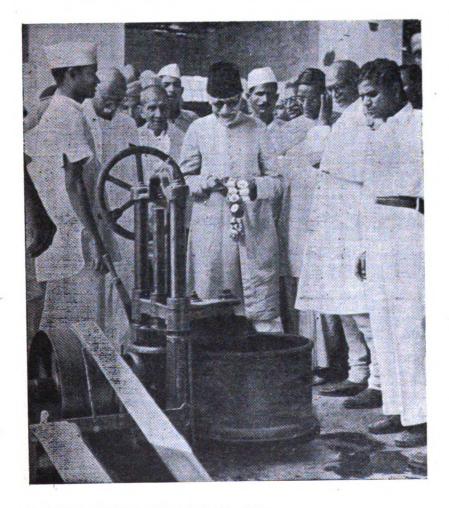
### Most Objectionable

It is obviously a difficult matter for us to discuss at this stage and I do not think it would yield any satisfactory results. I suppose all in the House are agreed that it does not require discussion that the speech as reported, if it is true, is a most objectionable thing. Nobody has two opinions about it.

The questions that arise are not on the speech really, but about other matters—what policy should be adopted; what should be done about it; and other questions. Normally speaking, such questions cannot be easily discussed on the floor of this House. Some particular policy—broad policy—might be discussed but such matters are not normally discussed at ell when the Government is engaged in not exactly negotiations, but in dealing with that particular matter initially. It would undoubtedly create difficulties if they were to have such discussion. So, while I appreciate—and not only I appreciate, but the Government appreciates—the apprehension and, if I may say so, the anger of the House that such speeches should be delivered, and Government entirely associates itself with it, still I would beg of the House and of you, Sir, to consider that any discussion of this issue at this moment would not help the House or the Government to go in any way towards meeting the problems that have arisen.

Viceroy's Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army will hereafter be called Junior Commissioned Officers (J. C. Os.), says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on April 6.

King's Commissioned Indian Officers and Indian Commissioned Officers will be known simply as "Officers" and Indian Other Ranks (I.O. Rs) as "Other Ranks".



# ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNAL ORGANISATIONS

### Prime Minister Explains Government's Policy

SPEAKING in the Assembly on April 3 on the resolution moved by Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar regarding activities of communal organisations the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, said:—

Sir, before this debate proceeds any further I should like to indicate the attitude of Government in regard to this Resolution. Government welcome this Resolution and desire to say that they wish to do everything in their power to achieve the objective which lies behind this Resolution. After the eloquent speech of the Honourable Mover I need not say much about the desirability of this Resolution; as a matter of fact it is an inevitable policy which an independent country must adopt. There might have been in the past various reasons which came in the way of such policy being given effect to, although I think that even in the past those of us who accepted any measure of communalism erred and acted unwisely, and we have suffered greatly for our unwisdom.

However, in the past conditions were different; but when a country is functioning independently there is no alternative except to follow this. The only alternative is civil conflict. We have seen as a matter of fact how far communalism in politics has led us; all of us remember the grave dangers through which we have passed and the terrible consequences we have seen. In any event now there is no other alternative; and we must have it clearly in our minds and in the mind of the country that the alliance of religion and politics in the shape of communalism is a most dangerous alliance, and it yields the most abnormal kind of illegitimate brood.

#### Gandbiji's Example

We have talked a great deal about politics being allied to ethics; that tand for. During the last quarter of a century or more Mahatma Gandhi taught us to place politics on an ethical level. How far we succeeded it is for the world to judge and for future generations to decide. But it was something at least that we placed that great ideal before us and tried in our own weak and halting way to give effect to it. But the combination of politics and of religion in the narrowest sense of the word, resulting in communal politics is—there can be no doubt-a most dangerous combination and must be put an end to. It is clear, as has been pointed out by the Honourable Mover, that this combination is harmful to the country as a whole; it is harmful to the majority, but probably it is most harmful to any minority that seeks to have some advantage from it. I think even the past history of India will show that. But in any event a minority in an independent State, which seeks to isolate and separate itself does

some injury to the cause of the country, and most of all it injures its own interests, because inevitably it puts a barrier between itself and the others, a barrier not on the religious plane but on the political plane—sometimes even to some extent on the economic plane; and it can never really exercise the influence which is legitimately ought to aspire to exercise, if it functions in that way.

Now the future constitution of India is being hammered out in the Constituent Assembly and no doubt it will give shape to it in the course of the next two or three months and finalise it, and any Resolution that we may pass is not going to alter that constitution as it is finally sdopted. But after all the constitution-making body is more or less this body; there is not much difference. And if this House thinks in terms of this Resolution I have no doubt that the constitution-making body will also think in terms of this Resolution. Further, from such

evidence as we have got of the working of that constitution-making body, it has already gone a long way in terms of this Resolution. It has put aside many of the dangerous features of our old constitution which led to communalism. Whether other features will remain or not I cannot obviously guarantee. But as far as I am concerned, I think the less we have of any form of communalism the better it is for our constitution and for the practical working of our Government.

### Legislative Measures

Now, Sir, so far as this Resolution is concerned, as I said, we warmly welcome the objective underlying it and the spirit behind it. But this Resolution mentions administrative and legislative measures to be taken to give effect to it. Exactly what those administrative and legislative measures might be, it is impossible to say straight-off; it will require the closest scrutiny, certainly the legislative part of it. And presumably the right course for Government will be if this Resolution is passed, as I feel sure it will be—to consider this matter and see what administrative and—more specially—what legislative measures are necessary to gain this end; and then later when this House meets again for another session, to consider any recommendatious in that respect so far as legislative measures are concerned.

### PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON GODHRA INCIDENT

N an answer to a short-notice question in the Dominion Parliament on April 5, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, made a statement regarding the rioting in Godhra, Bombay Province, and the reported reference about it to the United Nations Organization by the Government of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said:—

There have been reports about such a reference in the Press but Government have not so far received any intimation to this effect.

The attention of the Honourable Members is invited to a detailed statement made by the Home Member of the Bombay Province in the Bombay Legislative Assembly on the 29th March 1948. There is nothing that I have to add to that statement.

The situation in Godhra became tense some time ago, as a result of a procession that was taken out by some refugees. During the procession a flag on a daryah was pulled down. Action was taken against the persons concerned and some people were prosecuted. The immediate cause of the trouble was the stabbing of a Hindu refugee in a Muslim locality on 25th March 1948. Soon after another refugee having a shop in a Muslim locality was murdered in his shop and this was followed by the stabbing of two more persons. The police who tried to intervene were also attacked resulting in severe injuries to two policemen. Energetic measures, including resort to firing, were immediately taken by the police and these resulted in two civilians being killed. Troops were also rushed to the town that very day.

On the next day, March 26, 1948, a number of refugees, excited by the

events of the previous day, attacked some Muslims. The situation was, however, brought under control that very day. The casualties reported are 16 killed and 25 injured, including those killed and injured as a result of firing by the police. A large number of arrests have been made.

On the same day two houses evacuated by Muslims in a Muslim locality were set on fire. The fire could not be put out quickly as the only fire engine postessed by the Godhra Municipality could not be worked as the person in charge of the engine, who was a Muslim. had run away. Two fire engines were rushed from Lonavala and Baroda but these necessarily took some time to arrive and in the meanwhile what would have just been a minor fire resulting in the loss of two houses spread to other houses and became a huge conflagration. Water was another difficulty as the wells in Godhra are very deep and the water tank was situated at a considerable distance from the scene of the fire.

Every possible effort was made to combat the fire and a platoon of a Field Company of the R.I.E. was called in to assist in fighting the fire and demolishing burning houses. It is, however, feared that loss of property through fire has been fairly heavy. It is difficult to give a correct estimate of the number of houses destroyed but the estimate is that the number will be between 600 and 1,000 and they belong more or less half to Hindus and half to Muslims. The Home Minister, Bombay, visited Godhra immediately on receipt of information about rioting and every possible action was taken to restore order and to protect life and property in the town. Conditions in the town are now reported to be quiet.

Meanwhile, no doubt our new constitution will have taken shape also and it will help us then to consider those legislative measures in terms of that new Constitution. But we need not wait till then. The point is so far as the Government is concerned that we should function as closely as possible in accordance with the spirit of this resolution. Further, the purpose of this resolution, I take it, is also to give a lead to the country in this matter, so that the country may realize as clearly as possible that the only right way for us to function is to do away with communalism in its political aspect in every shape and form. That we accept.

Now there are at the present moment, as some Members may later point out, in the draft Constitution that has been proposed certain definite communal elements. For instance, I believe that there is a proposal that although there should be joint and common electorates. still there might be some reservation of seats for minorities or for the scheduled castes on more or less, I take it, the population basis. Now what the final decision will be about that I cannot say. I hope personally that the less reservation there is the better, and I think that is so mostly even more from the point of view of the group or the minority that might have that reservation than even more so from the point of view of any other group or majority.

### Equality of Opportunity

There is another aspect of this matter which must be remembered. We talk about democracy and unity and all that and I hope we shall rapidly have more and more democracy and more and more unity in this country. A democracy is not purely a political affair. The nineteenth century conception of democracy that is each person having a vote was good enough conception in those days but it was incomplete and people think in terms of a larger and deeper democracy today. After all there is no equality between the pauper who has a vote and the millionaire who has a vote. There are a hundred ways of exercising influence for the millionaire which the pauper has not got. After all there is no equality between the person who has got tremendous educational advantages and the person who has had none. So educationally, economically and otherwise, people differ greatly. People will, I suppose, differ to some extent. All human beings are not equal in the sense of ability or capacity. But the whole point is that people would have equality of opportunity and that they should be able to go as far as they can go.

Now it is patent in India today that there are huge differences between certain groups, classes and individuals. There is a big hiatus between those at the top and those at the bottom. Now if we are to have democracy it becomes necessary and essential for us to not merely bridge that gap but to lessen it very greatly: in fact to bring them close together so far as opportunities are concerned, so far as ultimately as general living conditions are concerned and in so far as the necessities of life are concerned, leaving out for the moment luxuries and the rest, though ultimately there seems to me to be no particular reason why

any particular group or class should be favoured even in regard to the luxuries of life, but that is perhaps a rather distant picture. Now, because there are such great differences in India, it becomes incombent upon us, not only from humanitarian reasons but from the standpoint and fulfilment of democracy to raise up those people who are low down in the social, economic and other levels and to bring to them every opportunity of growth and progress, national and otherwise.

That has been the general accepted policy of this country and it is the accepted policy of this Government. Now in pursuance of that policy, certain reserva-tion of seats was granted for instance to the scheduled castes, and various scholarand educational amenities. have been granted and no doubt will be granted still more, not only to the scheduled castes but there may be other backward groups in the country. There are tribal people and others who require even help. It is no good for us to say that we have given a vote to the member of a tribal folk and we have done our duty to him; having for hundreds and thousands of years not done our duty to him, by giving him a vote we consider ourselves absolved of all further duty.

Therefore, we have to think always in terms of raising the level of all those who have been denied opportunities in the past. I do not personally think myself that the best way to do that on the political plane is reservation of seats and the rest. I think the best way, and the more basic and fundamental way, is to advance them rapidly in the economic and educational spheres and then they will stand on their own feet.

There is a great danger whether you deal with an individual, group or community, of giving certain props to that community which gives it a false sense of strength which does not belong to it, which does not come out of its strength, but which is external to it and which removed suddenly makes it weak. A nation ultimately ought to stand on its own feet. So long as it relies on some external prop it is not strong. It is weak. So these external props, as I might call them—that is reservation of seats and the rest—may occasionally be helped possibly in the case of the backward groups, but they produce a false sense of the political relation, a false sense of strength, and ultimately therefore they are not so nearly as important as real educational, cultural and economic advance, which gives them inner strength to face any difficulty or any opponent. However, I can conceive that in the present context of affairs in regard to these unfortunate countrymen of ours who have not had these opportunities in the past, special attempts should be made, of course, in the educational and economic field and even in the political field to see that they have a proper place till they find their own legs to stand upon without any external

So I accept this resolution on behalf of Government, but in accepting it I should like to make it perfectly clear again that so far as as the implementation of it is concerned, more especially in regard to the legislative aspect of it will have to be very carefully considered and will ultimately have to come before this House.

## Amendments To Constitution

The Gazette Extraordinary published on the 31st March 1948 contains three more Orders under the Indian Independence Act, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on April 1.

The first of these makes some further amendments in the Provisional Constitution of which the important one is that relating to the enlargement of the privileges of the Members of the Dominion Legislature which, pending determination by an Act of that Legislature, have been defined as the same as are enjoyed by the Members of British House of Commons.

The Provincial Legislatures order provided that elections shall be held in the Navadwip (now Nadia) General Rural and Presidency Landholders constituencies of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The second Order (The India Provincial Legislatures (Amendment) Order, 1948) modifies the original provisions in this respect and provides that the sitting members who represented these constituencies in the Bengal Legislative Assembly shall continue as members of the West Bengal Assembly.

The third Order, the Adaptation of Bengal Acts and Punjab Acts Order, makes textual adaptations in the Bengal and Punjab Acts in their application to West Bengal and East Punjab respectively.

The Governor-General's power to make Orders under the Indian Independence Act has now lapsed and if any further amendments are required either to any Indian Law or to the provisional Constitution, that should hereafter be done by legislation by the appropriate legislature or by the Constituent Assembly of India meeting as a constitution-making body, as the case may be.

#### **INSURANCE REPORT**

(Continued from page 559)

Commenting on the various types of complaints received from policyl-olders against insurers where the latter have not in every case discharged their obligations satisfactorily, the Superintendent stresses on insurers the need for rendering maximum service and to pay more and more attention to the complaints of policyholders, "especially keeping in view the unequal position in the matter of resources of an insurer and a policyholder in case of any conflict between the two"

Difficulties experienced by some insurers and societies owing to disturbed conditions in certain provinces and the displacement of populations in East and West Panjab and the adjacent areas some of the reasons for delay in the publication of the Report.



### Uproot Communalism Altogether, Says Dr. Mookerjee

ASSOCIATING himself with the sentiments expressed in the resolution moved by Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar in the Dominion Parliament on April 3 regarding activities of communal organisations the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, said:

Sir, I desire to associate myself with the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. Sir, it is not my intention to refer to past history except for a very few brief moments. As the Prime Minister himself has explained our attitude in the past was influenced by considerations over which we had not had sufficient control. Communalism did play a very large part in the political life of India. There was the British factor, the policy of divide and rule, which was enunciated nearly about 50 years ago and which came into the forefront in the days of Lord Minto, when he accepted the principle of separate electorates. On the other hand, there was also a policy of concession and appeasement made with the best of motives at the Mover himself referred to the 1916 Lucknow Pact; then the Communal Pact, the communal award, parity and so forth. Unfortunately all these concessions did not lead to the results which the representatives of the people thought they would achieve. The result has been Pakistan; and even that Pakistan has not solved the communal problem. It has indeed given rise to new problems which almost baffle solution.

But, Sir, we have got to look at this great problem from a new angle of vision since 15th August 1947. We are now the masters of our country. There is no third party ruling over our country today. It is for us, therefore, to lay down principles, bearing in mind what happened in the past and also bearing in mind what may happen in the future.

### Religion and Politics

What happened in the past, Sir? Why is it that India lost her freedom during the last so many centuries? Something or other happened which divided the people of India from one part of the country to another; there was sectionalism; there was provincial ism; there was narrowness from various points of view and the result was that we never learnt the wisdom of standing together as sons and daughters of one common motherland and fight the common enemy which was out to destroy the political liberty of our country. That is what happened in the past. We could not stand together. We were thinking in terms of sections, groups or provinces. During the British period there were other influences at work which I explained, but now we have to 400 that history does not repeat itself.

So far as political activities are concerned, there is no reason whatsoever why we cannot stand on one common platform as sons and daughters of

Bharatavarsha. That is the fundamental thing, but of course, it cannot be achieved by coercion or by force. We have got to take into account certain factors which have come into existence in our land. There are sections and communities whose interests have to be protected. The Resolution indicates that so far as the social, cultural, educational or religious rights of groups or communities are concerned, they will be amply protected; there will be no ban put on the rights of any community to do whatever is lawful for the advancement of such rights, but here again, Sir, I would just sound a word of caution. We have referred to religious rights, cultural rights, social rights. It is quite possible that in relation to every one of these spheres matters may come before the Legislature.

What will be the position then? Is it in India that if a particular legislative measure which affects the social or cultural or religious rights of a community or of a particular section of the people will they be prevented by law or by administrative flat the right to put forward their point of view for the purpose of influencing the decision of the legislature? These are matters which have to be considered very carefully. I believe, Sir, what is intended in the Resolution is that politically we stand on one common platform. There is no question of introduction of any religious principle in politics. That is a sound principle and I believe, Sir, that there can be no opposition from any quarter to the acceptance of this principle.

#### In Pakistan

I know, Sir, that people are worried about the way in which things are happening in Pakistan. I know, Sir, that events happening in Pakistan may have a repercussion in India. But here the policy of the Government has been that the matters must be left to the Government of the country. And obviously no Government—which can only rest on the goodwill and co-operation of the people at large—can go against the declared will for the vast majority of the people. That Government cannot exist which cannot reconcile itself to the declared will of the people of this country.

Here, Sir, there is one matter which has been hinted by the Prime Minister, and I should like to emphasize that point. It is no use our merely passing a pious Resolution; if we are really anxious to uproot communalism from the political sphere in India altogether, we shall have to see that there is no place for communalism of any kind whatsoever in the constitution of our country. You cannot justify reservation on grounds of religion or caste and in the same breath say that you want to banish communalism from the political life of India. I say that the two are entirely contradictory to each other. I know that legitimate apprehensions may be felt by minorities who may feel that by taking

away the rights which they had so long enjoyed the majority might be trampling under feet the rights of such minorities. But, as the Prime Minister so clearly explained, with no British power to look up to, every minority in India today must obviously look up to the majority for pretection. That goodwill must come, otherwise the minority cannot exist.

A Briggio and the Committee of the commi

We have to consider in consultation with minorities as to how protection is to be given in the constitution so that wheever may be backward-no matter what his religion may be - is given equal opportunities. That must not be a provision on paper; it is no use for us who have been more fortunate in life to say that we shall be prepared to treat the minorities equally, unless in actuality we are prepared to lend them a helping hand to come up to the proper level. Every representative of the minority communities will therefore be entitled to ask for such guarantees in the constitution as will give them equal educational facilities, or perhaps more for some years to come, until they reach the proper level. We have to raise their economic standard, remove all social inequalities which are a blot on the good name of this country, and thereby create a society where there will be no difference between man and man.

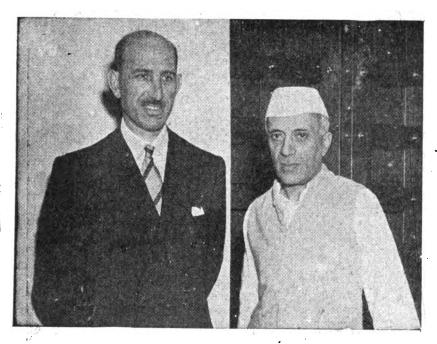
### Country First

My Honourable friend, the Mover of the Resolution, became very eloquent and referred to equality in the domain of humanity at large. I am afraid I cannot emulate his example entirely; I want equality so far as humanity goes, but let us not forget that we in India have also to organise ourselves and stand on our own feet. If my Honourable friend carries to the logical conclusion his dictum that every one is equal throughout the world, I believe he will have to he a party to extending facilities and privileges to people coming from outside India and carrying on trade, commerce or other transactions in this country to the detriment of the interests of our country.

But let us look to our own country first, let us try and organise India in such a way that the freedom which we have got may be maintained and not lost. Let us look round and see where our enemies are lying and the preparations they are making. Every one who lives in this country,—whether Hindu or Muslim, Christian or Sikh,—so long as he is prepared to identify himself with the real national interests of India, he need not be afraid of the activities of Government. Government will give equal protection: but let us not encourage the growth of fifth columnists who may masquerade under various names for the purpose of doing various things which may be inimical to the country as a whole.

As I said at the beginning, so I say at the end, that we need not be apprehensive of the future. We are masters of our own destiny today; the people of the country are there to decide how the country will be governed in the future. We are out to establish a secular State.

(Continued on Page 619)



Signor Renzo di Carrobio, Italian Charge 'd Affaires, called on Pandit Nehru on April 6

# "HUMAN SPIRIT MORE POWERFUL THAN MIGHTIEST ARMAMENTS"

### Pandit Nehru's Broadcast to America

E live in an age of crises. One crisis follows another, and even when there is some kind of peace, it is a troubled peace with fear of warfand preparation for war. Tortured humanity hungers for real peace, but some evil fate pursues it and pushes it further) and further away from what it desires most. Almost it seems that some terrible destiny drives humanity to ever-recurring disaster. We are all entangled in the mesh of past history and can't escape the consequences of past evil", said India's Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, broadcasting from the Delhi studio of All India Radio on April 3 direct to America linking up with the Chicago University Round Table Radio programme. Among other participants in the programme was General Eisenhower.

### Crisis of Human Spirit

In the multitude of crises, political and economic, that face us, perhaps the greatest crisis of all is that of the human spirit. Till this crisis of the spirit is resolved it will be difficult to find a solution for the other crises that affict 78.

We talk of world government and One World and millions yearn for this. Farnest efforts continue to he made to realise this ideal of the human race, which has become so imperative today. And yet those efforts have thus far proved ineffective, even though it becomes ever clearer that if there is going to be no world order then there might be no order

at all left in the world. Wars are fought and won or lost, and the victors suffer almost as much as the vanquished. Surely there must be something wrong about our approach to this vital problem of the age, something essential lacking.

In India during the last quarter of a century and more, Mahatma Gandhi made an outstanding contribution not only to the freedom of India but to that of world peace. He taught us the doctrine of non-violence, not as a passive submission to evil, but as an active and positive instrument for the peaceful solution of international differences. He showed us that the human spirit is more powerful than the mightiest of armaments. He applied moral values to political action and pointed out that ends and means can never be separated, for the means ultimately govern the end. If the means are evil, then the end itself becomes distorted and at least partially evil. Any society based on injustice must necessarily have the seeds of conflict and decay within it so long as it does not get rid of that evil.

All this may seem fantastic and impractical in the modern world, used as it is to thinking in set grooves. And yet we have seen repeatedly the failure of other methods and nothing can be less practical than to pursue a method that has failed again and again. We may not perhaps ignore the present limitations of human nature or the immediate perils which face the statesmen. We may not, in the world as it is constituted

today, even rule out war absolutely. But I have become more and more convinced that so long as we do not recognise the supremacy of the moral law in our national and international relations, we shall have no enduring peace. So long as we do not adhere to right means, the end will not be right and fresh evil will flow from it. That was the essence of Gandhi's message and mankind will have to appreciate it in order to see and act clearly. When eyes are bloodshot, vision is limited.

I have no doubt in my mind that world government must and will come for there is no other remedy for the world's sickness. The machinery for it is not difficult to devise. It can be an extension of the federal principle, a growth of the idea underlying the United Nations, giving each national unit freedom to fashion its destiny according to its genius, but subject always to the basic covenant of the world government.

#### Banish Fear

We talk of rights of individuals and nations but it must be remembered that every right carries an obligation with it. There has been far too much emphasis on rights and far too little on obligations; if obligations were undertaken, rights would naturally flow from them. This means an approach to life different from the competitive and acquisitive approach of today.

Today fear consumes us all, fear of the future, fear of war, fear of the people of the nations we dislike and who dislike us. That fear may be justified to some extent. But fear is an ignoble emotion and leads to blind strife. Let us try to get rid of this fear and base our thoughts and actions on what is essentially right and moral, and then gradually the crisis of the spirit will be resolved, the dark clouds that surround us may lift and the way to the evolution of world order based on freedom will be clear.

### **UPROOT COMMUNALISM**

( Continued from Page 618 )

but that does not mean that the ancient glorious heritage of this country will be destroyed. Obviously a country where 85 per cent of the population are Hindus will be governed according to standards which will be acceptable to the vast majority of the people.

But there again, Sir, the vast majority of the people will not do anything which will go against the legitimate interests of any minority community; that goes without saying. We do not want to follow copy-book maxims; we want that our newly-born freedom should be developed in such a way in the social, economic and political fields, that we can earve for ourselves our own place in the comity of free nations of the world, proud of what we have done in the past and hopeful of what we can do in the future.



PRIME MINISTER IN ORISSA: (Top) Pandit Nehru at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Cuttack, during his recent visit to Orissa. Here the Prime Minister is inspecting model of a farm house. (Below) The Prime Minister at the Jharsuguda Aerodrome



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June 1, 1948

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

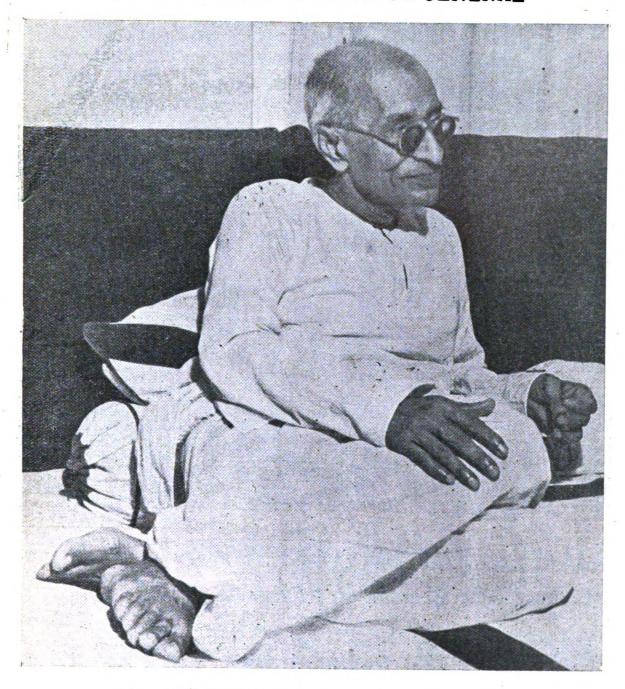
PRICE ANNAS



Pandit Nehru autographs his "Discovery of India" and "Autobiography" for His Grace Bishop Vahan Kostamish of Armenia, Prelate of the Diocese of Iran and India

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FORMAT:— Headings, sub-titles and rold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official	Rajasthan Union 🕳 622
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### FIRST INDIAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL



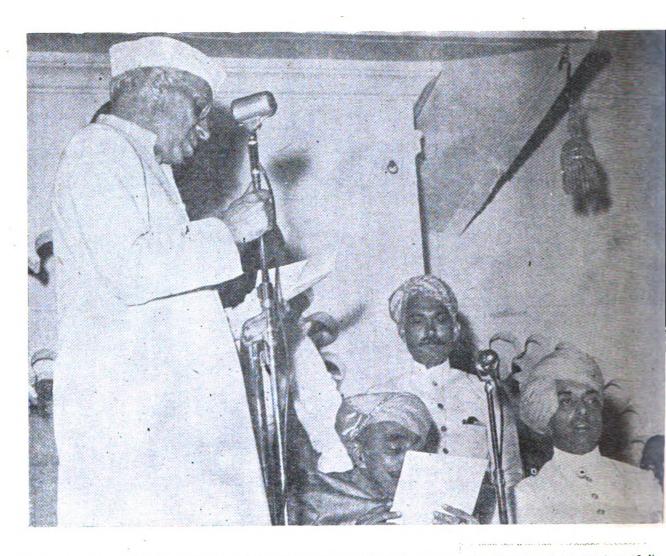
Sri C. Rajagopalachari to Succeed Earl Mountbatten of Burma

It is officially announced from Buckingham Palace that the King, on the recommendation of His Majesty's Government of India, has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of Sri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the present Governor of West Bengal, as Governor-General of India, in succession to the Earl Mountbatten of Burma who will relinquish his

appointment on June 21, 1948, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 4.

### HONORARY COLONEL

His Excellency Sri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari has been made an Honorary Colonel of the 5th (Bengal) Urban Infantry, Indian Territorial Force from February 27, 1948.



### RAJASTHAN UNION RECONSTITUTED

### Udaipur Ruler Sworn in as Rajpramukh

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the Union of Rajasthan in its reconstituted form with Udaipur, the principal State of Rajputana, a new member on April 18.

The 63-years-old Maharana of Udaipur was sworn in as the Rajpramukh for life and the Rulers of Kotah, Bundi, and Dungarpur as Vice-Presidents of the Union for a period of five years.

The covenant signed earlier and the Union of Rajasthan formed on March 25 with the Maharao of Kotah as the Rajpramukh has been scrapped. The new Union comprises Udaipur, Kotah, Bundi, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh, Shahpura, Jhalawar, Tonk and Kishangarh.

It will have an area of 30,000 sq. miles, a population of 4,200,000 and a revenue of over Rs. 3,00,00,000.

In his speech after the swearing-in ceremony, Pandit Nehru recalled the important position held by Mewar in the history of India and said today it was the scene of another historic event.

The true significance of the event, he added, would be judged only later when the history of the present period would be written. Never before had India experienced such upheavals in so short a time as it had during the past few months, he declared.

The great changes which were taking place now had to be viewed not in the context of the present-day circumstances but in relation to the effects which they might produce in times to come. Seen from that angle the formation of various unions was a great event.

"The end of the British rule in India", Pandit Nehru said, "affected all aspects of our life. After the transfer of power on August 15, we had succeeded in managing our affairs peacefully. India would have, by now, attained an enviable position in the comity of nations and could have exercised great influence in international affairs, but unfortunately

Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India administering the oath of allegiance to the Maharana of Udaipur, the new Rajpromukh of Rajasthan Union.

it happened otherwise and certain enemies of India created disturbed conditions in the country. At the same time while certain happenings made us stand disgraced in the eyes of the world, other constructive forces led us towards progress and solidarity. The move to form the various unions of States was one of such forces."

To some people, may be, Pandit Nehrucontinued, the formation of these unions was not welcome, but on important issues affecting the lives of millions of people, too much of importance could not be attached to the personal likes and dislikes of a few individuals. The right or wrong of a thing should not be judged by looking at it from personal angles. What mattered really was the demand of the time and what could be done to meet that demand. It was their duty to act in accordance with the circumstances prevailing at present."

It will be my constant endeavour to promote the good of Rajasthan and to enable it to be a strong and belpful member of the Indian Union", said the Maharana of Udaipur, after taking the coath of allegiance to the new Union.

After welcoming Pandit Nehru and the Rulers of Rajsthan present on the occasion, the Maharana said that his family had the proud privilege to trace its ancestry from Sri Rama.

"This State of Mewar was founded a thousand years ago by Bapa Rawal. During these centuries, it has always been the tradition of my house to take the lead in the task of national defence and development. Rana Sanga led Hindu India against the Mughal invasion of Babar, Maharana Pratap fought long and with unvielding valour against Emperor Akbar, Mahrana Raj Singh led Hindu India in its protest to Emperor Aurangazeb against the imposition of the Jeziya tax in a letter which embodies the lofty spirit of India.

Continuing, he said that as in the defence of India, so also in the political and economic development of the country, it was in keeping with the traditions of his house to be with the people of India. For various reasons it had not been possible so far to achieve a common measure of agreement among the States of Rajputana for the purpose of forming a Rajasthan Union in spite of sincere effort on the part of everybody to achieve that purpose. But simply because a perfect remedy was not available, it was not wise to throw away a good chance of solving an important problem.

He had, therefore, decided that the time had come for the integration of as large a part of Rajasthan as was immediately feasible so that Rajasthan might make a contribution of value to the greatness of India.

The Maharana concluded: "Let us by our united action utilize our natural resources, our common culture and unity of life throughout Rajasthan not only for the welfare of our people but also for the larger good of our motherland".

### POWER TO CANCEL IMPORT LICENCES

A notification in the Gazette of India on May 1 empowers the Government of India, and in certain cases the Chief Controller of Imports also, to cancel or otherwise make ineffective, in one or other of the following circumstances, import licences issued by any officer authorised to do so.

- (i) when it is found, subsequent to the issue of a licence, that the same has been issued inadvertently, irregularly or contrary to rules, fraudulently or through a misleading statement on the part of the importer concerned; or
- (ii) when it is considered necessary to penalise the licensee for breach of the Import Trade Control regulations or for the commitment of an act prejudicial to those regulations; or
- (iii) when it is found that the licensee has not compiled with any one or more of the conditions subject to which the licence may have been issued.

### EAST PUNJAB STATES UNION

"A Covenant for the formation of Patiala and East Punjab States Union was signed on May 5 by the Rulers of the East Punjab States. The inauguration of the Union has been fixed to take place on July 15 and it is expected that all the Uniting States will have transferred their administration by August 20, 1948.

The new State will comprise an area of over ten thousand square miles with a population of about 3½ million and a revenue of about 8 crores. The Union includes the premier Punjab State of Patiala which has a population of about 2 million and has so far been recognised as a viable unit.

One of the important features of the Covenant is the provision for the execution by the Raj Pramukh on behalf of the Union an Instrument of Accession giving power to the Dominion Legislature to make laws for the new State on all matters in list I and list III in Schedule VII of the Government of India Act 1935, except the entries in list I relating to any tax or duty.

The Maharaja of Patiala will be the Raj Pramukh of the Union for life; the Maharaja of Kapurthala will be the Up-Rajpramukh for life.

### Sardar Patel's Message

After the Covenant was signed, Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary, States Ministry, conveyed the following personal message from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for States, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"I am very pleased to know that the Rulers of Patiala, Kapurthala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, Malerkotla, Nalagarh and Kalsia have signed a Covenant integrating their States into Patiala and the East Punjab States Union. With the formation of this Union the process of integration of Indian States is practically complete. As Your Highnesses are aware, this process started as recently as December, 1947, and it is indeed very gratifying that, thanks to the willing consent and patriotic cooperation of the Rulers as well as the people of the States, this difficult work has been brought to a successful close in such an astonishingly short period. But for the patriotic assistance of the Rulers it would have been quite impossible to finish this work so soon. The Princely Order in India has contributed greatly to the strength of our Motherland by their spirit of sacrifice and their prompt decision to subordinate their own personal feelings and interests to the larger interest of the country.

"I should like to add a special word of appreciation to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. Patiala has separate representation in the Constituent Assembly and we have always realised that with its natural resources the State could stand on its legs. His Highness has, however, willingly agreed to pool the resources of his State with those of the other States in the East Punjab, and by so doing he has enabled us to build up a unit comparable in size and

population to some of the largest units which we have hitherto formed. I am particularly grateful to His Highness for the commendable public spirit shown by him. No less am I grateful to Your Highnesses of the other States for your wise and statesmanlike decision.

"I see a great future for the new Union. The area is rich in agricultural and natural resources. I am confident that it will become even more prosperous by sharing in our plans of future development. But what is more important is that the people of these States are naturally industrious and are well-known throughout the world for their extraordinary physical courage and powers of endurance. In their contribution to the defence of the country they have been second to none. I have no doubt that your State will be the bulwark of our country in the days to come".

#### Patiala Ruler's Assurance

The Maharaja of Patiala speaking on behalf of the Rulers of the East Punjab States requested Mr. V. P. Menon to convey their assurance to Sardar Patel that he could count on their sincere effort to make this Union strong. He stated that the East Punjab States had gone through a very difficult period and heavy task lay ahead of them. The Punjab States were geographically so situate as to constitute the frontier of India. He and his brother Princes, he added, were fully conscious of their responsibilities which he hoped, they will be able to shoulder by mutual co-operation and the help of the Ministry of States. The Maharaja added that the people of the Punjab States were primarily soldiers and they looked upon the Sardar as a great soldier. He affirmed that the Sardar will have the fullest support of the new Union in making India strong. The Maharaja of Kapurthala assured of his full co-operation in making the Union RUCCARS.

### STAFF COLLEGE AT WELLINGTON

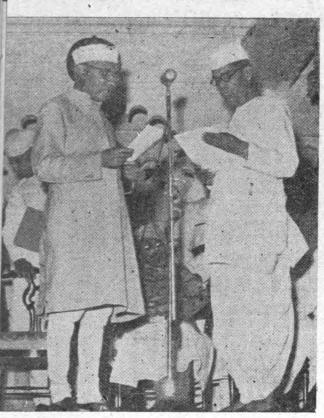
On the occasion of the opening of the Staff College at Wellington on April 5, the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, in a message said that the efficiency of the army to a great extent depended upon the training of its staff officers

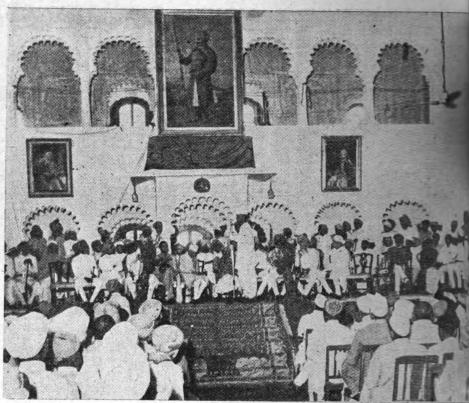
The message which was addressed to Major-General W. D. A. Lentaigne, Commandant of the Staff College, adds: "I greatly appreciate the efforts made by you and your staff to fulfil this immediate requirement by starting this college at so short a notice. I should like to assure you of my fullest support in the solution of whatever problems you may be confronted with in the growth of the new college. I wish you the best of luck and every success".

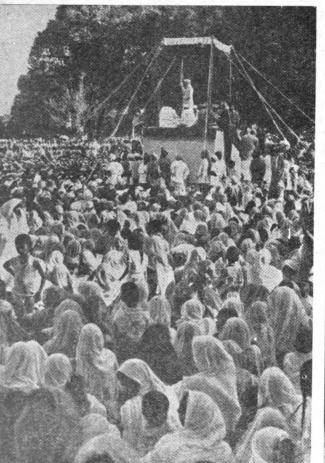
The members of the Staff College staff

The members of the Staff College staff in a reply to the message thanked the Defence Minister for his support and assured him that they were determined to do their best for India and the

Indian Army.

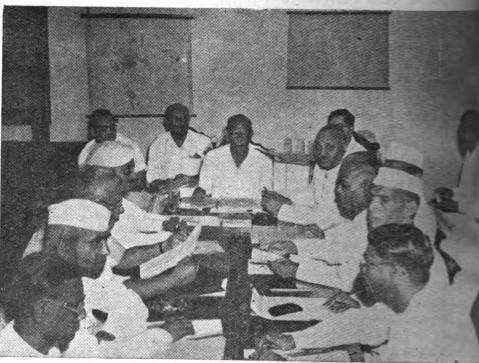






Pandit Nehru addressing a public meeting in Udaipur on April 12

(Above left) Pandit Nehru administers the oath of allegiance to Mr. Maniklal Verma, President of the Rajasthan Union. (Above) Mr. Maniklal Verma, Premier of Rajasthan, address the Durbar held to inaugurate the Union



Rajpramukhs and Prime Ministers of the newly formed States Unions photographed at the conference held on May 6 at the States Ministry in New Delbi

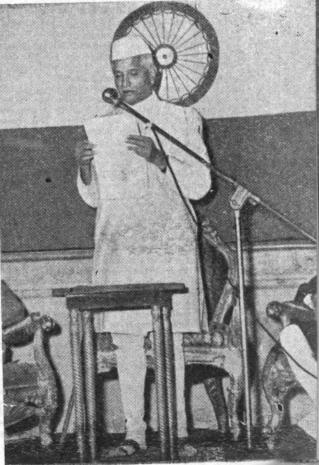


(Above) The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar (second from left), Rajpramukh of Saurashtra takes the oath of office. Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, is to his right. (Righ) Mr. N. V. Gadgil administers the oath of allegiance to the Maharaja of Rews. Rajpramukh Vindhya Pradesh Union





Above) Rulers of Central India in conterence with Mr. V. P. Menon, States Secretary just pefore the signing of the covenant of the Gwalior-Indore-Malwa merger on April 22. (Right)
The United State of Matsya was inaugurated by Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dominion Minister, at a Special Durbar held in Bharatpur on March 17



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### THE HIMACHAL PRADESH

HE Himachal Pradesh, of which Shri N. C. Mehta has been appointed Chief Commissioner, is a special constitutional innovation, which differs from other Unions of States. It has been conceived as a Lieutenant-Governor's Province, which till the Indian constitu-tion now in the making is enabled to permit of the creation of such a unit, will be administered by a Chief Commis-Though the Province is to have a Legislature and an Advisory Council of three Rulers, it will remain constitutionally a Centrally administered area, the object of the Government of India being to take on their own initiative effective measures for the advancement and development of the area and at the same time to secure the participation of its people with governance.

With its southern base in Pathankot Tehsil of East Punjab and its northern boundary rising up to the lofty Tibetan plateau, the new Province extends from the banks of the Jumna in the East to the borders of Jammu and Kashmir in the West, comprising in all an area of more than 11,000 sq. miles with a population exceeding a million. The area presents, moreover, such a striking uniformity in economic conditions, cultural development and historical tradition that the integration of all its 24 States, now complete with the exception of Bilaspur at the moment, may pave the way for the development of the Province as a whole on a regional basis.

#### Rich in Culture and Art

Historically, these States were founded by Rajput immigrants in the 14th and 15th centuries, who had sought these Himalayan retreats to preserve their cultural freedom. Naturally, therefore, the people of the territory are known to be strict and conservative in their religious outlook, inaccessibility and lack of communication tending further to confirm their old world customs and beliefs. But once settled in these sheltered nooks, the Rajput immigrants came to create a new culture which soon expressed itself in song, dance and religious folk-lore and in the art of painting. Particularly in painting their contribution to the central artistic tradition of India has been most valuable and significant. The Kangra School of Art, which marked a special phase of Indian painting at its best and had its hey-day of expression through a whole century between 1750 and 1850, had its origin and inspiration in these Himalayan Hills. The impress of their artistic gift was seen also in their main handicraft namely, woollen textiles, and even today the 'Dhussa or the light woollen blanket, homely yet beautiful, is their speciality and Chamba prints and coloured rumals or cloth are still famous. The Paharis, as the people of this region are called, are known for their habit of reaselessly plying the Takli both while at rest and while at work.

The region is economically backward, compared with conditions in India. Its main crops are maize, rice and potato besides fruits from its famous orchards which are still raised by



Shri N. C. Mehta

old methods unaffected by the benefits of modern science and organisation. In fact lack of easy communication within the territory proves, it is felt, an impediment to any attempt at such methodical exploitation of agricultural produce or timber, which forms another source of wealth in the area. The area is also believed to contain larger mineral deposits, including in particular, silver. It has also enormous possibilities for the development of health resorts and has some noted mineral springs.

Backward as they are economically, the Paharis have qualities which augur

well for the speedy development of their territory. Adaptable, industrious, honest and pleasant mannered as they are, they have also acquitted themselves as brave soldiers; two of the V. Ca. won by the Indian Army during the last war went, it may be recalled, to men from the Hill States.

### **ALWAR INQUIRY FINDINGS**

Having considered the material before them regarding the activities of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh in the Alwar State and the possible complicity of that organisation in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and in other serious crimes, as well as the allegations of support extended to it by the State Government, the Government of India on Feb. 7, 1948, directed an investigation to be made and, pending its conclusion, temporarily took over the administration of the State. The enquiry, which was conducted by Mr. KBL Seth I.C.S., has concluded in so far as it relates to His Highness personally. The Government of India are very gratified to announce that it has been established to their satisfaction that His Highness himself was not concerned in any such activities.

The enquiry has further disclosed that, in the disturbances which led to the departure of the Meos from the State, the Meos were by no means an inoffensive minority. On the other hand, clear proof has been forthcoming to show that it was the Meos who played an aggressive and militant role. They fomented serious communal disturbances in the latter part of 1946 and in 1947. Retaliation followed and the conflict took on the form of a communal feud.

The enquiry concerning Dr. N. B. Khare, formerly Prime Minister of Alwar, and other officials of the State is proceeding.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF KUTCH**

Discussions between the Government of India, His Highness the Maharao of Kutch and popular representatives of Kutch regarding the future administration of the State have resulted in complete agreement.

His Highness has accepted the advice of the States Ministry that having regard to the peculiar geographical position of Kutch and its need for development, the administration should in future be carried on by the Dominion Government.

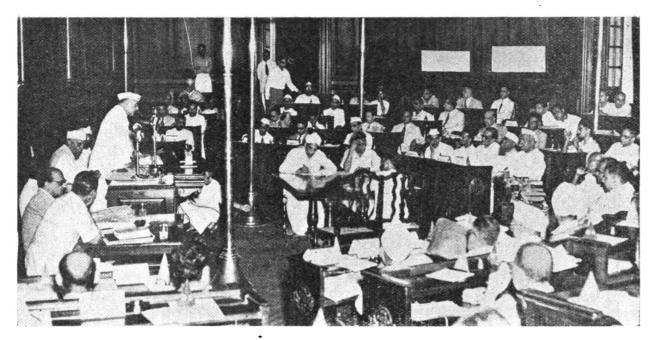
The transfer is to take place from June 1, 1948. Kutch will remain a separate administrative unit and no change in this position will be made except after prior consultation with His Highness.

The agreement prevides for the continuance of all the personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles of His Highness as heretofore enjoyed

The Government of India view with particular gratification the highly patriotic action of His Highness the Maharao. This action has been prompted by His Highness' realisation that the welfare of the State and of India as a whole is involved in the new arrangements.

Sardar Patel has expressed very high appreciation of the manner in which His Highness the Maharao of Kutch has acted ever since the accession of Kutch to the Dominion of India in the larger interests of the whole country. The Government of India have assured His Highness the Maharao of Kutch and the people of the State that this area will be developed and a standard of living and administration will be secured to Kutch not inferior to that prevailing in any of the Provinces. The Government of India have assured His Highness that as soon as the new administration is set up it will have the close association of the people of the State.

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Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram addressing the conference of provincial Premiers and Food Ministers

## MR. JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM REVIEWS FOOD SITUATION

UR food position is not as bad as some people might imagine. If we maintain our determination to take all the steps that are necessary and expedient to help those parts of the country where the supplies are short and prices high the country will have to face no major crisis on the food front," said Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister, Government of India, presiding over the Conference of Provincial Premiers and Food Ministers which opened in New Delhi on April 28.

#### Mr. Jairamdas continued:

"Three months ago, the Government were faced with the grave consequences of the failure of a monsoon in a large number of districts in Madras. We had to put forth every effort to deal with those consequences. It was impossible to deal with them without the whole-hearted co-operation of such parts of our country as were luckily in a position to come to the succour of Madras. The Prime Minister took an active hand in securing this succour, and I am grateful to the Premiers of the more fortunate Provinces for the splendid response they gave to his approach to them in the interests of Madras. I have not the slightest doubt that the continuance of such co-operation from the surplus areas of the country will enable us to tide over our present difficulties.

I will not trouble you with many figures: only a few may suffice as testimony of my belief.

"I would first take our internal supply position. The revised estimates of the yield of seven major foodgrains of the country show that we have produced more than what we did last year, and this inspite of the large set-back to the tune of about 1,200,000 tons in the crop production of Madras due to the failure of the monsoon. Whereas in the year 1946-47 India produced 39,528,000, tons of all these foodgrains, in the year 1947-48 the production was 40,425,000 tons.

This means that we have produced nearly 900,000 tons more than last year though we are still deficit so far as the total needs of the country are concerned. The crops in some parts of Northern India which are coming to the market since the close of the year 1947-48, but not before the close of the calendar year 1948, have been above the average and I have an expectation that this circumstance should materially affect in a favourable direction both our supply and our price position in the coming few months.

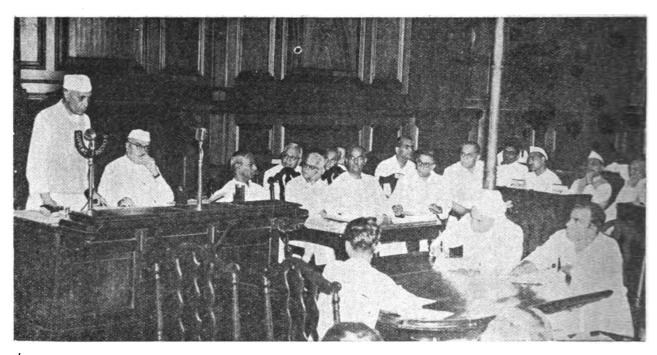
"As you all know, India has had to depend on a certain quantity of imports from outside which have latterly been to the tune of about twenty to twentyfive lakh tons. It is a lucky circumstance that in regard to the import of foodgrains also, the situation has considerably improved in the course of the last two months. In February, it was feared that we may not succeed in securing more than 1,700,000 tons during 1948. To-day, as a result of various factors, the chances of securing 2,000,000 tons from outside India have definitely improved. At the same time there has been improvement in another direction also during these two months.

While in February it was feared that the contributions from the Provinces and States may not exceed 300,000 tons, today we have the confidence that the internal surplus available to the Central Government from the Provinces and States would come up to 500,000 tons. I have a feeling that with the co-operation of all parts of the country, this internal surplus may reach even a higher figure. The change in the situation from February to April has thus been substantial. If we include the 500,000 tons of the carry-over from 1947, our total availabilities of foodgrains for distribution are now calculated to be of the figure of 3,600,000 tons. This situation has enabled the Government of India to increase its allocation to the deficit areas from 2,200,000 tons, our original commitment, to 26,000,000 tons.

### Fuller Co-operation Needed

I need not emphasize that increase of imports from outside is the last thing which any one of us wishes, and it may be possible to reduce our demand from other countries if our own country rose to the occasion in the next few months. Instead of paying crores of rupees to outside countries, we would prefer to give that money to our own people in return for foodgrains. We must speed up the arrival of the time when we need not import a single pound of outside food, and instead of 88 of our 183 districts in the Provinces being deficit, we should have none but surplus ones throughout our Indian Dominion. Despite the improved internal surplus and import position, I do not want that we should be in any mood of self-complacence. The situation in the deficit areas needs all our attention.

The difficulties the poorer sections of the population are experiencing as a result of high prices require speedy measures to deal with their problem. The Government of India are keeping a close watch on the day to day developments. I may venture to express my feeling that we can successfully avoid any unusual development on the food front if we all in the country, the Government,



Pandit Nehru inaugurated the food conference

#### CATASTROPHE ON FOOD FRONT AVERTED

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, inaugurating the Conference said:

"Victory in war is much more important than winning a battle. The country has been able to avert a catastrophe on the food front, but difficulties still remain and there must be no slackening of our efforts".

"The solution of many of our problems depends upon increased food production, he added. For some reason or other enough attention and energy has not been paid on the past towards the realisation of this end which has never been in dispute. We have in hand the execution of mnay major irrigation projects but the results of these will be available only after some years. But there are many ways of increasing production by more concentrated effort".

Referring to the present food situation in the country, Pandit Nehru stated that during the past few months, they had faced many difficulties on the food front, but they had surmounted them successfully, partly because nature had helped them, but mainly because they had helped themselves. Provinces and States had co-operated in a splendid manner, which was a matter of great significance in the solution of other national problems. A catastrophe on the foodfront had been averted, but difficulties still remained and there could be no alackening of effort, because the level of subsistence in India was very low.

In conclusion Pandit Nehru paid a tribute to the Food Minister, "who had worked hard and achieved very substantial results during the last few months".

the trade and the people could more effectively co-operate than has been possible so far. Our problems are not solved by the mere knowledge that we have some surplus inside the country and that we can import a good quantity of foodgrains from other countries. Things will not happen simply by themselves. Food from foreign ports or our country's mandis will not by itself reach the mouths of the poor and the hungry. All these lakhs of tons of food have to be secured in time, secured at reasonable prices, stored properly, moved quickly, distributed efficiently before we will have saved our people from the rigours of less food and higher prices which parts of Madras and Bombay are experi-

#### **Price Trends**

It is my earnest hope that the Government of India will receive the fullest co-operation from all sides. Today it will not be the failure of the last monsoon in some parts of our country but our own failure in making a determined and co-operative effort to deal with its consequences which will be responsible for any hardships our people may go through. Considering the speedy response of several Provinces and States and the manner in which our transport system is rising to the occasion, I feel hopeful that we will be in a position to avoid any major food crisis.

"I would welcome the guidance of the Premiers present here as to the steps which we may take to deal with the problems of the deficit areas whose demands on us may further increase and also the steps which the Government should now take towards further decontrol in regard to the movement and distribution of foodgrains to our people. We have circulated for your consideration a memorandum on the food position during the first quarter of 1948 which reviews the situation in different Provinces and States, and states in conclusion some of the main considerations which are relevant for a decision in regard to further steps]towards decontrol. That memorandum also gives some idea of the gradual fall in prices in Northern India over the pre-decontrol blackmarket price though great divergences disclosed in the price of the same grain in different parts of the country due to difficulty or restriction of movement are also a feature of the price situation.

We are trying to broaden the basis for our price statistics. Until recently we received price reports for only about ninety centres, to-day we are receiving them from over five hundred centres. In regard to some foodgrains the prices are definitely on the decline: in regard to others, they are maintaining a high level in the deficit areas. All the real causes of these high prices and all the steps that should be taken to deal with them will, I hope, be the subject of discussion in this Conference.

#### Movement Bans

"Various suggestions have also been made as to the direction along which our next steps should move. A section of the people is of the view that time has come for the complete removal of interprovincial barriers to the movement of foodgrains. Some would propose the decontrol of free movement of one or other of the foodgrains; some would prefer that free movement may only be allowed towards the deficit areas: some suggest that an experiment in the removal of inter-provincial barriers may be tried for a limited area in the country. These are some of the matters in which I seek your guidance. There is also the question as to what should be our attitude

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towards any section which the trade may be taking or may take, which would create difficulties in the free and full flow of foodgrains to where they are needed.

"I do not want to lose hope in the trading community. We want their co-operation. But they must play fair with the people in this hour of difficulty. These and other problems inherent in the present situation would need your consideration, and the advice you tender to us would be of considerable value in coming to conclusions as to Government of India's future line of action. As you know, the last Conference of the Food Ministers took place in November last. It was intended that the Food Ministers would meet periodically to review the food situation and express their views as to further steps in the programme of decontrol. It is, therefore, intended that after the Premiers of our Provinces and States have given us their general guidance in regard to the food problem as it is today, the Food Ministers will, in the light of that guidance, deal with all items of the Agenda in their full detail.

#### Conference Discussions

The Conference was unanimous of the opinion that there was need for better organisation of railway transport to meet increased demands of grain movements and for adequate supplies of materials and implements necessary for increasing food production.

Mr. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, Premier of Madras, reviewed the situation in his province following decontrol and the failure of the north-east monsoon. He felt that the Government would have to undertake the responsibility of making grain available to about 25 to 30 million people during the period May to October. His suggestions were to increase the present grain allotment of 400,000 tons to Madras, secure additional quotas of petrol and diesel oil and some protection for cottage industries like gur manufacture.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, U. P. Premier, stated that the last kharif crep in the province had been normal and the rabi crop was better than last year's. They were trying to meet their own needs of foodgrains as far as possible from within the province, without being a burden on the Centre. Thus more supplies could be available for other provinces. The removal of controls in the U. P. had had a salutary effect on the people, but it was necessary to enforce stricter measures against hoarding. The lasting solution to the food problem was however increased production. Pandit Pant detailed the steps taken in the U. P. towards this end.

Dr. B. C. Roy, Premier of Bengal, stressed the need for greater grain assistance from the Centre and stated that though procurement was better than in 1947, they were not able to assure more than a 10 oz. ration to the population. He did not favour complete decontrol till the Province had a reserve equivalent to at least three months' requirements.

Mr. H. K. Mehtab, Premier of Orissa, promised maximum exports of rice for the deficit areas.

Dr Gopichand Bhargava, Premier of East Punjab, stated that the food position in his province was satisfactory. They had a bumper gram crop and offered 10,000 tons of it for immediate export to Madras. It might also be possible for them to loan some wheat.

In the absence of Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, who joined the Conference later, Mt. Dinkerrao Desai, the Bombay Food Minister, stated that Bombay was a heavily deficit area in foodgrains and they needed a larger allotment from the Centre. To meet the threat of increasing prices of foodgrains, they were organising a chain of fair price shops for the whole province. For increased food production, Mr. Desai pleaded for larger supplies of diesel oil for the cultivators. If necessary, these might be diverted from industrial concerns.

Mr. A. N. Sinha, Food Minister, Bihar, stated that although grain prices were still high in the province, the policy of decontrol had been welcomed in Bihar. He suggested measures for checking hoarding and asked for more imports for his province.

Mr. R. K. Patil of the C. P. expressed the view that there could not be a uniform food policy for the whole country. The effects of the revised food policy had not been the same, on surplus and deficit provinces. As far as his own rovince was concerned, as a result of decontrol, they had been able to export more rice than last year. They had therefore secured all the advantages of control without its disadvantages.

Mr. O. K. Das, Food Minister, Assam, referred to the procurement difficulties in his province.

Mr. K. C. Reddy, Premier of Mysore, stated that in his state, the policy of progressive decontrol had been fully justified by the results achieved. Even under existing rationing commitments they had enough rice stocks for over six months, but it was their intention to further curtail these commitments shortly. He offered substantial quantities of millet and milo for Madras.

Mr. Pattam Thanu Pillai, Premier of Travancore, declared that his state depended on imported grain to the extent of about  $60^{-0}$  of its requirements. He pleaded for adequate stocks from time to time, as in the past their grain rations had been very low. The present allotment from the Centre was satisfactory but by no means adequate. Mr. Pillai also pleaded for a lower price of rice, as at present about half their annual revenue was spent on

### Weather Service to Farmers

The Department was started in 1875 as a result of the findings of a Famine Commission. From this and the fact that agriculture is India's foremost industry and crop production is primarily dependent on the vagaries of rainfall and weather conditions, a day to day weather service for farmers could have been expected earlier. But the deficiency of communications in the country for long remained an impediment. With the developent of the Broadcasting Organisation the way was made clear for the starting of this service.

When restrictions on the publication of weather news were withdrawn, arrangements were made to issue weather bulletins in different Indian languages for farmers in the rural programmes of All India Radio. From July 1945 the Bombay, Madras, Trichinopoly, Calcutta, Lucknow, Delhi and other stations started broadcasting districtwise forecasts of weather during the next 36 hours with a further outlook for the following two or three days. In this service, weather requirements of individual crops were also taken into account. Simple indigenous equivalents easily understood by farmers were used for meteorological terms.

The bulletins were based on 'crop weather calendars' prepared by the Agricultural Meteorological Section with the co-operation of Provincial and State Agricultural Departments. These calendars showed the nature of the weather reports or warnings useful in respect of particular crops and districts. Supply of these bulletins to newspapers both English and Indian languages was also started from May 1, 1946.

Meteorological services to the public included daily, weekly and monthly reports from Poona and other centres. The Regional Weather Summaries and All India Weather Summaries were restarted from July 1, 1945.

Special services to the army, navy and air forces, civil aviation, shipping and ports and to Government Departments were continued during the year. The number of forecasts supplied to pilots alone was of the order of 80,000. Assistance was also provided to CWINC, CIB and similar Bodies dealing with water and other power projects such as the Kosi, the Mahanadi, the Damodar and the Sindhri projects.

Two notable developments in the organisation of the Department were its reorganisation on a regional basis involving the establishment of seven regional centres at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Karachi, and Lahore from April 1, 1945 and the taking over of the Meteorological Tele-communications System from the Air Command. The organisation for observations was also strengthened by the taking over of stations set up by the USAAF.

During the Fyear the Department carried out many investigations on several important meteorological problems, some of which involved sending up explosion sound waves high up in the atmosphere and radio technique, and also on atmospherics, earthquakes, eic., and brought out a number of papers and scientific notes.

foodgrains. In view of the peculiar conditions of Travancore, they could not embark on a policy of decontrol unless adequate safeguards were provided.

Mr. Jainarain Vyas, Premier of Jodhpur, referred to the upward tendency of foodgrain prices in his state, which was accentuated by a large influx of refugees from Pakistan.

Mr. U. N. Dheber, Premier of Saurashtra stated that his province had become a full-fledged unit only few days ago, but he was already concerned about the high grain prices prevailing in the area. He felt that there should be greater coordination among the Food, Transport and Finance Ministries. Drastic action was also called for against profiteers. Mr. Dheber suggested an immedite allotment of grants to his state which would help steady prices.

Mr. D. Bhandari, Food Minister of Jaipur, expressed the view that the policy of progressive decontrol of food had been an unqualified success. The present grain prices had given fillip to increased food production. Jaipur had declared a small surplus of coarse grains.

#### Sub-Committees Appointed

The Conference appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of the Food Ministers of certain Provinces and States to report on the steps to be taken to prevent hoarding, and three other Sub-Committees consisting of officials from the Central Government, Provinces and States to make recommendations on improving transport arrangements, the supply of materials for increaing food production and the arrangements necessary for ensuring grain supplies to certain classes of the people.

On April 29, the last day of the Conference representatives of the states who have not expressed their views earlier reviewed the food situation in their respective areas. There was general dissatisfaction over the present transport situation and the supply of materials necessary for increasing food production.

The Chief Secretary of Faridkot offered 39,000 tons of gram for deficit areas.

Mr. Shamnath Saraf, Minister, Kashmir, explained the requirements of the two areas of Jammu and Kashmir in relation to the "undeclared war" against the state. He asked for a special allotment of wheat.

Mr. R. L. Vyas, Food Minister of Gwalior, strongly urged for assistance from the Centre in the matter of wheat seed for the next harvest. To deal with the evil of food hoarding, the Minister favoured a campaign to rouse the civic conscience of the people, and the opening of fair price shops. He suggested the establishment of a Central Advisory Committee to deal with problems of mechanised cultivation, irrigation, manures and allied matters.

The representative of Bikaner welcomed the policy of decontrol and stated that the satisfaction of the people more than compensated for the rise in prices. It was possible they would be able to

increase their offer of 15,000 tons of gram to Madras, but they needed some wheat for their refugee population.

Mr. Tejsinha Kothri of Mewar stated that in his state the policy of decontrol had helped to ease the food situation. They needed some more rice.

Mr. Balkrishna Menon, Food Minister, Cochin, stated that their internal production was sufficient for about half the year and the state had to rely on imports for the balance. They were taking measures to increase their production by about 30 per cent. He pleaded for fisnancial assistance from the Central Government for their irrigation schemes.

The Prime Minister of Patiala, Lieut.-General Gurdial Singh Hariko, offered for immediate export 10,000 tons of gram, 6,000 tons of bajra and 2,000 tons of barley.

Mr. D. V. Gaekwar of Baroda suggested the opening of fair price shops with adequate supplies, to safeguard the interests of the lower middle classes and the poorer sections of the peope.

The Hyderabad Minister offered the state's fullest co-operation in the solution of India's food problem. They were deficit in rice and wheat to the extent of about 70,000 tons. If this were met from the Centre, they would surrender their surplus millets and about 40,000 tons of pulses for the deficit areas.

The Conference also considered three reports of the 4 Sub-Committees ap-

pointed the previous vesterday. The Sub-Committee dealt with measures to be taken against hoarding, problems of transport, the supply of materials required for increasing agricultural production and the feeding of special classes of people. Various suggestions were made in regard to the report on transport which would be considered by the Government of India. The report of the last Committee will be circularised to the various Governments for eliciting their opinion.

Winding up the proceedings of the Conference, Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram said: "My feelings have been with those areas where the people have not adequate food and funds to meet their requirements. India is one and both our difficulties and favourable circumstances are common property. The main question is the difficulty experienced by certain provinces and states in meeting the day to day requirements of the people. With the co-operation of such parts as have lower prices and probably fair stocks and if we are able to maintain our morale, the country will be able to deal with the situation without any major difficulty. For 30 years we struggled against mighty odds and step by step we came to success. It is that same spirit that must carry us through the present difficult situation in some parts of the country. If the battles for freedom were of a particular nature. the fight against food shortages is not very different. If we have the same feeling of unity and determination we are bound to succeed".

## TRANSPORT RATIONALISATION AIDS FOOD MOVEMENTS

The steadily mounting demand on India's rail transport today and how this is being met by advance planning and rationalisation of movements by the Central Beard of Transport, is reflected in the increased goods traffic of recent months as compared with that of the last quarter of 1947. Despite the general traffic dislocation resulting from partition, the railways have carried 4,92,451 wagons of essential supplies in March 1948 as against 3,69,694 wagons last October—an increase of 1,22,757 wagons.

Almost the first effect of partition was the general disorganisation of the railway system in North India—the exchange of thousands of Railway personnel coupled with the movement of as many as three million refugees representing the capacity of about a thousand passenger trains, imposed a terrible strain on the Railways. Against this background, the policy of decontrol, introduced in December, would normally have imposed a heavy burden on the Railways.

As a result of decontrol, all movements of foodgrains on private or trade account were raised from Class IV to Class II priority. As, however, many of these movements are not in relation to public need but actuated by the profit motive resulting in cross movements and wastage of scarce transport badly needed for other essential industrial movements like coal, iron, and steel, it has become necessary to plan and organise these movements on the

basis of definite programmes. Such planning became a regular feature of the weekly meetings of the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport which includes representatives of the Ministries of Food, Agriculture and Industry and Supply.

As a result of close co-ordination and rationalisation of transport, movements of grains and pulses have been stepped up, areas deficit in particular commodities have been served and the demand for movement of commodities other than foodgrains have also been met in an increasing measure during the last few months.

The following table gives the number of wagons loaded each month during the period October 1947 to March 1948:--

Grain

and

Other Total,

than

nulses grain and

Oct. 1947	pulses pulses		
	34,045	3,35,649	3,69,694
Nov. 1947	30,149		3,86,419
Dec. 1947	31,885		4.31.969
Jan. 1948	36,411		4.73,440
Feb. 1948	41,015		4,79,634
Mar. 1948	42,293	4,50,158	4,92,451

It will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the total number of wagons loa led, the movement of grams and pulses registering a 33 per cent, rise since decontrol.



Date palms

# GUR FROM PALM TREE New Direction to Ancient Industry

NYONE who has lived in South India A or Bengal will have often seen men climbing palm trees and tapping them for toddy, but few of them know that from the juice of the palm tree gur has been manufactured for centuries. Despite all the progress made in the production of factory sugar, the indigenous palm gur production has survived to this day. In the days of the East India Company palm gur formed an important item of our export trade and even today about 175,000 tons of gur is made from the juice of palm trees in the villages of Bengal and Madras. No large investment is necessary and no elaborate technique is involved; the tools for tapping are prepared by village smiths and there are no inherent dangers of centralised production leading to the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few.

There are three species of palm, the date, palmyra and sago; the tree can be grown on non-agricultural waste land and needs neither manuring, irrigation nor protection against wild animals. If grown on the bunds of fields or banks of rivers and canals, the palm prevents land erosion, and as a wind breaker it protects crops in the fields. Its various parts, the leaf, stalks, trunk and fibre, are all useful to the agriculturist for making matting, ropes, baskets, water drains, tencing and sheds. Its tender leaves provide useful fodder for cattle. Unlike the sugar cane, which perishes seasonally, the palm is a perennial supplier of sugar and the palmyra variety is a centenarian.

The palmyra yields 6,000 lbs. per acre of gur; the yield from the sugar-cane is about just half. Even on the assumption that palmyra gur and sugar cannot compete against the mill product, the need for an increase, in gur production will be clear from the figures of per capita consumption of gur and sugar in

India with those in other countries. As against an annual average of 26 lbs. in India it is 75 lbs. in U. K. and 85 lbs. in U. S. A.

One of the greatest handicaps of the Indian agriculturist is the lack of subsidiary occupation for guaranteeing an equilibrium in his agrarian economy. As about 80 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, only decentralised industries requiring small investments, handy tools and simple technique can adequately serve the purpose. All these requirements are fulfilled by palm gur manufacture. The men tap the juice and the women boil it. All village artisans, the potter, the smith, the tanner, and the carpenter contribute to the successful prosecution of palm gur production.

Although there are thousands of palm trees in other provinces besides Madrag and Bengal, palm gur is almost unknown in other areas. Only about 10 per cent of the trees are used in the manufacture of toddy by fermenting the juice; the other trees serve no purpose. Because of the rapid progress of prohibition, even these few trees will remain unutilized, and a large number of tappers will have to find alternative employment.

Realising the importance of palm gur manufacture as a cottage industry and as a means of providing employment to a large number of toddy tappers, the Central Ministry of Agriculture has sanctioned a sum of over Rs. 1,40,000 for the current year for developing palm gur scheme in the provinces. This work has been entrusted to Mr. Gajanan Naik, an inmate of Mahatma Gandhi's ashram at Sewagram, Wardha, who has to his credit a great deal of pioneering effort in connection with the preparation of gur and sugar from palmyra juice.

He is at present engaged on three aspects of the problem, the collection of

statistics regarding the number of palm trees of different kinds and state of industry in various provinces, (2) the importance and standardisation of the methods of tapping and (3) standardisation of the methods of preserving tapped juice to provent fermentation and amproving the final product. Considering that the number of tappable palms is estimated at 5 crores the annual gur production in India can be increased by about 10 lakh tons.

It may not also be beyond the possibility of science to develop shorter varieties of palmyra trees not higher than 8 or 10 ft. which can be more easily tapped than at present. For one of the greatest handicaps in the development of this industry is the high labour cost involved, because the climbing of trees is more laborious than the actual tapping.

Among the cardinal features of the present exploratory scheme of Ministry of Agriculture is to evolve methods suited to village conditions and in keeping with the capacity of village workers, who are not familiar with the handling of complicated machinery and cannot afford expensive chemicals.

The juice of the palm, which for ages past has been used to intoxicate the masses can now telp in increasing India's gur production, in improving the low nutrition of her undernourished people and in adding to the country's national income.

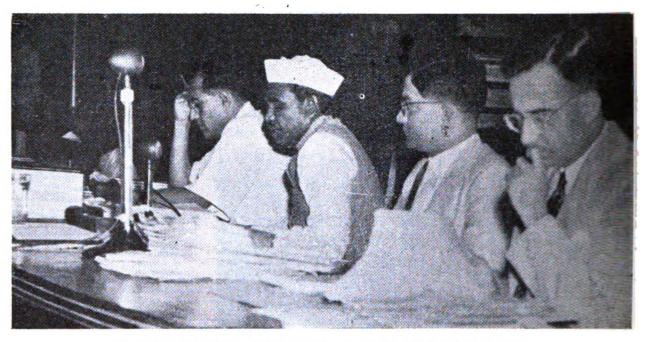
## STEEL BALING HOOPS INDUSTRY

The Government of India's Resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's report dealing with a claim to protection by the steel baling hoops industry is published on April 10 in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 9.

In its report, the Tariff Board has held that the industry is eligible for protection, though in so far as jute baling hoops are concerned the J. K. Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., sole producers at present of jute baling hoops, should in their own interests shift their factory from Cawnpore to Asansol or Calcutta in the Province of West Bengal, where the jute industry is largely localised. In regard to cotton baing hoops, the Mysore Iron and Steen Works have not been long enough in production to decide whether they have reached such a stage as would bring them fully within the terms of paragraph 5 of Commerce Department Resolution No. 218-T(55)-45, dated November 3, 1945, namely, that the industry is established and conducted on sound business lines and that it is likely within a reasonable time to develop sufficiently to be able to carry on successfully without protection or state assistance.

The Government of India have accepted this recommendation and will impose a protective duty of 30 per cent against imports from the United Kingdom and adjust the standard rate of duty on this basis, provided the conditions prescribed in the preceding paragraph are fulfilled and the J. K. Iran and Steel Co., Ltd. convert themselves into a public limited company.





Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, addressing Labour Ministers' Conference

# CENTRAL BOARD FOR INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

The Conference of Labour Ministers of Provinces and important States which met in New Delhi on May'3 and 4 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, Government of India, decided that an Expert Committee should be set up to advise on what should be the fair remuneration for capital and how surplus profits should be shared between capital and labour.

It was agreed that this committee should be composed of three representatives each of employers and workers, an economist and representatives of the Labour, Industry and Supply, Commerce and Finance Ministries of the Government of India. It was suggested that the Committee should be required to submit its report by the end of June.

The Conference decided that Tripartite Advisory Committees should be set up both at the Centre and in the Provinces to implement the industrial truce resolution adopted last December. The Advisory Committees would set up various sub-committees to deal with wages, production, industrial relations, housing etc. as might be found necessary. The Central Advisory Committee which would be the pivot of the industrial truce machinery would consider the report of the Expert Committee on fair remuneration to capital.

The sub-committee on Wages under the Central Advisory Committee, it was decided, should lay down the policy to be adopted in determining fair wages and in prescribing minimum wages under the alinimum Wages Act. It was recognised that sample agricultural surveys should be commenced without delay and the questionnaire prepared by the Central Government for collecting statistical and other information in regard to agricultural labour should now be finalised.

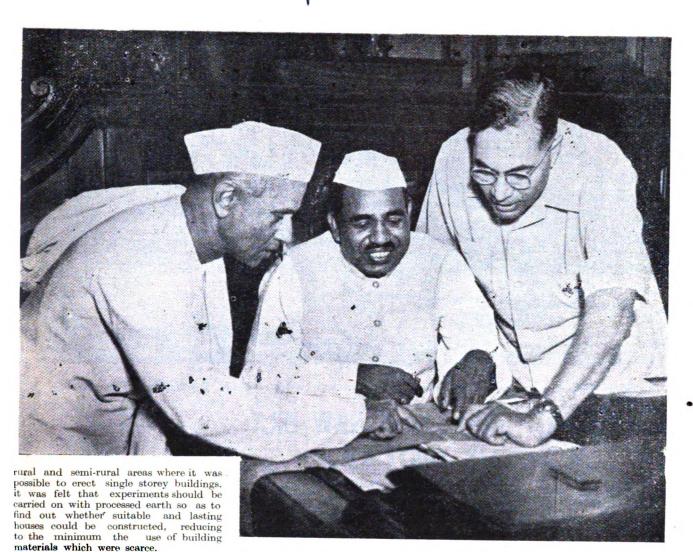
The Conference decided that the Central Government should set up a Housing Board and pass the necessary legislation to enable the Board to discharge its functions such as raising of a

loan, the building of houses etc. It was agreed that for a housing scheme special financial provision was necessary. Various schemes including a proposal for capitation tax on employment were examined. It was recommended that details should be worked out quickly and that the Government of India should take an early decision. In these discussions, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty Minister for Finance, also participated.

It was recognised that it was impossible to do without cement and steel in places like Bombay where vertical development was necessary. On the other hand, in



Mr. Jagjivan Ram greets Babu Sampurnanand, U. P. Minister



Mr. K. T. Bashyam, Labour Minister in Mysore, explains the State's labour programme to Mr. Jagjivan Ram. Mr. S. Lall, Labour Secretary, is on the right

# PROVIDENT FUND AND BONUS FOR COALMINERS

An Ordinance was promulgated on April 23 conferring powers on the Central Government to frame a Provident Fund scheme and a bonus scheme for persons employed in coalmines in India.

The Ordinance provides that the Central Government may specify the class of employees required to join the provident fund, the conditions under which they may be exempted, the rate, time and manner of payment of contributions both by the employers and the workers and the coalmines to which the scheme should apply. Similarly, in the case of the bonus scheme, it is provided that the Central Government may specify the coalmines to which the scheme should apply, the class of employees who would be eligible and the rates and conditions of the bonus.

Powers are given to the Central Government to provide for the levy of a

charge payable by the employer to meet the cost of administering the provident fund scheme. One of the provisions of the Ordinance is to the effect that a Board of Trustees may be formed consisting of nominees of the Central Government and representatives of employers' and employees' organisations, to manage the provident fund.

The Central Government may appoint inspectors in respect of the schemes with powers to call for information and examine records and registers relating to employment of workers, payment of wages and contributions or bonuses.

The Ordinance also provides for the schemes to be brought into operation with retrospective effect.

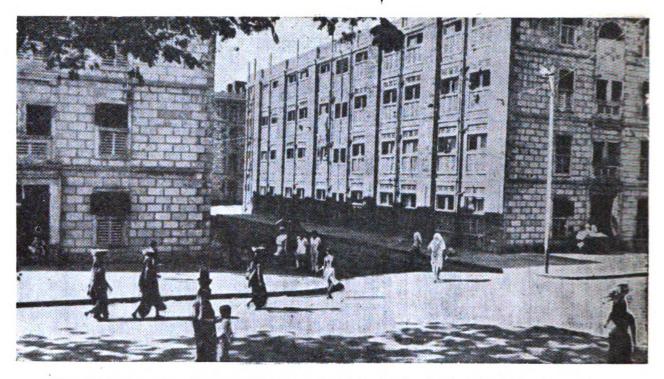
It is understood that details of both the provident fund as well as the bonus scheme would be published soon.

The Conference recommended that Employment should be included as concurrent subject in the New Constitution. It was decided that the Employment Exchanges should be made permanent and their administration ransferrred to the Provinces as early as possible. The Centre should, however, continue to co-ordinate their activities. As regards Training Centres set up by the Labour Ministry, it was decided that they should be continued for a further year on the existing basis and should be handed over simultaneously with the Employment Exchanges to the Provinces.

The Conference also decided that in view of the revised Factories Bill now before the Legislature, Factory Inspectorates in the Provinces and States should be strengthened so that an adequate inspection service might come into existence by the time the new Act comes into force.

The Conference was attended by the Labour Ministers of Bombay, the United Provinces, Madras, the Central Provinces, Orissa, East Punjab, Assam, Bihar, Mysore, Indore, Travancore and Cochin, besides the officials of the Ministries of Labour, Finance and Industry and Supply.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1948



Where Bombay's workers live—a working class colony built by the Bombay Development Department

# INDUSTRIAL TRUCE : A NEW ERA IN INDIA'S HISTORY

ciliation. It will be the test of our patriotism and of our capacity to rise to the occasion. The implementation of the truce must be accorded top priority in our national programme and I most earnestly appeal to you all to do your utmost to make it a reality. So far as the Government are concerned, I would like to give the assurance that we shall spare no effort to fulfil each and every

When the Industrial Truce Resolution was adopted by the Industries Conference, I felt that a new era had dawned in India which would see the orderly and progressive liquidation of all forms of exploitation in fields, factories and elsewhere.

obligation that is imposed upon us.

NAUGURATING the three-day session of the Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi on April 19, the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, referred to the truce resolution adopted by the Industries Conference and expressed the view that a new era had dawned in India which would see the orderly and progressive liquidation of all forms of exploitation in fields, factories and elsewhere. He said:

"The Indian Labour Conference was the first tripartite organisation to be set up in the country. We have now gained wider experience of the working of tripartite machinery and the tendency will be to extend its scope and functions. We have already set up tripartite Industrial Committees for coal, cotton and textiles, and plantations. We hope shortly to set up similar Committees for jute, cement, tanning and leather, but the most important development of tripartite machinery will be in connection with the implementation of the Industrial Truce Resolution, to which I shall presently refer.

"The resolution on industrial truce adopted at the Industries Conference in December last is a tribute to your patriotism and constructive effort. It is an evidence of your anxiety to help in tiding over the present crisis. But its implementation is yet to come. It will demand your most earnest endeavour, sacrifice, restraint and that spirit of adjustment and accommodation which is an indispensable condition of compromise and con-

#### Bloodless Revolution

"When I view existing economic conditions I often feel tempted, in the words of Omr Khayyam, "to grasp this sorry scheme of things entire, shatter it to bits-and then remould it nearer to the heart's desire". But this is not always practicable and I might be destroying much that is worthy of preservation. To expect radical and revolutionary changes overnight is a method only of violent revolution. I am opposed to violence and I would prefer to achieve my objective with the co-operation of all parties. It is for this reason that I prefer the path of co-operation rather than the path of revolution. I am also confident that in tripartite: discussion each party will in time lose its angularities and adjust itself to the common interest of all.

Children's playground among workers' tenements in Bombay is a very lively place during out of school hours



The Industrial Truce Resolution veritably marks new era in the history of our country. If implemented, it will bring about a bloodless economic revolution.

"The tripartite machinery which is proposed to be set up for the implementation of the Industrial Truce Resolution will function at various levels-the Centre, the Regions and the Units. The details of this machinery will, I hope, receive your careful consideration. In this connection I should like to acknowledge that the tripartite machinery which we are setting up in India owes much to the International Labour Organisation which was set up after the First World War. In fact, the tripartite principle was first embodied in that organisation. In October last a preparatory Asian Regional Conference was held in Delhi under the auspices of the I. L. O. and this gave us a opportunity of observing the working of the tripartite machinery in the international sphere.

" I am sure that all those who attended this Conference, the first of its kind in Asia, will agree with me, that it played an important part in creating a healthy desire and the determination in Asian countries to improve social standards. In this respect India is not lagging behind. On the contrary, she is well in advance of most Asian countries in her labour legislation and labour administration. This position she has been able to attain as a result of the continuous effort of the recent years during which important measures such as the Minimum Wages Act, the Employees' State Insurance Act. the Trade Union Amendment Act and many others have come on the Statute Book. I am hoping that in this respect this ancient land of ours will set an example which will be followed by other Asian countries."

(Continued on Page 636)

#### APPEAL TO LABOUR

"We are gratified that so far as the machinery contemplated by the Government of India to implement the industrial truce is concerned, there has been more or less unanimity; we will try our best to set up the machinery as early as we can and to implement the various objectives laid down in the truce resolution", assured the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, in his concluding speech to the Conference on April 21.

The Labour Minister appealed to the representatives of employers and employees to advance the condition of the common man in the country. Our independence, our high ideals and ideologies would have no meaning he added, if we could not add to the wealth of the country and thereby raise the standard of living of the common man. This could be done only by increasing production and by rational distribution. How long it would take to do so was not easy to envisage. But nobody would disagree with the objective that there should be planned production and rational distribution.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram emphasized that the only way by which all parties could help production was to try to resolve differences as soon as they arose. If all the three

(Continued in Col. 3)

## DETERMINATION OF FAIR WAGES

### Standing Labour Committee Discussions

The question of implementing the Industrial Truce Resolution passed by the Industries Conference last Decembras taken up on April 16 by the Standing Labour Committee at its two-day session in New Delhi. The Hon'ble Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Bombay, was in the chair.

Proposals for setting up a machinery for the study and determination of fair wages, conditions of labour and fair remuneration for capital were put before the committee by the Central Government in the form of a memorandum.

According to the memorandum, this machinery would function at different levels, Central, Regional and Unit. There would be a Central Advisory Council to cover the entire field of industry with Committees under it for each major industry. These committees would be split up into sub-committees to deal with production, industrial relations, wages, profits etc.

The regional machinery would be composed of Provincial Advisory Boards, Provincial Committees for each major industry and various sub-committees.

The Works Committees and Production Committees for each Industrial establishment would form the base of the pyramid. While these two would be bi-partite in character, all the other committees above would be tripartite. The Works and Production Committees might have common personnel although their functions might be different.

#### Labour Relations

The memorandum sets out how labour relations machinery both at the centre and in the provinces is being strengthened. Permanent labour tribunals are being established by the Central Government at Dhanbad, Calcutta, Bombay Madras and Cawnpore. These will deal with major disputes not only in the Central but also in the provincial spheres. In addition ad-hoc tribunals or provincial standing tribunals will be set up for adjudication of lesser disputes.

As regards housing, the memorandum points out that a Housing Board is to be set up shortly for constructing a million houses for workers within a period of 10 years.

Earlier, the Committee discussed the problem of decasualisation of labour in the main industries. A scheme for this purpose adopted by the Bombay Government envisages the establishment of an Employment Exchange at the industrial centre to maintain a 'Badli' register. The employers should recruit only from those registers at the Exchange and should also provide for training to the workers. The Committee felt that before coming to any definite conclusion, the experiment should be watched.

The industrial truce machinery suggested by the Central Government was approved by the Committee on April 17.

The machinery proposed consists of works and production committees at the base, a regional machinery of provincial boards and committees and a central advisory council with committees for each major industry and sub-committees. In addition, it was proposed to strengthen the existing labour relations machinery both in the centre and in the provinces and to establish permanent labour tribunals.

The committee was of the view that the Central Advisory Council should lay down the general principle covering the entire field of industry in regard to questions like the determination of fair remuneration for capital, while the other committees should deal with the details.

It was urged that as soon as all the committees had been established, Government should consider setting a time limit by which these committees should complete their work in regard to the determination of fair wages and fair remuneration for capital.

The European Wing of the Army in India Reserve of Officers will be treated as having been disbanded with effect from August 14, 1947, says a Defence Ministry, Press Note.

Officers of Indian nationality who were members of the European Wing and who are willing to be transferred to the Indian Wing will be deemed to have been so transferred with effect from August 15, 1947.

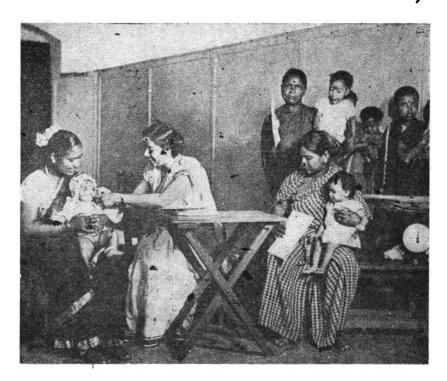
Officers affected are advised to intimate their willingness to the Military Secretary, Army H. Q. India as soon as possible

(Continued from Col. 1)

parties viz., employers, workers and Government discharged their duties and obligations not only to the parties concerned but to society as a whole, much of the difficulties and disputes would be no more.

In conclusion the Labour Minister reiterated that for increasing production and thereby improving the condition of the working classes and of the country as a whole it was essential that every interruption in production must be averted.

The Conference generally approved of Government proposals regarding collection of labour, statistics, Employment organisation and de-casualisation of labour in the main industries.



A Lady Health Officer examines children at a clinic

Labour Legislation and labour administration have not received adequate attention except in recent years. The sudden increase of activity has involved very heavy strain on the Ministry of Labour in the Government of India and also on Provincial Governments. Labour, as you are aware, is a 'Concurrent' subject and many aspects of labour problems fall within the Provincial sphere. Let me here pay a tribute to the able manner in which Provincial Governments have handled their labour problems which often have been as complex as any we had to deal with at the Centre. It is by the co-ordinated tackling of the problems, both at the Centre and in the Provinces that industrial peace can be achieved. I have no hesitation in saying that Provinces are now becoming increasingly vigilant in the due enforcement of labour laws although the need for economy so obvious in these days has not permitted some of them to maintain as large a staff as they would have wished.

The problem of bringing up the administrative arrangements to the required level will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of Labour Ministers and we hope to devise means which will ensure that labour laws shall be adequately enforced. In the past, Indian States, generally speaking, were lagging behind in labour administration. With merger and the integration of States there should be a great improvement. I am glad to acknowledge the whole-hearted co-operation which we have received from the more advanced States. In the changed circumstances it will be easier for Indian States as a whole to join hands with the Provinces in the development of social policy.

I do not propose to detain you much longer. You have before you a heavy agenda. The notes which have been orwarded to you will show in detail

the rough programme of work chalked out for the coming year which we on this side feel confident we can tackle with your continued co-operation and goodwill. Before concluding I would like to refer to one other matter.

I have heard it occasionally said that Government is siding with labour or that it is siding with management. The fact of the matter is that it has to act in the common interest and to the common good. Let me assure my friends on both sides that if they respond to the needs of the country and observe the industrial truce, both in letter and in spirit, they will have no cause of complaint and will be helping their own interests as well as promoting the well-being of the courtry".

## PROVIDENT FUND FOR WORKERS

The desirability of instituting compulsory provident funds for industrial workers was generally accepted by the Conference. It was, however, felt that the Central Labour Ministry should prepare a detailed scheme within about six months of the working of the compulsory provident fund scheme for coalminers and place it before the Standing Labour Committee.

The policy and administration of Central, Provincial and State Governments in respect of labour during the last year was also reviewed by the Conference.

Among the activities of the Central Government that were brought to the attention of the Conference were the various measures of labour legislation in report of factories, dock-workers, coalmines welfare. minimum wages, health insurance, trade unions, etc, the training of factory inspectors and the steps

taken to establish an Industrial, Safety Health and Welfare Museum; the setting up of the Board of Conciliation and the Fact Finding Committees for Coalmine and the enforcement of their recommendations; the housing and other welfare schemes for coalminers; the formation of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare fund: the establishment of tripartite industrial committees; the working of the central industrial relations machinery and the enquiries and surveys conducted by the Labour Bureau.

#### Uniformity of Provinces

It was pointed out on behalf of the Central Government that every attempt was being made to ensure uniformity and co-ordination between the Centre, Provinces and the States, but India was a large country almost the size of Europe without Russia. There were inherent difficulties owing to distances and imperfect communications. As regards industrial committees, there was need for co-ordination which might be effected through the Standing Labour Committee or by a special committee of the Conference.

It was disclosed that in view of the difficulties of acquiring coal-free land for building houses for miners, a scheme to build townships away from the coal area and provide the worker with transport was being considered by the Government. The Industrial Disputes Act would be revised shortly in the light of its actual working. Pamphlets in various Indian languages would be brought out soon for the benefit of workers.

The Conference also discussed the replies and comments of the Government of India to I. L. O. questionnaires and reports on wages, freedom of association and protection of the right to organise, application of the right to bargain collectively, vocational guidance and the revision of Conventions on night work.

## ALL PARTIES FAVOUR INDUSTRIAL PEACE

The truce resolution adopted by the Industries Conference last December was accepted by the Conference, when it resumed its session the next day.

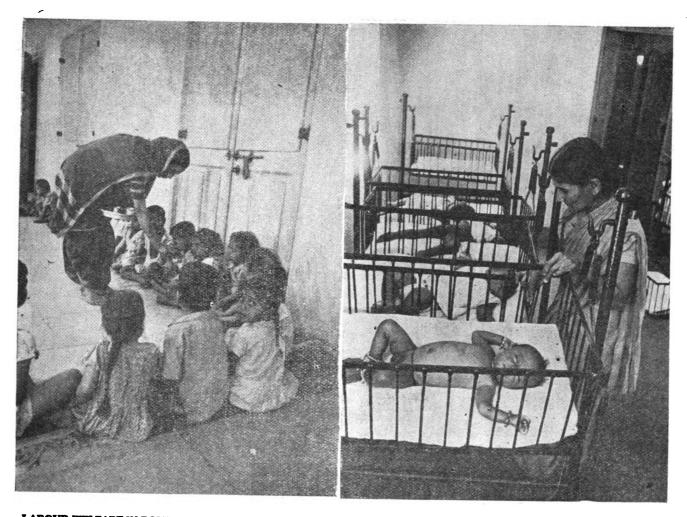
The conference generally approved of the machinery proposed by the Central Government to implement the truce. It was, however, felt that the question of fair wages to labour and fair remuneration to capital should be examined at expert level.

It was urged that steps should be taken to establish immediately the proposed machinery for industrial truce and to make it work efficiently.

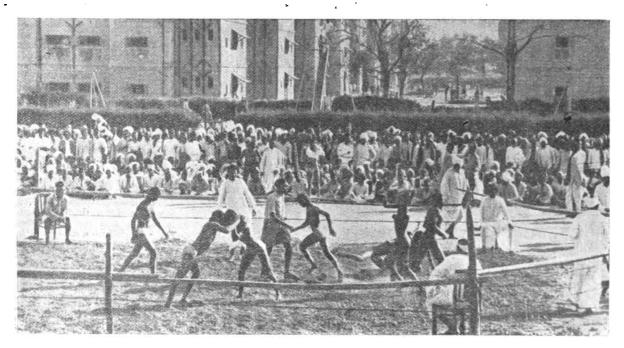
It was also urged that the industrial relations machinery should be used in all cases of disputes by all parties concerned so as to promote industrial peace.

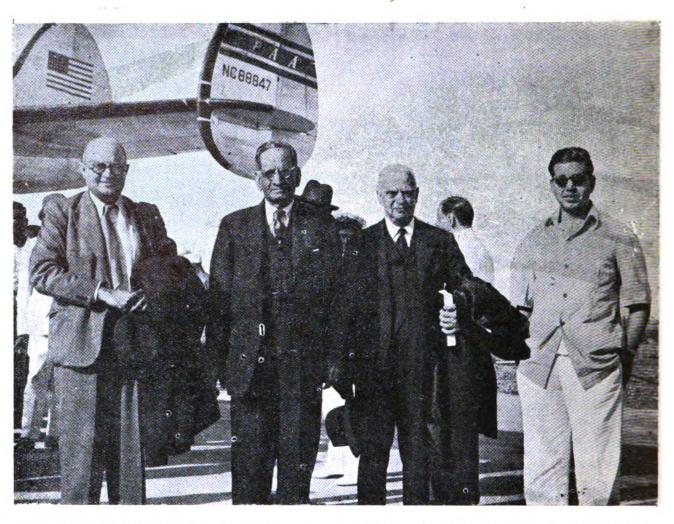
As regards housing, the Labour Minister revealed that this question would be discussed at the forthcoming Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference in May after which the Government of India would announce in clear terms their programme of construction of workers' houses for the next twelves months.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1948



LABOUR WELFARE IN BOMBAY: (Left) Children in a nursery school run by a Bombay Labour Welfare Centre get a drink of milk after their one-hour siesta in the early afternoon. (Right) Mill Workers' Children sleeping in a cool and airy room in the mill creche while their mothers are busy working in the mills. (Bottom) The Bombay Welfare Labour Centres among the larger groups of chawls have gymnasia with wrestling pits and shower baths





Indian Delegation to U. N. Security Cauncil returned to New Delhi on April 28. (L. to R.) Mr. N. M. Buch;
Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and Mr. M. C. Setalvad

## INDIA REJECTS U. N. RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

## Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar's Speech In Security Council

R. N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, speaking in the U. N. Security Council on April 19, explained India's rejection of the latest joint resolution (see page XVI) for settling the Kashmir dispute. He said

thanks of myself, my delegation and my Government to the President and his predecessors in the presidential chair for the time, labour and trouble they all have given to the study and understanding of the problem which we brought to the notice of the Security Council. The President's approach has been objective throughout and he has unstintingly drawn upon his diplomatic gifts and experience for helping the disputant countries to reach an amicable settlement here at Lake Success if possible. If that settlement has not yet finally been reached, the responsibility

for the failure cannot be attached to any one of the four Presidents personally. India is grateful to them all for the consideration, courtesy and help shown throughout both the debates in the Security Council and the consultations in private.

India is a peace-loving nation and is determined always to act both in national and international affairs so as to live up to that description of a member of the United Nations. Her faith in the principles, ideals and hopes that inspire the Charter, particularly in that part of it which relate to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, is sincere and whole-hearted.

It will continue to be so unless and until it is shattered by the compelling logic of facts relating to the actual functioning of the United Nation's organs over a continuous period and in respect of a number of cases. We in India take the Charter seriously. We should not otherwise have come here. We fondly hoped that the final response to cur transparent and simple trust in the utility of this Security Council for a pacific settlement would sustain both our faith and our judgment.

We have been at this question for nearly four months. Towards the end of our debates in the first phase, comprising the dark days not only of January but of the early part of February, I felt that the trend of opinion in the Security Council on what we regarded as the fundamentals was such that it had then been allowed to crystallize itself into a resolution the result would have been an impasse. I, therefore, asked for and after some hesitation obtained a temporary interruption of the consideration of the question by the Security Council. The adjournment not only gave me and my delegation the opportunity we badly wanted for a personal discussion with our Government but, as subsequent indications have shown, it also enabled the members of the Security Council to study the problem afresh and at leisure

during the interval and review their previous reactions to its different aspects.

The result was that when we resumed the discussion in March the prospects seemed distinctly more hopeful. In apprising the Security Council of the results of my consultations with my Government, I said on March 10 that our stand on the fundamentals would continue to be the same as before my departure for India. I stressed, however, our readiness to consider any suggestions for ensuring, to the maximum degree possible, freedom and impartiality of a plebiscite, and I indicated that this should be quite possible without affecting our stand on the fundamentals. Between March 10 and March 18, Dr. Tsiang who was then President of the Security Council, had informal consultations with the delegations of the two parties as well, I have reason to believe, as with the representatives of two or three other delegations of the Security Council members.

The outcome of these consultations was the draft resolution which Dr. Tsiang placed before the Security Council for consideration on March 18. He explained its principal features in a speech which was followed by a short debate. The Security Council then adjourned and the question was placed on the agenda again only a month later. The interval has been employed in further informal consultations and the consequent successive revisions of Dr. Tsiang's draft, the last of which is the one now under consideration.

#### "Valiant Attempt at Compromise"

If I may permit myself to say so Dr. Tsiang's draft resolution of March 18 was a valiant attempt at a just compromise, embodied in the draft articles of the settlement to be accepted by both parties. It broke away courageously from the January-February rut of argument and opinion. However, it was by no means above justifiable criticism from our side. It would have required some amendments before we could accept it in its entirety; but subject to these I straightaway accepted its substance, since it did not commit us to any departure from our fundamentals.

My Government has since endorsed this acceptance and authorized me to repeat it to the Security Council; the cardinal features of the scheme were the following: Firstly, Pakistan should effectively cease giving help in men, material, bases and transit to the invaders and rebels of Jammu and Kashmir. Secondly, while reducing the strength of the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir after fighting had ceased, a minimum was to be retained there which would be sufficient for defence as well as supporting the civil power. There was to be no provision for any other army. Thirdly, the Interim Government of Jammu and Kashmir was to include representatives of the major political parties. Fourthly, a separate plebiscite machinery was to be set up as a formal branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Government which, while deriving its authority from the Government, was to be administered by a director and a number of deputies, nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and func-tioning with the maximum of independence.

## India's Message to Security Council

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The following is the text of the message communicated by the Government of India to the Security Council:

- The Government of India have given the most careful consideration to the Resolution of the Security Council converning their complaint against Pakistan over the dispute between the two countries regarding the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Government of India regret that it is not possible for them to implement those parts of the Resolution against which their objections were clearly stated by their Delegation, objections which, after consultation with the Delegation, the Government of India fully endorse.
- "If the Council should still decide to send out the Commission referred to in the preamable to the Resolution, the Government of India would be glad to conjer with it".

This scheme exhibited a happy combination of healthy features. It avoided any unnecessary or improper encroachment by outside authorities on the sovereign powers exercisable in the State by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and by the Government of India within their respective constitutional spheres. It respected constitutional proprieties in the relations which in a federal structure should subsist between the Government of India and the Government of the State which had accoded to India. Above all, it gave due recognition in arrangements it contemplated to the obvious requirements of administrative workability.

#### Scheme Twisted out of Shape

It is a matter of profound disappointment and regret to us that in the general conferences held informally by the President with his colleagues of the Security Council—including the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom—Dr. Tsiang's scheme has been twisted out of shape in essential particulars. The approach has been altered in important respects. Practically every amendment of substance to the resolution of March 18, which has been made by way of alteration or addition, is from our point of view a definite worsening of our position and constitutes a breach—in some cases a violent one—into our fundamentals. The scheme of March 18 has in the draft resolution before the Security Council thus been so attenuated that it is not now possible for us to agree to the draft resolution.

As pointed out by Dr. Tsiang, there were three earlier drafts of the present draft resolution. We attempted to get each of them so amended as to bring them into accord with our fundamentals. Our attempts were unsuccessful. We do not, therefore, at the present stage, when a majority of the members of the Security Council had pledged their support to the resolution, propose to suggest any specific amendments.

If we were free and felt inclined to do so, there are amendments which we should like to see made practically in all the clauses—in some amendments of substance and in others of drafting. I have, in the circumstances in which we find ourselves today, decided to content myself with stating our main objections to the substance of the draft resolution and with placing before you and on record my strong, opposition to its adoption by the Security Council as it stands.

Perhaps the most unsatisfactory feature of the draft resolution now before the Security Council is the scant consideration that it gives to the issue on which we invoked the jurisdiction of the Security Council under the Charter, an issue whose satisfactory handling by the Security Council is essential for avoiding a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security.

#### Pakistan help to Insurgents

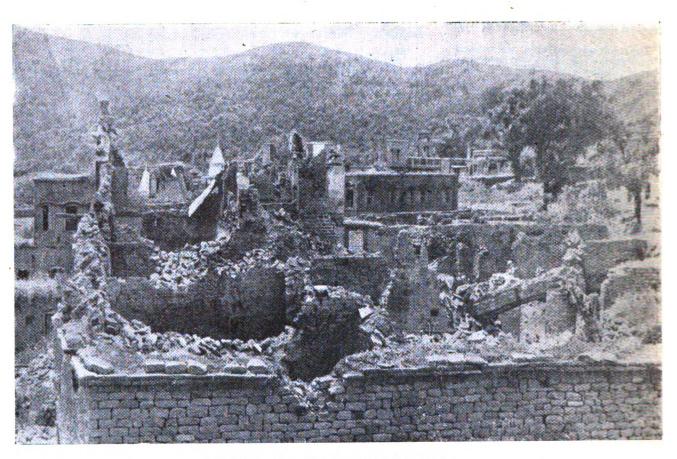
A sanguinary fighting has been in progress in the territories of Jammu and Kashmir State for six months now between the Indian army and the State forces on the one side and the armed tribesmen and other Pakistani nationals together with local rebels against the State Government on the other. It is India's case that the fighters against constituted authority in the State derive all manner of help—men. arms, ammunition and other supplies, motor and other transport, bases of operation, transit facilities, gasoline from or through the Pakistan territory and that the Pakistan Government has directly or indirectly allowed all this assistance to be given and has done nothing of an active nature to stop all this or to present this invasion of Jammu and Kashmir State from and through Pakistan.

The number of tribesmen and other outsider fighters has run into many thousands for several months. The number of tribesmen alone is estimated even now over twenty thousands and accounts for half the strength of the enemy, the other half being composed of Pakistani nationals and local insurgents. Apart from the accounts of eye-witnesses, the geographic and physical factors compet the conclusion that armed hordes of this magnitude from outside could not have entered the State of Jammu and Kashmir except from or through the Pakistan territory and that neither they nor even the local insurgents could have sustained the fighting for so long except for the arms, ammunition, supplies and transport they had been getting from Pakistan.

#### **Dangerous Potentialities**

Short of obtaining an official declaration of war by the Pakistan Government and the use of their regular army openly for conducting military operations in Jammu and Kashmir, the fighters have been and are obtaining all other help and assistance on the Pakistan territory.

These conditions contain potentialities of an armed conflict breaking out any day between the two Dominions. And as Pakistan's active complicity—even her passive acquiescence—in this affair is an unfriendly act, whose continuance might precipitate a war, even in the circumstances in which India might be acting legitimately in dealing with those who raid the State, we sought the interven-



This is what the raiders left behind in Rajauri

tion of the Security Council. The threat of war is by no means diminished. Its imminence is as great now as it was at the end of December last.

During the last few days military operations have intensified as a result of the advance of the Indian army in its campaign for recapturing the areas, now under the control of the raiders, and expelling them from the State. This advance is making the tribesmen in their defeat more brutal in their treatment of the local civilian population".

Much against my inclinations I wish here to refer to what has happened in a place called Rajauri within the last few days. Yesterday I had the unique honour of receiving a cabled message from the head of the Azad Kashmir Government.

#### The Sack of Rajauri

That message reads as follows:

"Rajauri town in Jammu province captured by the Indian army. The Indian army is resorting to atrocities unknown to the civilized world. Four thousand Moslem civilians were put to death mercilessly in the surrounding area in Rajauri town and Rajauri itself. The eyes of the people were put out to victimize and terrorize them. One hundred thousand people were driven out of these areas in two days. They have been rendered homeless and are without food and exposed to death and destruction".

The Security Council must come to some judgment as to the veracity of the details sent to me in this telegram by the head of the Azad Kashmir Government. Fortunately, I have in my possession reports which reached me previous to my receipt of this particular telegram. I shall first read to the Security Council a few extracts from the special correspondent of a leading newspaper in Delhi, the Hindustan Times, who happened to visit Rajauri after this incident.

In a dispate dated April 14 from Rajauri, described as the granary of the Jammu Province, where Emperor Jehangir died on his way back from Srinagar, the correspondent writes:

"This is the story of the death of a town—of a horrible and ghastly tragedy which the advancing Indian troops, in spite of their best efforts, have been unable to prevent and of which they are mere helpless spectators. Here is its sequence:

First, the raiders and their officers order the inhabitants of the town to collect in the public square together with all their movable belongings and cattle.

Then the raiders take charge of all the cattle and drive the animals into the hills. Next, Muslim inhabitants are ordered to separate themselves from the non-Muslims.

As soon as this is done, the Muslims are ordered to flee into the interior along a particular route taking their movable belongings with them in bullock carts, and the non-Muslims are ordered to form themselves into a line.

Then begins a systematic massacre of all the males except those between 25 and 35 who are healthy and strong. These are formed into a slave labour gang and ordered to dig new positions for the raiders on nearby hills and ridges. The women and their belongings are distributed by the tribesmen among themselves.

"No accurate estimate of the number of people massacred here in cold blood by the retreating tribesmen is yet possible. But there can be no question that it has been a massacre on a "major" scale, and one or two people who have now managed to make their way into the Indian lines declare that the town had a population of well over 5,000 a week ago.

"I have just been talking to Khuda Bux, a former resident of Rajauri, who has manged to escape from the clutches of the raiders and he declares that the people in the area want nothing more than to get rid of the raiders".

"Indian Army troops found the streets littered with bodies. The horror-stricken people told them how on the night before our entering the village, the raiders turned their fury on the unarmed population and indulged in the wildest excesses of barbaric cruelty. Large sections of people were killed, houses burnt and women abducted".

"In Rajauri it has not yet been possible to make an exact estimate of the damage and atrocities committed by retreating raiders. But three big pits full of bodies—which remind us of the well in Palestine—now have been located on the outstkirts of the town. In addition to the whole-

sale massacre of Indian nationals, raiders according to local reports have abducted 700 women from here.

Further on he states:

"According to reports reaching here a large number of motor vehicles, apparently bringing supplies and ammunition, have been pouring across Pakistan border into Mirpur during the last few days".

That is the account of a newspaper correspondent who visited Rajauri after its retaking by the Indian Army.

Perhaps I could carry greater conviction to the Security Council if I read two official reports to me. One is from the Defence Ministry in New Delhi dated April 15, which states:

Reports received from Rajauri state that raiders on retreating adopted "scorched earth" policy leaving houses burning in their wake. A report also states that the tribal element massacred the local Hindus as well as Moslems during their retreat and the numbers of such dead are heavy, Three large pits approximately fifty yards square full of dead bodies have been discovered just north of Rajauri. The local population who fled to the hills when the massacres started are straggling in now, so shaken by their suffering that any interrogation is difficult".

I shall read an extract from a later telegram dated April 16, addressed to me by the Prime Minister of India.

'Raiders indulged in large-scale massacre of the civilian population and the abduction of women and wholesale destruction of property. In fact, their behaviour in Rajauri before they were compelled by our troops to evacuate was even worse than the behaviour of the raiders in Baramula. You may point out to the Security Council that you find it difficult to understand how to deal with such creatures on any known level.

#### International Obligation

I leave the Security Council to choose between the facts or the allegations sent to me by the head of the Azad Kashmir Government and the account which I have received from my own Government as well as the account, which I have read of a newspaperman.

With reference to the last observation of my Prime Minister in his telegram I would only say that wild animals in human shape recognize none of the restraints which civilization imposes on human conduct even in war. Perhaps some might be tempted to say when even civilized nations, for example, Germany did not recognize them during the second World War, why expect the tribesmen to avoid such exhibition altogether?

But the real question for our purpose here is this: Is Pakistan not blameworthy in letting these fiends loose on the innocent Muslim and non-Muslim population of Kashmir? One looks in vain in the draft resolution under consideration for even a mere mention of Pakistan's dereliction of duty in this regard. It appears not even in the Preamble; somewhat a reference to it in the preamble of 30th March draft has now been dropped out. It has been said that Paragraph 1 of revised draft resolution recommends that Pakistan should undertake to use its best endeavours to prevent any intrusion of these hostile elements into the State,

and it is suggested that that is a sufficient answer to the demand that we made in our complaint. However, I wish to point out that one does not cast such duty upon a Government in a resolution of this type unless it is preceded by the recital that that Government—in this case Pakistan—has failed in that respect in the past. There is no such recital in this resolution. This omission is calculated to give the impression that under Paragraph 1 (A), Pakistan is shouldering the rendering of an onerous service in the cause of world peace and security, and not that in future at least she will be fulfilling an obligation which always lies upon her and which she has not so far discharged during the past six months.

Indeed, this might be the impression which a person unacquainted with the facts might obtain from what even my distinguished friend from the United Kingdom said on April 17. His words were as follows: 'The draft resolution imposes a heavy duty on Pakistan in helping to stop the fighting and to prevent its breaking out again'.

I am sure that the representative of the United Kingdom, fully acquainted as he is with the facts, did not intend the possible implication of his words, namely that the duty to be undertaken by Pakistan is a creation for the first time on the part of this resolution. I have stressed this international obligation in debates we have previously had, and I should like on this occasion to refer only to one statement of that obligation made before the General Assembly of the United Nations by no less a person than Secretary Marshall of the United States. In his address to the General Assembly on September 17, 1947, speaking on the Greek question, he said:

The extent or assistance to Greek guerrillas is not the point at issue here. It is a universally accepted principle of international law that for one nation to arm or otherwise assist rebellious forces against another Government is a hostile and aggressive act. Not only has this principle been upheld in number of famous cases in international law, but it has also found expression in international agreements. The majority of members of the Security Council have recorded their support of this principle by their action in this case.

#### Pakistan Troops in Kashmir

If, as the Security Council and the General Assembly already agreed in the Greek case, this is a so well recognised international obligation, should Pakistan not have begun to dischrge it at least after the Security Council's resolution of January 17? In that resolution, the Security Council called upon the Government of Pakistan "to refrain from—doing or causing to be done or permitting any act which might aggravate the situation".

That Government has made no attempt since that resolution 'to prevent any intrusion into the State of such elements and any furnishing of material aid to those fighting in the State'; on the other hand bases still exist in Pakistan for the raiders. The establishment on Pasistan territory of a factory for the manufacture of certain arms and ammunition and their supply to the raiders and rebels has recently come to our notice. Men in large numbers and material in large quantities pass daily through Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir, they are transported in hundreds of lorries. Two hundred shells from three



Pandit Nehru shaking hands with a Muslim nurse who volunteered to serve in the Military Hospital in Srinagar

howitzers were recently fired into Pooleh town from a neighbouring hill. No howitzers have been lost by the Indian Army and howitzers do not grow on trees near Pooneh or anywhere else in Jammu and Kashmir State. A responsible officer of ours, possessing facilities for obtaining local information in Pakistan, reported to us some time ago as follows: 'The mountain battery of the Pakistan Government in civilian dress has been sent to the front. It consists of some 1300 personnel, out of which about 600 have been sent to the Nowshera front by Bhimber, and 700 to the Pooneh front by Palandhri. This battery has been observed in action by our troops at one of these fronts'.

I would not weary the Security Council by giving further details of this description.

#### Greek Parallel

Should not this continuing breach of an obvious international obligation and the active sustenance and encouragement it gives to continuance and intensification of fighting in the State find mention somewhere in the resolution? The Security Council cannot refrain from doing so on the grounds that it does not have to pass upon any issue of fact or that this resolution is not an award. The Security Council did not neglect to do so in the case of Greece. The General Assembly, following the majority opinion of the Security Council, said in Paragraph 3 of its resolution:

'Finds that Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, in contravention of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, have given assistance and support to guerrillas tighting against the Greek Government'.

Even as recently as three days ago, in the Security Council's resolution on Palestine truce, the Security Council said the same thing by necessary implication in the following words:

Refrain from bringing and from assisting and encouraging entry into Palestine of a med bands and fighting personnel, groups and individuals, whatever their origin.

Why is it that the sponsors omitted from the revised draft resolution, Paragraph 1 (B), the following words which were in the draft resolution of March 18, 1948, and in all re-drafts of it prior to that of March 50. The words are: 'By denying transit through and use of any bases in Pakistan territory. The substance of a similar directive appears in the resolution on Greece. I know that an amendment importing a similar specific directive to the offending parties to the Palestine truce resolution submitted by the U.S. 8. R. representative was turned down by the Security Council. I wonder if this indicates a change of policy on the part of the Security Council, commencing with the final draft in our case, which has been prepared earlier than the day on which the truce resolution was considered.

It has been argued that the words 'to prevent' will also cover all these cases, but may I suggest that the original words were probably omitted because they might imply a remote reference to past delinquency, 'To prevent', again, as I take it, is something more positive than 'to discourage'.

In Pakistan's answer to our complaint, the following words occur: 'The Pakistan Government have continued to do all in their power to discourage tribal movement by all means short of war'.

water policy caused bitter Even this milk and water is certain to have resentment throughout Pakistan, but despite very serious risk of the despite very serious risk of the large-scale internal disturbances, Pakistan Government claim that they not deviated from it. Can the use of the words 'to prevent' in the revised draft resolution now before the Security Council be interpreted as a clear commitment on the part of Pakistan that if by peaceful means it is unable to prevent movement of tribesmen and others into Jammu and Kashmir for figthing, it will use armed force against them for discharging the obligation under Paragraph 1 (B).

Unless this commitment is unequivocal, the undertaking 'to prevent' is not of any practical value. I am not interested in obtaining from the Security Council a verdict of guilty against Pakistan on this matter. The world is fully seized of the facts. I do not object either to deferring to the susceptibilities of a party when such deference does not affect vital issues. Failure to mention the persistent and continuing breach of an international obligation and to call upon Pakistan to repair that breach is, however, a grave one because, firstly, the Security Council is charged with responsibility in this regard and should not fail to promote compliance with such obligations, especially in the circumstances in which breach of these obligations threatens international peace and security; and, secondly, the omission strengthens also the notion promoted in the present case that the undertaking of this obligation by Pakistan is quid pro-quo for India, and gives it and gives even the tribesmen satisfaction as to the arrangements for plebiscite on the question of accession. The two are unconnected altogether and though for the purpose of an amicable settlement we would be willing to agree both issues being dealt with in the same resolution, we cannot agree that the one is, or need be really dependent on the other.

#### Secrifice of Reason and Justice

This cold shouldering of our main complaint has hurt us, our Government and my nation deeply. India brought before the Security Council a plain, simple, straightforward and factually foolproof issue and the action that we suggested the Security Council should take was inescapable. The Security Council has not escaped it either after all this delay. Instead of taking that action earlier, India's complaint was placed in cold storage for nearly four months of continued bloodshed and economic ruin. And at the end of it all, we are exhorted in appealing language to agree to a resolution niggardly in its recognition of the merits of the matter and vague and indefinite in the wording of the action to be taken by Pakistan. And in the interpretation of that language, the Security Council has gone even further and been apologetic to Pakistan for reminding it of its duty. India cannot in honour agree to this treatment of its case. The attempt at sacrifice of reason and justice to establish for the Security Council a reputation for holding the scales even between two disputing parties has led the sponsors of

this revised draft resolution to juxtapose India with Pakistan in text which tars us with the same brush and makes us look like co-accused. Notable illustrations of this are the second paragraph of the Pre-amble of the revised draft resolution which places us both on a par for doing the utmost to bring about cessation of all fighting. Paragraph A, 2 (a), which enjoins that our armies should start withdrawal simultaneously with the withdrawal of tribal and other raiders: Paragraph 5 which suggests that the Commission may find it necessary to requisition Pakistan troops for the work of pacification in the State and Paragraph 10 (E) which makes it the duty of the Plebiscite Administrator as an officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in administering the plebiscite in their name to address communications direct to the Government of Pakistan, even to its representative with the Commission bringing to its notice at his discretion any circumstances which may tend in his opinion to interfere with the freedom of the plebiscite.

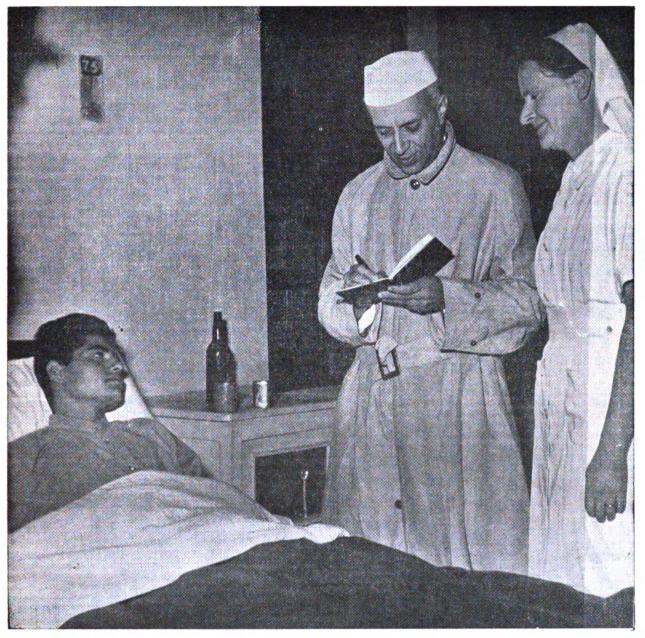
These are not provisions which we can, with any sense of self-respect or any regard for our dignity as an independent nation and a sovereign Government, honourably accept. The Security Council can hold the scales even between two disputants so long as it is in the stage of investigation. It cannot always do so without offence to truth and fearness when it has to take a decision, to suggest measures for action or even to state its opinion.

#### Accession—Legal and Lawful

I would now proceed to review briefly some detailed provisions of the draft resolution at present under consideration. By way of anticipating a possible claim from the other side. I desire to say a few words on the question of accession. In three places in the draft resolution, there occur the words whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir is to accede to Indin or Pakistan. The contention has been advanced that the accession is for a temporary period and a limited purpose and when that period elapses and that purpose has been served, it ceases to be operative. We on our side repudiate this claim. The accession which took place on October 26, 1947 was both legal and lawful. It has been followed up by India in the discharge of all obligations that her acceptance of the accession imposed upon her. She has saved the Jammu and Kashmir State from disintegration. She is now recisting those who are attacking that integrity even to day. She is protecting her large populations from the unfriendly attentions of raiders from outside.

The Accession, therefore, subsists today and will subsist even after the fighting ceases and peace and order have been res. tored. It will subsist until the plebiscite comes to be taken and the plebiscite goes against India. Until then Pakistan has no constitutional position in Jammu and Kashmir and we, therefore, put it forward as one of our fundamental contentions that, in regard to the arrangements which we make for the plebiscite under international auspices, there is no case for allowing the intervention of Pakistan at any stage. We are willing to give all gurantees and safeguards which would satisfy an international body like this Security Council but those safeguards cannot import into the State a position for

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Pandit Nehru signs his autograph for a wounded soldier convalescing in the Military Haspital, Svinagar

Pakistan for interference as a matter of right.

After the fighting ceases, the whole of the State will have to come under the Government. When the whole of the State thus comes under one Administration, and that is the administration of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, India's garrisons will require to be planted at her outer frontiers on the west of Jammu and Kashmir State. This planting is necessary for enabling India to discharge her obligations for the defence of the State, which she has taken over under the Instrument of Accession.

There are vague implications here and there in the draft resolution that it does not contemplate this development. It is necessary for us to make perfectly clear that after the fighting ceases and peace and order restored the accession will still

continue and India's obligations will still continue both for defence and the main-tenance of law and order until the plebiscite comes to be taken.

Next, I wish to say a few words on the question of the Interim Government now functioning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This is dealt with in paragraph of the draft resolution, which reads as follows: The Government of India should undertake to ensure that the Government of the State invite major political groups to designate responsible representatives to share equitably and fully in the conduct of the administration at ministerial level while the plebiscite is being prepared and carried out.

The Government of India is unable to agree to this paragraph as it stands. It contemplates a coalition Government in which all major political gropus will find

equitable and full representation and this representation will be by resons who are to be designated by the political groups themselves. Coalition governments of this type are all right when there is some major political issue like war on which all political parties are agreed as to the action to be taken. Such governments would work mischief if they were brought into existence at a time when the major political issue before the country is one on which those groups violently differ. To think of a coalition government in such circumstances is to invite paralysis of the Kashmir administration during the period that is in contemplation.

We have had bitter experience in India of the working of such coalition governments. Neither we nor Kashmir would like to repeat that experience in Kashmir. We, however, are prepared to agree, as

we have already indicated more than once, that some representation should be found for these other political groups in the government that is now functioning under a constitution, which has been lately revised under the proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja. The selection of representatives of other political groups must, both under the constitution under which the State is now working and on reasonable grounds, be left to the Prime Minister of the State; and to demonstrate to the to the Security Council that the present Prime Minister of that State is all out for implementing the spirit of the undertaking which we have already given in this respect, I should like to read a message which he has sent me about the policy which he is pursuing—a message which he has given me discretion to use in any manner I like. I think it is appropriate that I should read that message to the Security Council. He said as follows:

#### Indian Army in Kashmir

"I stand by the assurance that the Ministry should be broad-based. A condition, however, is that only those elements can be taken into the Ministry as are not enemies of the State or in sympathy with the raiders, whose main objective is to turn this land destitute. I should not be supposed to include in my Ministry persons who directly or indirectly are party to wholesale destruction of our villages and towns, abduction and rape of women, loot and plunder, which had been going on in the name of the so-called liberation movement. This, however, does not mean that I should not include those who have ideological differences with the National Conference and would like to support accession to Pakistan. As a matter of

fact, I have in Ministry today Colonel Pir Mohammed Khan who is member of the Working Committee of the Muslim Conference and the President of the Anjuman-i-Islam, Jammu'.

We are, therefore, strongly opposed to Paragraph 6.

I have a few words to say about the provisions relating to the Indian Army. References to it are to be found in paragraphs, 2,5 and 9 of the draft resolution. It was a matter of some surprise to me that Mr. Noel-Baker repeatedly referred to the Indian army in Kashmir, as an army of occupation. That army is there in pursuance of the legitimate duties cast upon it by the constitutional position which India holds in Kashmir. To describe it as an army of mere occupation is doing less than justice not only to that army but to the Government of India, if I may take the liberty of saying so.

There are four different kinds of armed forces referred to in this draft resolution. First, in Paragraph 2(A), the Indian army is referred to. Paragraph 3 refers to the State forces. Paragraph 4 refers to the personnel locally recruited; and Paragraph 5 refers to the possibility of the Pakistan army being allowed to take a hand in this affair.

With regard to the Indian army the case of India is that after the fighting ceases the strength of its forces in Kashmir will necessarily be reduced. But reduction should not carry the strength of that army below the minimum required not only for the maintenance of law as provided in this draft resolution but also for defence against external aggression. In the draft resolution

before us this constitutes one of the major deteriorations from the draft resolution for which Dr. Tsiang made himself responsible on March 18 last, A great deal was said by him the other day to reconcile us to this deterioration.

His argument was in effect that if the arrangements provided in the draft resolution are carried out, the chances of external aggression will become nil and the need for the Indian army operating in Kashmir for the purposes of defence against that aggression will not be felt.

He proceeded to say that even if such a need arose there was, I believe, under Article 51 of the Charter an indefeasible right for individual and collective selfdefence conceded to every member of the United Nations. Did he suggest that under those circumstances if there was such an external aggression the Indian army could march into the State for the purpose of preventing it? If so, why is it that the draft resolution does not recognize that fact in so many words, when it took the trouble of mentioning the question of maintenance of law and order? Assuming that that were possible, would it not be more in accord with the obligations of a federal Government in a frontier state unit that it should maintain on the borders of that unit portions of the army sufficient in strength for repelling possible invasions of that territory? Are we asking for anything illegitimate or unresconable when we say that the minimum strength should be sufficient not only for law and order but for defence also? We shall not be willing to abdicate our paramount duty of defending Jammu and Kashmir so long as accession lasts. Therefore it is that in regard to paragraph 2(A) we find ourselves unable to give our agreement.



Lieut.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, G. O. C.-in-C., Western Command, inspecting troops in the Uri area

Then there are other parts of this paragraph which are somewhat difficult to understand. It speaks of base areas and forward areas. Forward with reference to what? It will be a matter for conflicting interpretations later on. I rather think that that section of the paragraph which relates to bases and forward areas has been lifted out of some other scheme which was more comprehensive than the one which has found expression in the draft resolution. That is why it looks so incongruous.

With regard to the State forces the relevant paragraph is Paragraph 3. It says: the Government of India should agree that until such time as the Plebiscite Administration referred to below finds it necessary to exercise powers of direction and supervision over the State forces and police, provided for in Paragraph 8, they will be held in areas to be agreed upon with the Plebiscite Administrator.

This paragraph refers not only to State forces but to the Police as well and it refers to the period prior to the Plebiscite Administration feeling the need for directing and supervising these forces and police. It is somewhat difficult for an administrator of some experience like myself to understand why this is necessary during the period prior to the plebiscite. The police are referred to.
The police are all over the State; they are engaged every day in the maintenance of law and order. Why should the Plebiseite Administrator, prior to the plebiscite, have the right to place a veto upon the disposition of the police in the interests of maintenance of law and order? Apart from this, I should like to point out to the Security Council that both the State Forces and Police are covered essentially by discipline. If discipline has to be enforced, there must be unity of control. You cannot divide control, direction or supervision for that matter in case of disciplinary personnel of this type between two sets of authorities. The suggestion in Paragraph thorities. The suggestion in Paragraph 3 to my mind is an administrative enormity.

#### An Incalculable Risk

Then the paragraph speaks of 'personnel recruited locally'. I take it that this refers to additional police that may be required There is no harm in whatever additional police that may be required being recruited from local personnel, but the mischief is in paragraph 5 which says 'if these local forces'—I take it these words refer to forces raised under Paragraph 4—' should be found to be inadequate, the Commission, subject to the agreement of both the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, should arrange for the use of such forces of either dominion as it deems effective for the purpose of pacification'.

Pacification is an act having reference to the local citizens of Kashmir. The task of pacification is essentially one which should be shouldered by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. It has its police at its disposal; it has its forces as its disposal. If these are insufficient, Paragraph 2(A) permits the retention of such numbers of the Indian



Maj.-Gen. Kalwant Singh and Brig. M. Usman conferring with officers in .

Jhangar immediately after its liberation by Indian troops

armed forces as may be necessary for the maintenance of law and order. What need is there to provide for the requisition of additional forces for the purpose of pacification? It is a roundabout method of trying to introduce Pakistan forces into the Jammu and Kashmir State. The introduction of those forces is fraught with incalculable risk India can never agree to Paragraph 5 as it stands.

I should like to refer to the paragraphs regarding the Plebiscite Administration. Our objections to this part of the resolution concern Paragraph 8 which vests the direction and supervision of the State forces and police in the Plebiscite Administrator, even though "for that purpose only; "to Paragraph 10(C) which gives the Plebiscite Administration the right to ask for the creation of special magistrates and nominate persons to those offices; and last but by no means least to Paragraph 10 (E). It is against all ideas both of political substance and administrative propriety that the Plebiscite Administrator should be given the liberty of communicating directly with an outside Government on a matter for which his own Government is the sole responsible authority.

I do not wish to go further into the details of the resolution. I would only urge that India's conduct in this case has been absolutely correct from the beginning to the end. It has been correct legally; it has been correct as well in high principled ethical statesmanship. As the resolution now stands, India has definitely to express her strong opposition to it. If, however, the resolution is carried inspite of our objections and opposition, it will be for my Government to decide its course of action in the circumstances so created. It will be for my Government to decide its course of action regarding the stoppage

of fighting in Kashmir as soon as possible and the holding of a Plebiscite thereafter. The moving and eloquent appeal which the representative, of the United Kingdom made the other day caused a temporary stir in my emotions. The procedural flexibilities to which the representative of the United States drew our attention the other day gave rise to certain hesitations in my mind. I have since had the opportunity to read and study both the speeches in cold type. That study has not, I regret to say, inclined me towards any revision of my attitude to the resolution before us.

#### Hope of Pacific Settlement

I have spoken with some bitterness but not in anger. However, I wish it to go on record on behalf of my great peace-loving nation of which I have the honour to represent that non-acceptance of this unsatisfactory resolution, if that is the decision of my Government after full consideration, does not necessarily mean war. We shall persevere and explore all other possible means of avoiding war with Pakistan unless and until it becomes inevitable. In the cases of hundreds of other disputes we have reached pacific settlement with Pakistan without coming to the Security Council. The possibilities of an honourable pacific settlement are not exhausted by the methods and measures suggested in this resolution. When after this resolution is passed by the Security Council, both India and Pakistan go back home wiser for our experience here, it may be that other methods and measures for a pacific settlement might be discovered which would prove acceptable to us.

We can only hope that our search for such other pacific methods will not prove to be barren and that we shall not be driven irresistibly to the arbitrament of armed conflict between the two dominions".



Pandit Nehru addressing Indian soldiers in Uri from a jeep during his recent visit to Kashmir in connection with Independence celebrations

# U. N. DECISION ON KASHMIR Revised Draft Resolution

THE revised draft resolution on the India-Pakistan question submitted jointly by the representatives of Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America on April 17, reads:

The Security Council -

Having considered the complaint of the Government of India concerning the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, having heard the representative of India in support of that complaint and the reply and counter-complaints of the representative of Pakistan;

Being strongly of opinion that the early restoration of peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir is essential and that India and Pakistan should do their utmost to bring about a cessation of all fighting;

Noting with satisfaction that both India and Pakistan desire that the

question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite;

Considering that the continuation of the dispute is likely to endanger international peace and security;

Reaffirms the Council's resolution of January 17;

Resolves that the membership of the Commission established by the resolution of the Council of January 20, 1948, shall be increased to five and shall include in addition to the membership mentioned in that resolution, representatives of...and... and that if the membership of the Commission has not been completed within ten days from the date of the adoption of this resolution the President of the Council may designate such other members of the United Nations as are required to complete the membership of five.

Instructs the Commission to proceed at once to the Indian sub-continent and there place its good offices and mediation at the disposal of the Governments of India and Pakistan with a view to facilitating the taking of necessary measures both with respect to the restoration of peace and order and to the holding of a plebiscite by the two Governments acting in co-operation with one another and with the Commission, and further instructs the Commission to keep the Council informed of action taken under the resolution and to this end

Recommends to the Governments of India and Pakistan the following measures as those which in the opinion of the Council are appropriate to bring about a cessation of the fighting and to create proper conditions for a free and impartial plebiscite to decide whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir is to accede to India or Pakistan.

#### (A)—Restoration of Peace and Order

I.—The Government of Pakistan should undertake to use its best endea-

(a) To secure the withdrawal from the State of Jammu and Kashmir of

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tribesmen and Pakistan nationals not inormally resident therein who have entered the State for the purposes of flighting, and to prevent any intrusion into the State of such elements and any furnishing of material aid to those flighting in the State;

(b) To make known to all concerned that the measures indicated in this and the following paragraphs provide full freedom to all subjects of the State, regardless of creed, caste or party, to express their views and to vote on the question of the accession of the State and that therefore they should cooperate in the maintenance of peace and order.

#### 2.—The Government of India should

- (a) When it is established to the satisfaction of the Commission set up in accordance with the Council's resolution of January 20 that the tribesmen are withdrawing and that arrangements for the cessation of the fighting have become effective, put into operation in consultation with the Commission, a plan for withdrawing their own forces from Jammu and Kashmir and reducing them progressively to the minimum strength required for the support of the civil power in the maintenance of law and order.
- (b) Make known that the withdrawal is taking place in stages and announce the completion of each stage.
- (c) When the Indian forces shall have been reduced to the minimum strength mentioned in (a) above, arrange, in consultation with the Commission, for the stationing of the remaining forces to be carried out in accordance with the following principles:
- (i) That the presence of troops should not afford any intimidation or appearance of intimidation to the inhabitants of the State
- (ii) That as small a number as possible should be retained in forward areas
- (iii) That any reserve of troops which may be included in the total strength should be located within their present base area.
- 3.—The Government of India should agree that until such time as the Plebiscite Administration referred to below finds it necessary to exercise the powers of direction and supervision over the State forces—and police, provided for in Paragraph 8, they will be held in areas to be agreed upon with the Plebiscite Administrator.
- 4.—After the plan referred to in Paragraph 2 (a) above has been put into operation, personnel recruited locally in each district should so far as possible be utilised for the re-establishment and maintenance of law and order with due regard to the protection of minorities, subject to such additional requirements as may be specified by the Plebiscite Administration referred to in Paragraph
- 5.—If these local forces should be found to be inadequate, the Commission

subject to the Cagreement of both the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, should arrange for the use of such forces of either Dominion as it deems effective for the purpose of pacification.

#### (B)—Plebiscite

- 6.—The Government of India should undertake to ensure that the Government of the State invite the major political groups to designate responsible representatives to share equitably and fully in the conduct of the Administration at the Ministerial level while the plebiscite is being prepared and carried out.
- 7.—The Government of India should undertake that there will be established in Jammu and Kashmir a Plebiscite Administration to hold a plebiscite as soon as possible on the question of the accession of the State to India or Pakistan.
- 8.—The Government of India should undertake that there will be delegated by the State to the Plebiscite Administration such powers as the latter considers necessary for holding a fair and impartial plebiscite, including for the purpose only the direction and supervision of the State forces and police.
- 9.—The Government of India should, at the request of the Plebiscite Administration, make available from the Indian forces such assistance as the Plebiscite Administration may require for the performance of its functions.
- 10.—(a) The Government of India should agree that a nominee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be appointed to be the Plebiscite Administrator.
- (h) The Plebiscite Administrator, acting as an officer of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, should have authority to nominate his assistants and other subordinates and to draft regulations govening the plebiscite. Such nominees should be formally appointed and such draft regulations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (c) The Government of India should undertake that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will appoint fully qualified persons nominated by the Plebiscite Administrator to act as special magistrates within the State judicial system to hear cases which in the opinion of the Plebiscite Administrator have a serious bearing on the preparation for and the conduct of a free and impartial plebiscite.
- (d) The terms of service of the Administrator should form the subject of separate negotiation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of India. The Administrator should fix the terms of service for his assistants and subordinates.
- (e) The Administrator should have the right to communicate direct with the Commission of the Security Council, and through it with the Security Council, with the Governments of India and Pakistan and with their representatives with the Commission as well as with the

- Government of the State. It would be his duty to bring to the notice of any or all of the foregoing (as he in his discretion may decide) any circumstances arising which may tend in his opinion to interfere with the freedom of the plebiscite.
- 11.—The Government of India should undertake to prevent, and to give full support to the Administrator and his staff in peventing any threat, coercion or intimidation, bribery or other undue influence on the voters in the plebiscite, and the Government of India should publicly announce and should cause the Government of the State to announce this undertaking as an international obligation binding on all public authorities and officials in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 12.—The Government of India should themselves, and through the Government of the State, declare and make known that all subjects of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of creed, caste or party, will be safe and free in expressing their views about voting on the question of the accession of the State, and that there will be freedom of the peace, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit.
- 13.—The Government of India should ensure that the Government of the State also use their best endeavours to effect the withdrawal from the State of all Indian nationals other than those who are normally resident therein or who on or since August 15, 1947 have entered it for a lawful purpose.
- 14.—The Government of India should ensure that the Government of the State release all political prisoners and take all possible steps so that
- (a) All citizens of the State who have left it on account of disturbances are invited and are free to return to their homes and to exercise their rights as such citizens.
  - (b) There is no victimization.
- (c) Minorities in all parts of the State are accorded adequate protection.
- 15.—The Commission of the Security Council should at the end of the plebiscite certify to the Council whether the plebiscite has or has not been really free and impartial.

#### (C)—General Provisions

- 16.—The Governments of India and Pakistan should each be invited to nominate a representative to be attached to the Commission for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its task.
- 17.—The Commission should establish in Jammu and Kashmir such observers as it may require of any of the proceedings in pursuance of the measures indicated in the foregoing Paragraph.
- 18.—The Security Council Commission should carry out the tasks assigned to it berein.

## NO CASE FOR EXTENDING SCOPE OF U. N. COMMISSION

## Mr. M.K. Vellodi's Reply to Pakistan Charges

R EPLYING to Sir Mohamed Zafarullah Khan's request to the United Nations that the U. N. Commission to Kashmir be empowered to settle the issues of genocide, non-implementation of agreements and the Junagadh accession, Mr. M. K. Vellodi, India's delegate to the Security Council, said on May 7:

The Leader of the Pakistan Delegation said this morning that there were three outstanding matters about which the Pakistan Government made complaints to the Security Council which require to be attended to by the Security Council and these in the order in which he spoke, although not in the order they were complained about, are the so-called non-implementation of agreements entered into between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, Junagadh and genocide. I shall have a few words to say on these three questions.

As regards the agreements, financial and otherwise, which had been entered into between Pakistan and India, the leader of the Pakistan Delegation told the Security Council that some of those complaints are no longer what he called live issues. He said that they had organized their own reserve bank and, therefore, the complaint that the Reserve Bank of India under pressure from the Government of India failed to carry out its obligations and duties as bankers of the Pakistan Government was no longer a live issue. That complaint has never been true. As a matter of fact, it is a gross libel on the distinguished head of the Reserve Bank of India and on the bank itself and a greater libel on the Government of India.

#### Military Stores to Pakistan

During this period, the Reserve Bank of India did everything humanly possible to assist the financial system of Pakistan and it came to us as a surprise that the Government of Pakistan should have thought it fit to bring before the Security Council as a complaint devoid of any foundations whatsoever.

However, as the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation has said here that this is no longer a live issue I do not want to say any more about it.

The other agreements referred, if my memory serves me and I will be forgiven if I have not been able to follow the Pakistan representative's speech as carefully as I should have, to the fact that India still owes the Government of Pakistan 50 million rupees and that a very large share of military and other stores which India should have supplied to Pakistan under the terms of the agreement has not yet been received in Pakistan.

I do not know whether the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation was very serious about the 50 million rupees. I think he said that it was a very small amount. In any case we have said categorically to the Pakistan Government that there was no question of withholding that amount indefinitely as it is a matter of adjustment between the two countries.

As regards military stores, the leader of the Pakistan Delegation himself admitted that these stores were being sent to Pakistan. His complaint is that that process should be expedited and if it is not expedited Pakistan Government would find it exceedingly difficult to carry on with its day to day administration.

It must be within the knowledge of the Pakistan Government and its Delegation that this question of military stores and agreement are being discussed almost every fortnight between the Governments of Pakistan and India both on the Ministerial level and at lower levels. We hold frequent consultations and we arrive at certain decisions. We have no desire to contradict unnecessarily certain facts. It is probably true that these supplies could have been expedited if conditions were normal but the early months and latter half of 1947 have not been normal months, certainly not in India nor in Pakistan and amidst all sorts of other distractions I am not surprised that the Government of India did not find it possible to speed up the supply of these stores.

#### Domestic Issues

But let us assume for a moment that we have failed in our duty. Let us assume that India has not sent any of these stores or that India has failed to carry out any of these agreements. Is that a matter for the Security Council? The Security Council, so far as I know, is entrusted under the charter with dealing with matters which affect international peace and security or which are likely to affect international peace and security or which are likely to affect international peace and security. Can anyone say that even assuming the facts are correct the failure of either Pakistan or India to satisfy these agreements or implement them has resulted or will ever result in a situation which is likely to endanger international peace and security?

If my contention is correct, then this is not a matter with which the Security Council should concern itself. The Security Council has several other problems which do affect international peace and security and I respectfully submit its attention could have been devoted to considering those problems. It should not be diverted to a consideration of what are purely domestic issues.

I have no desire to go further into this matter of agreements but I do hope that even if the Commission appointed by the Security Council goes to India and Pakistan it will endeavour to refrain from considering these matters which are being daily discussed and attended to by the two Governments in an atmos-

phere of considerable goodwill and thus creating a situation which might have just the opposite effect to that of restoring peace and security.

The other matter referred to by the leader of Pakistan delegation was the question of Junagadh and ancillary States. I believe he said he and Pakistan Government desired the Security Council's Commission to investigate this matter. He desires the present Government of Junagadh to be replaced by a Government by Secretary-General of the United Nations. He desires that the administration should take over complete charge of all matters relating to Junagadh, that the Nawab of Junagadh who fled the country as soon as trouble began should be restored to his throne in Junagadh and that all citizens who had also fled from Junagadh should be invited to return there and should be restored to their various homes.

He also desires that a plebiscite should be taken to decide the question of accession of Junagadh to Pakistan or India. He wishes the plebiscite to be held under circumstances which could be regarded as impartial so that it follows that it should be taken under the auspices of the United Nations. This subject had already been discussed once and there is very little I should like to add. But I should like to say this. A plebiscite has been held in Junagadh which resulted in over 200,000 inhabitants of the state voting in favour of accession to India and 91 in favour of accession to Pakistan. Quoting his words from memory I think the representative of Pakistan in a formar speech said "I concede that if it were held now the plebiscite might result in the same verdict". It probably would.

#### Impartial Condition

If even Pakistan was prepared to concede that that might be the result, and I can assure the Security Council that it would be, the Security Council, has to consider very seriously whether in order to satisfy the desire of Pakistan in this matter the United Nations should undertake trouble and expense in holding another plebiscite in Junagadh so that we could obtain practically the same result. That, as I say, is a matter which the Security Council should consider. We maintain that the plebiscite which we held took place under conditions which were quite impartial and proper and that even if the Security Council were authorized to hold another plebiscite the result would be exactly the same.

For this reason it is for the President and members of the Security Council to ponder very seriously whether it is necessary in the first place to take another plebiscite in order to obtain exactly the same results. Of course that does not mean that we should object to another plebiscite. If after going into this matter carefully the Security Council should finally decide that another plebiscite should be taken India will not say "no". By all means go ahead

and take as many plebiscites as you like if that is what you want to do, but the result in every case would be exactly the same.

In the course of his remarks the leader of the Pakistan delegation read two letters. I forget now whether they were received by him or by the Pakistan Government. One related to atrocities perpetrated today in Manavadar state by the authorities responsible for administration there and the other was a communication from the Prime Minister of the state of Mangrol depicting the very undignified conditions under which the Ruler of that state is being compelled to live at the present time.

#### India Invited to Step in

I trust that I shall be excused if I find myself unable to reply these two letters. I have had practically no notice of them. But I can assure the Security Council that so far as Government of India and I myself are aware, no atrocities are being prepetrated in Manavader today and Sheikh Sahib of Mangrol is living in comparative comfort and security in Porbandar.

The leader of the Pakistan Delegation said in passing that in requesting for the return of the Nawab of Junagadh to his state, he was not asking for the restoration of an autocratic Ruler. That, I believe was in reply to the statement made by the leader of my Delegation, Mr. Ayyangar, who has now left, in which he described the changes which had come over the Indian states and suggested that even if the Nawab were to return to Junagadh he would not occupy the same position that he held when he left. In my humble opinion this question of the return of the Nawab of Junagadh is a matter for the people of Junagadh to decide. He fled the country as soon as there was trouble and left his subjects in conditions in which no self-respecting Ruler would have left them. If he wants to return to Junagadh now, it is up to the subjects of His Highness the Nawab to decide and I have no doubt that what decision would be. Such Rulers are not welcomed back with open arms in any country.

Besides, the Government of India is in Junagadh today at the invitation of the Nawab and his Prime Minister. It went there after receiving a letter from the Prime Minister of Junagadh inviting it to come over and take on the administration because he found, and his advisers had obviously advised him in this sense, that it was impossible for him and his advisers to run the administration and that the only way to keep law and order in the country was to invite the Government of India to come in and help. We did so and we do not intend to leave Junagadh merely because Pakistan thinks we ought to do so. We are quite prepared to leave when the people of Junagadh declare that they wish to accede to Pakistan. Then we shall go from Junagadh, but not before.

That is all I have to say about Junagadh and other States. But the longest part of the speech of the leader of the Pakistan Delegation was devoted, as has always been the case with his speeches

in the past, to what he and his Government have so often described as genocide. Genocide is the expression they have always used. Reference was made to this matter in the very first speech of the leader of the Pakistan Delegation. He then told the Security Council and the world, I imagine, of the atrocities, killings and various other horrible crimes perpetrated by non-Muslims, that is to say, by Hindus and Sikhs, primarily on the Muslim population of the West Punjab, I suppose, East Punjab and many other places in India.

Mr. Setalvad, one of our representatives on the Delegation, in the speech which he delivered to the Security Council some time in January refered in detail to these matters. It seems unnecessary, in fact profitless, to traverse that ground now. But there are one or two matters on which I think I should comment.

In the first place, it was not genocide. Genocide is only a new name for a comparatively old crime. It is a crime organised by a state, planned to exterminate a race or a community. That is genocide. What Hitler did to Germany for example, was genocide.

#### Result of League's Campaign

What happened in India and Pakistan was, in spite of all long statements made the Representative of Pakistan. merely communal frenzy. Communal outrages have happened off and on in India for several years. We have never called it genocide in those days. Today we are witnessing the aftermath of a gigantic communal convulsion which must be attributed, according to us that is to say, the Government of India and the people of India directly to the preaching of the Muslim League for a quarter of a century. Those preachings were directed towards one end and one only, to obtain by any means whatsoever a separate state for Muslims in the Indian sub-continent. For that purpose a campaign was started years ago by leaders of the Muslim League. I do not want to mention names. all know who these leaders are. Deliberate attempts were made to encourage communal dissension.

I have with me several newspapers, Government publications and various other matters. I can quote from these in extenso. But I do not propose to do it. I have not the time in any case. But I can assure you of this that if today we are witnessing or have witnessed in the last few months communal outrages on a vast scale, the reason is to be found in the preaching of hatred, hatred for all communities but Muslims, by leaders of the Muslim League in India. is the English proverb which says if you sow the wind you must reap the whirlwind. That is what the Muslims have done now. They have carried on an agitation by unscrupulous means to start a Muslim State. They found that they could not start it in the ordinary constitutional manner. They indulged in most awful abuses of all communities bering Muslims. When finally partition of India was effected under conditions which we need not go into, now they found a situation in which a very large number of the sikh population and quite

a number of other non-Muslim population were left in what is known today as Pakistan.

Several incidents had occurred before the partition in Calcutta, Noakhali, Rawalpindi and in fact many other places, which are well known to us, and possibly by this time well known to the world. Non-Muslims were systematically—I shall use the same word as Sir Zafrullah Khan—murdered. But when Muslims are murdered we are to blame that this is part of a deliberate plan for extermination of Muslims. When Muslims murder Hindus or Sikhs, we are told: 'That was just retaliation. You know refugees come over, they spread stories and this is what happens'.

Now if that story was correct and supposing for argument's sake that there was a deliberate plan to exterminate all Muslims in India, how does Pakistan Government explain two facts? One is that today there are and there have always been 40 million Muslims living in India. They are living there today. If there is a plan for extermination of Muslims in India, nothing would be easier for us than to exterminate those 40 million Muslims. There are about 290 million of us.

Another fact is that today hundreds of Muslims, thousands of Muslims, are leaving Pakistan and coming to India. If there is a plan for extermination of Muslims in India do you think that these people would come to India?

#### Muslims Returning from Pakistan

Not one non-Muslim has dared to go back to Pakistan yet. I wonder if the Pakistan Government would tell the Security Council how many out of several millions of non-Muslims that have lived in Pakistan are left there now.

That is really the story of genocide in a nutshell. It is no more genocide than anything else. It is just communal frenzy driven to extremes resulting in most horrible crimes. But by no stretch of imagination or words can you call that genocide. Facts do not support that charge. In fact, in India today and ever since these awful crimes started, if there has been one matter on which there had been complete agreement between the two Governments it is that measures should be taken to restore communal harmony.

Thanks to the efforts of the leaders of the two Governments, considerable progress has been made in regard to the restoration of communal harmony. Only recently a very important meeting took place in Calcutta between representatives of the Indian Government and representatives of the Pakistan Government. Very many important and far-reaching decisions were taken. These decisions affect every phase of life both in India and in Pakistan. The Indian Government and the Pakistan Government have issued statements in which they said that they intended fully to implement these decisions.

I do not think it necessary for me to read out these passages. They will not be contradicted by the other side. You can take my word for it that these understandings did take place in Calcutta. When such is the case, it seems to me,

to put it on the very lowest level, it is a gross exaggeration to say that those crimes that took place in India or in Pakistan were part of a campaign to exterminate Muslims or non-Muslims. The Government of India has never held that the massacre of Sikhs and Hindus, which in numbers will probably be double that of Muslims, has been due to a plan of extermination organised by the Pakistan Government or even by the Pakistan people or even by groups of people in Pakistan.

#### Godhra Disturbances

I would draw that to the attention of the Government of Pakistan because I do not think that the Pakistan Government suggested for the moment that these were organised by the Government in India. My submission to the Security Council, therefore, is that these unfortunate happenings, wherever they may have happened, whether in India or in Pakistan, were not the result of a carefully thought out plan to exterminate any community or race. They happened partly and mostly as a result of the exacerbation of communal feelings over a quarter of a century by the Muslim League of India for which they should be held responsible. The killings that have happened are crimes which have been investigated by the two Governments concerned. They are matters which the two Governments are supremely confident of tackling, and I surprised that while one representative of the Pakistan Government enters into an agreement in Calcutta to settle these matters, another representative Pakistan should come to the Security Council and plead that this is a matter which the United Nations and the Security Council should investigate. cannot With the greatest respect, I understand that sort of attitude.

I believe Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan, in the early part of his speech today said, not speaking as a representative of Pakistan but as a private individual, that he was passionately fond of peace. I have no doubt that he is. But while I sat and listened to the rest of the speech made by the representative of Pakistan, I was amazed. I thought, "What a contribution to peace;" there was an opportunity for him to have said something which might allay feelings both in India and Pakistan, but he missed the opportunity. The representative of Pakistan must go back to all the horrible things that happened in India or in Pakistan toward the latter half of 1947 or early in 1948 and must wind up with a completely exaggerated account of what happened in the town called Godhra, in Bombay Province. Now that referred to certain massacres of Muslims that took place, according to the representative of Pakistan, in April and resulted in the desecration of Muslim places of worship and in the massacre of, according to reports received by the representative of Pakistan over 1,000 people. I shall read to you the report which has appeared in Indian papers and which is a statement made by the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, who is Pakistan's Ambassador to India. He had the following to say with respect to that matter;

"After visiting Godhra on April 13, the Pakistan High Commissioner for andia, Khwaja Shahbudin, said in an

interview to the United Press, that Press reports about the riots in Godhra were highly exaggerated. Only one-fifth of the town had been gutted and not the entire town as reported. Similarly the loss of life was negligible compared to the damage to property".

That is an authentic statement made by the Pakistan Government's Ambassador to India after visiting Godhra, which was the scene of the report of occurrence.

I have other reports from my own Government, but I do not wish to go into all that now. But the report I just read came not from the India Government which might be prejudiced in this matter, and not from the Government of Bombay, where the thing occurred, but from the representative of Pakistan in India. He said that the loss of life, which according to Sir Mohammad Zafurllah Khan into thousands, was negligible.

#### Horror Campaign

That is the kind of propaganda, and there is no other word for it which has been fostered, encouraged and deliberately planned not only in India, I notice, but also in the United States by responsible people, who represent Pakistan's views. I happened to be in New Haven last week and I saw a few undergraduates of the Yale University. They were American undergraduates, and they thought that would be a good opportunity to find out something about what goes on in India and Pakistan. They asked me: "What is all this about Kashmir?" I told them what I thought it was all about. At the end, to my astonishment, these boys asked me: "What about all these massacres of Muslims?" I then pursued this matter a little further and I discovered that they had been told by responsible people who represent the views of Pakistan all the horrors that the Security Council had been listening to for the last four months. I was amazed. There was no word mentioned to these boys, who are growing up in this world, about what really happened. They were told that all the people that were killed were Muslims and that all the people who had killed them were Hindus and Sikhs. It took me a little time to expound to them the philosophy of the Indian Muslim League. It took me a little longer than that to describe to them what actually happened.

But if that is the kind of propaganda that is being broadcast today about what certain people think happened with regard to those communal outrages, what must one think of the propaganda that has been going on for years in India by the same people, which resulted in my opinion in those awful calamities that the two countries have been going through?

I submit that this is a matter which can be tackled by the two Governments concerned. No one else can do it. The Security Council may send out a Commission if they choose to do so and the Commission can go to India and Pakistan to collect facts about the various murders and atrocities, but the only people who can really restore communal harmony in India and Pakistan are the people

of those countries. I respectfully submit that this is not a matter with which the Security Council should concern itself.

It has never led to any serious danger to international peace and security. Today things are quiet in India and I hope they are quiet in Pakistan, though there are no signs of non-Muslims who have left Pakistan wanting to go back to their country. My submission, therefore, is that the Security Council would do well to leave it well alone. The appointment of a Commission to go round India and Pakistan would, in my humble view, only revive all those feelings that we have been doing our best to keep under control. I beg of the Security Council not to do it. If you members of the Security Council, are really interested in the peace and security of India and Pakistan, let alone of the world, please do not attempt a thing which might lead in just opposite direction.

I say that the Security Council is incompetent under the terms of the charter to deal with a situation which is not one which is causing any danger to international peace and security, which never has done so, and which will never do so in future. The Security Council can easily leave this matter to be decided by the two Governments concerned.

That, I think, is all that I have to say on the comments made this morning by the chairman of the Pakistan delegation. I am very grateful to the Security Council for having allowed me the opportunity today of saying these few words and thus enabling me to depart from New York, as I hope to do tomorrow morning. But before I take leave of the Security Council, I should like to say on my own behalf as well as on behalf of those of my delegation who are also returning to India, that we, like the Pakistan delegation, are grateful to the President of the Security Council, to his predecessors and to all other members of the Security Council for the patience with which they have listened to the various speeches, some of them very long indeed, and the consideration that they have always shown us. For myself personally, I should like to say that although my contacts with the Presidents have not been so frequent, perhaps not so intimate as those of heads of delegations, I also hed the opportunity and privilege of associating myself with their work and should like, therefore, to thank all members of the Security Council for the consideration that they have shown us.

#### KEROSENE SUPPLY REDUCED

In order to provide increased quantities of High Speed Diesel Oil and Furnace Oil for the maintenance of food and industrial production in the country, the Central Government have, with great reluctance, agreed to reduce releases of inferior Kerosene for civil consumption during the months of May and June 1948 to an extent equivalent to 333 per cent cut on the scale of releases for the first quarter of 1948.

## **EVACUATION AND RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN**

About 5,00,000 Hindus and Sikhs still remain in Sind. A large majority of them are awaiting evacuation. The number of Sikhs is about 3,000 including those in Nawabshah, Jacobabad, Larkana, Dadu and Khairpur State.

The rate of evacuation registered a sharp decline during April, the figure having come down from 3,000 a day in March to 1365 only. Only 41,000 non-Muslims reached India during April while the total number of refugees brought over in March was over one lakh.

Restrictions regarding the issue of permits and running of special trains for non-Muslims from the interior have materially retarded the space of evacuation.

On representation from the Indian High Commissioner, permits are now being issued to people in Jacobabad and Sukkur districts, though orders cancelling the running of special trains from the interior have not yet been rescinded. These restrictions have resulted in many ships returning empty to Bombay, causing a loss of several lakhs to the Government of India.

Unless the Pakistan authorities agree to the running of special trains from the interior, the maximum evacuation will be about 500 per day from Karachi and 500 per day from Hyderabad. The High Commissioner for India is making efforts to arrange the running of special trains. Meanwhile, ships are being released gradually from charter arrangements.

In Karachi, a new camp, named College Gymkhana Camp, has been set up. The Camp, which has excellent sanitary and water supply arragements has about 4,000 inmates. It can further accommodate 2,000 at short notice.

Free uncooked food in camps at Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur is provided to evacuees.

#### In N. W. F. P.

Evcuation from the N. W. F. P. is virtually complete, barring some non-Muslim pockets in Chitral which can be cleared safely only when (a) the Lowari Pass has been opened and (b) there is a distinct improvement in the political situation, easing tension in Swat and Dir States, which are on the route from Chitral. The number of non-Muslims there is about 400.

One plane load of refugees from Peshawar was evacuated on April 20.

Mass evacuation from Bahawalpur by special trains is now complete. Arrangements are being made to clear pockets and recover abducted persons and converts and also to help evacuees to bring out their moveable property.

There was some delay in evacuation due to searches of refugee by Pakistan Customs Officers. This was, however, stopped on the Government of India taking up the matter with the Pakistan authorities.

Reports have been received that Harijans are not being allowed to be evacuated from Bahawalpur. Our Liaison Officer has been instructed to investigate this. Government of India propose to take up the matter with Bahawalpur authorities subsequently.

In all, 41.5 lakhs of Hindus and Sikhs have left their homes in West Punjab and crossed to the Indian Dominion. Non-Muslims cleared from various pockets between March 8 and 30 number 22,251. In the first week of April alone 500 persons were brought to India.

Reports on the recovery of women are incomplete, but figures received up to April 9 show that at least 1,361 women have been recovered from States acceded to India. Nearly 633 have been sent to their relatives in the Indian Union and the rest are in State transit camps and the Delhi homes awaiting restoration to their relatives, repatriation to Pakistan or assessment of special cases by a Tribunal specially set up for the purpose.

An interim survey of the recovery of abducted women from the States acceded to India and Pakistan since the third week of February shows that the work is proceeding satisfactorily, although it has been impeded by the difficulty in reaching agreement between the two Dominions on the machinery to be adopted.

Moreover a particular handicap in the States acceded to India has been the lack of Pakistan women social workers to influence and give confidence to the recovered women who are unwilling to go to Pakistan.

These difficulties have now been overcome and an agreement reached between the Dominions, which should ensure the fullest co-operation between the Pakistan units, which will now assist in the work in the States, and the States authorities concerned who have already actively been undertaking the recovery work.

Workers engaged in the recovery of abducted women in the Indian Dominion recently met in conference at Government House to review the progress of recovery work and to iron out difficulties. A number of points of detail were settled, including transport facilities in West Punjab.

It was also agreed that Shrimati Mridula Sarabhai should take charge of the recovery work in the N. W. F. P., where little progress has so far been made.

A scheme to establish three special centralised homes for abducted and displaced persons is engaging the attention of the East Punjab Government. One of these homes will be for destitute women and children and is likely to be located at the Gandhi Vanita Ashram, Jullundur.

The second home will be for unattached, infirm, aged men and women. There are approximately 2,000 men and women who

cannot look after themselves and have to be fed at Government expense.

The third home will be for orphan boys and girls. About 1,324 such boys and girls of various age-groups will be looked after in this home.

The East Punjab Government has also opened a Women's Section, which will help in the recovery of abducted women. The Gandhi Vanita Ashram, which has a population of 2,333 displaced women and children, is the main transit camp for recovered women. From here 1,479 women have already been restored to their relatives in India.

#### Transit Camps

There are transit camps for Muslim abducted women in every district of East Punjab and Muslim women receive the same kind of facilities as are given to Hindu women.

There are over 1,000 women, children and others on record in the register of the Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service Head-quarters who are scattered in various East Punjab Camps and have not been able to contact their relatives. Friends, relatives and acquaintances of these persons are requested to contact the said office and also its branches at various refugee camps in East Punjab in this connection.

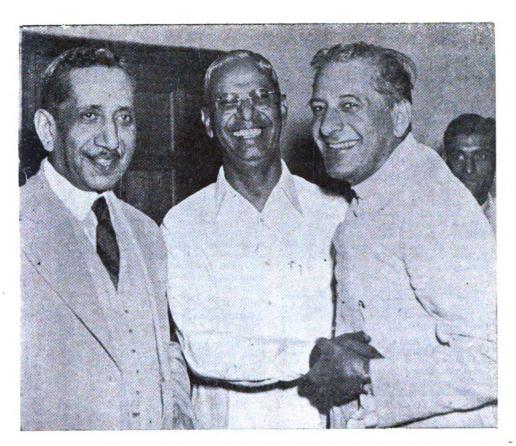
Between March 14 and 27 about 533 Muslim women and children were recovered from the various districts of East Punjab and brought to transit camps, which are located at Gurdaspur, Amritsar Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore Kangra, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Karna, Hissar and Ambala.

## BANK PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING FRESH DEPOSITS

The Government of India some time ago directed the Reserve Bank of India to conduct an inspection of the Jwala Bank Limited, Agra, under the provisions of the Banking Companies (Inspection) Ordinance, 1946, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 10.

Having received and considered the inspection report of the Reserve Bank of India and the explanation offered by the Jwala Bank Limited, the Government of India are satisfied that the affairs of the Jwala Bank Limited are being conducted to the detriment of the interests of its depositors. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5(1) (a) of the Banking Companies (Inspection) Ordinance, 1946, the Government of India have accordingly issued an order prohibiting the Jwala Bank Limited from receiving fresh deposits with effect from Monday, April 12, 1948,

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INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI: Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Finance Minister (India), greets Mr. Gulam Mohammed, Finance Minister (Pakistan). just before the Inter-Dominion talks between India and Pakistan opened on May 3. Mr. Mohammed Ismail, Pakistan's High Commissioner in India, is on left

# Campaign Against Enforced Custody of Women: Inter-Dominion Agreement

To rouse public conscience against keeping women in forced custody, all available media of publicity will be employed in both the Dominions. Plans for a comprehensive propaganda campaign to be launched shortly were drawn out at a joint meeting of the representatives of the Dominions of India and Pakistan which concluded in New Delhi on May 3.

It was decided that the main target of publicity should be the mofussil areas and particularly those persons who were influential and had a measure of control over the persons keeping abucted women. To gain this end, the entire field of publicity and propaganda will be mobilised. Divines of all communities, sajjada nashins and maulvis, pandits and granthis will carry the message to the people that no religion sanctions abduction in any form or under any circumstances. Political leaders will make similar appeals from a secular angle, and the moral and the human angle will be emphasized. Gandbiji's prayer speeches relating to this matter will be used for educating public opinion.

Provincial Governments will issue directives to the district officers stressing the importance of this work. Small committees consisting of the local officials, M. L. As. or other political leaders and publicity officers will be entrusted with field publicity. Mobile publicity vans fitted with loud speakers and projectors will go round to all important centres in the districts. Posters and pamphlets will be widely used in this campaign and films

It was further decided that talking points should be prepared for the use of lecturers. To put the propaganda across, the active assistance of religious bodies would be enlisted, and they would be requested to utilise Friday prayer meetings and other religious congregations for making appeals to restore the women.

The press in both the Dominions will be approached to lend its support to the campaign. Arrangements will be made to feed the press regularly with authentic news and stories of human interest. Weekly reports and supplementaries, if necessary, will be prepared in India and Pakistan on the progress of the recovery of abducted women. These reports will be exchanged and released in both the Dominions simultaneously.

All India Radio as well as Pakistan Radio will arrange two or three special feature programmes every week, emphasizing the moral and human aspect of the problem.

#### RECOVERY OF ARMS CONFIS-CATED IN PAKISTAN

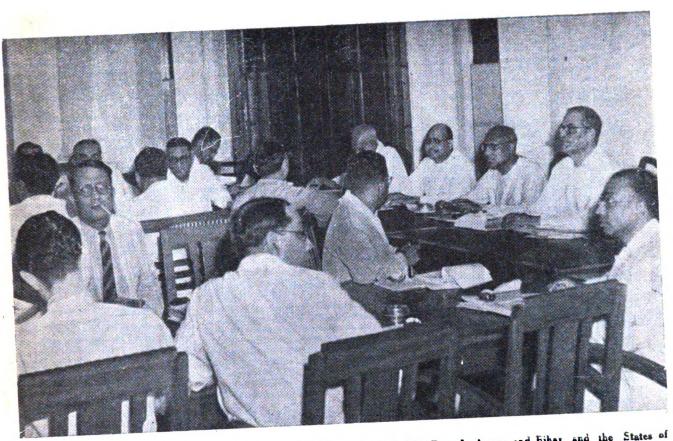
In pursuance of an agreement between the Dominions of India and Pakistan, efforts are being made for the restoration of arms and ammunition left by non-Muslim refugees in Pakistan.

Applications received from non-Muslims whose arms and ammunition were confiscated in Pakistan without giving a receipt have been sent to the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Lahore for being taken up with the West Punjab Government. According to the agreement the Pakistan authorities are expected to investigate all these cases promptly.

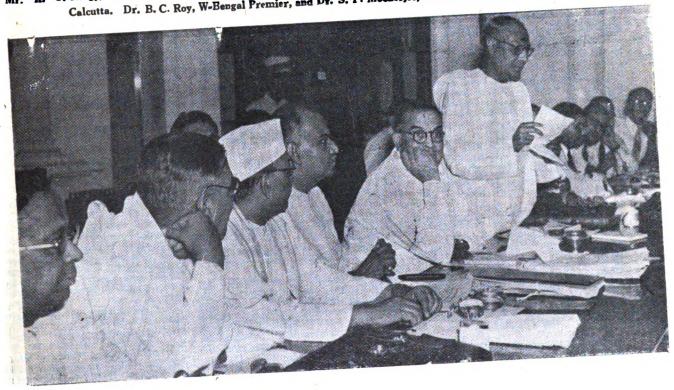
Those persons who hold receipts for licensed arms and ammunition taken away from them in Pakistan, should now apply for restoration of the same to the Director, Information Bureau, Ministry of Relief and Relabilitation, "P" Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram and Sardar Swaran Singh, Home Minister East Punjab ,duscuss a point during the Inter-Dominion talks





Representatives of the Government of India, the provincial Governments of West Bengal, Assem and Bibar and the States of Cooch-Behar and Tripura met at Calcutta recently to discuss questions relating to the Inter-Leminica Conference Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation (India) addressing the Inter-Leminica Conference held in Calcutta. Dr. B. C. Roy, W-Bengal Premier, and Dr. S. P. Mockerjee, Dominion Minister, are on his right



## "A HOUSE AND A JOB FOR EVERY REFUGEE"

A review of the activities of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation during April, 1948, illustrates the efforts made to implement the objective set by India's Prime Minister: "A house and a job for every refugee in India"

Construction of 48,000 houses in and around Delhi to lodge 2,50,000 refugees is the target of the Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. In the next four to six months 3,200 tenements should be ready in the Northern Extension Scheme to house some 20,000 refugees. In the Shadipura area also building operations are to be taken in hand almost immediately by the Board. Over five thousand houses are to be built within the shortest possible period.

#### Satellite Townships

The proposed sites of Kalkaji, Tehar and Sheikh Serai townships will be available for development in another four or five months. These satellite townships will provide 40,000 new houses for about two lakh refugees.

The Rehabilitation and Development Board is considering a scheme under which a refugee might acquire a house according to his means. The Board will sell out plots to the well-to-do at a premium allowing them to do the construction themselves; subsidise sale and construction to the less well-off refugees and make arrangements for the construction of houses by a Housing Corporation for the poor and destitute.

Water supply arrangements for the satellite townships around Delhi have also engaged the attention of the Board. Tube wells on a large scale have been ruled out and the Ganga and the Yamuna would be the two likely sources of supply.

Some cast iron pipes are being obtained from the C. P. W. D. stokes for laying lines for proposed houses for refugees in the New Dolhi Northern Extension.

The Board has received a scheme from Shri Bhopal Co-operative Society to build a township called Partap Nagar in Udaipur. The Technical Adviser to the Board is examining the scheme and an engineer will probably visit the site.

Likewise, a member of the Board recently visited Ajmer to explore the possibility of establishing one or more townships around Ajmer. A reference has been made to the Ministry of Home Affairs to enquire if the Delhi Detention Camp could be made available to the Board with a view to its development and expansion into a township. Sufficient water supply, it is understood, can be arranged for a population of 10,000.

In the East Punjab, plans are afoot to set up three townships at Faridabad, Gurgaon and Anandpore. The proposal was recently discussed at a meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board at Simla when representatives of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India.

and the East Punjab Government examined the outlines of the scheme.

The Rehabilitation and Development Board has also under consideration the construction of a small township centred round vocational activity, for about 10,000 refugees. The site has been proposed about two mile from the Pipli Rest House on the Grand Trunk Road.

To help house-building in Delhi, it has been decided to release building materials to plot owners on the condition that they make over the houses to the Government when completed on a fair rental basis for use by displaced persons. Details for implementing this decision are being worked out.

The Board has suggested to Provincial Governments to encourage building activity under similar conditions. Displaced persons should be helped in building houses for themselves by the issue of necessary materials. Such help will in a piecemeal manner produce results similar to a planned housing scheme that Provincial Governments may have. If possible, the people so assisted should be asked to release a portion of their houses for use by other displaced persons.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have approved the scheme of the East Punjab Government for the construction of 41,000 houses in various towns of the province.

At the instance of the Board, the Defence Ministry have agreed to collect information regarding houses in cantonments which could be made available for refugees; available land in cantonments and Military barracks at high altitude available for accommodating refugees from a cold climate.

The Board considered recently a request from Jaipur State for building materilas required by them for the settlement of 500 families of refugees from the Kuru-

kshetra Camp. It has recommended the State's demand for 15,000 asbestos sheeting for roofing and 20,000 ballies to the Industry and Supply Ministry.

The U. P. Government has taken meand the construction of residential cum-shop buildings in major towns of the province which are not congested. In other towns, buildings for refugees are proposed to be set up in the outskirts. These houses will be built both by the Government and private enterprise.

In Meerut it is proposed to build some 1,200 blocks, each block having technouses. The Bareilly Municipal Board has been granted Rs. 10,000 for the construction of 150 shops for refugees and a similar number of residential quarters. In Agra, it is proposed to build 400 house for the accommodation of refugees.

#### Loan Schemes

Comprehensive loan schemes have already been devised to facilitate early settlement of refugees capable of individual enterprise. It has now been decided to dispense with the condition regarding sureties in the case of those seeking rehabilitation loans as it was realised that refugees would experience difficulty in finding suitable persons to stand sureties for them.

Instead, applicants are now asked to produce from two persons, who may themselves be refugees, a guarantee of good character and past solvency in Pakistan. In addition, the assets purchased out of the loan are hypothecated to the Government.

Provincial Governments and States have accepted these various loan schemes recommended by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. Wherever refugees are in India, they can apply for rehabilitation loans up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 to the district authorities. Separate loan schemes are in operation for students and trainees in India and abroad.

The U.P. Government has promulgated an ordinance called "United Province Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans) Ordi-

## Scholarships for Refugee Children

Refugee children who have lost their parents or guardians in Pakistan and migrated to India will be granted scholarships to continue their studies here.

Such children who are in Delhi Province will be the responsibility of the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for the purposes of their education. The Women's Section will arrange for their admission to recognised institutions with the assistance of the Superintendent of Education, Delbi.

The Honrary Director of the Women's Section is authorised to pay scholarships not exceeding Rs. 25 per month to each such child admitted to a recognized institution and the education of such children

should conform to the type of education which they would have received had their parents or guardians been alive. Such children, however, will not be entitled to other concessions sanctioned by the Government of India for loans.

Refugee children who are eligible for this scholarship are of the following two categories:—

- (1) Non-Muslim children who have lost their father or guardian during the disturbances in Pakistan and have migrated to India; and
- (?) Children who have lost both their parents during the disturbances in Pakistan and bave migrated to India.

ace, 1948", to facilitate the granting of cans by the Government to refugees rom West Pakistan. The Legislation will insure the proper use of loans and legalise he recovery of these loans as arrears of land revenue.

Loans have been authorised up to Rs. 5,000. Exceptions may be made with the previous sanction of the Provincial Government. A refugee applying for a loan will approach the Collector of the district in which he resides, or in whose jurisdiction he wishes to carry on his business.

In East Punjab, district officers have been authorised to give suitable loans after proper scrutiny of applications.

In the Central Provinces instructions have been sent to district officers to give rehabilitation loans.

In Orissa a loan scheme is to be put into operation at an early date.

In Ajmer-Merwara a Committeee of nonofficial members has been set up to assist Additional Assistant Commissioner, Ajmer, to implement the scheme of loans.

#### Procedure Simplified

In Delhi, refugees whose applications were received up to the end of March will soon get loans they have applied for.

After consulting the representatives of the Delhi Administration, the Rehabilitation and Development Board has decided to simplify the procedure for expeditious grant of loans under the schemes already approved.

Numerous applications are being received by the Board for the grant of loans from the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. The exact procedure will be known only after the administration has been set up and rules published.

The Board has further decided that, where necessary and practicable, stalls in Delhi sould be allotted to those refugees who may be granted loans but may not have been able to secure business premises so far. The Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, has agreed to place 700 stalls (now under construction) at the disposal of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, for this purpose and to assist in finding some more accommodation.

Regarding urban refugees who are still residing in camps administered by the Central Government, the Board is making provision to invite applications from those refugees who wish to apply for loans under the sanctioned schemes. Loans to such applicants shall be administered through the agency of the provincial or State governments in whose jurisdiction the applicant may decided to reside and set up his business.

Permanent and temporary Central Government servants, who had opted for service in the Indian Union, and had suffered loss of personal effects in the course of their evacaution from West Punjab are eligible for advances up to three months salary subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,500. This concession will also be made available to provincial government servants who have come as refugees from areas in Western Pakistan and have subse-

quently been employed under the Central Government. The condition of furnishing security in the case of temporary Government servents has been relaxed and now they may be granted an advance without such surety, if the appointing authority can certify that this employment is not likely to be terminated within a period of three years within which period the advance is ordinarily repayable. If such a certificate cannot be given for three years but can only be given for a shorter period, an advance may still be given. It should, however, be made repayable during the period covered by the certificate.

Provincial governments, including the Governments of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Bombay, Bihar, the United Provinces, West Bengal, Madras, Orissa and Assam have informed the Ministry of their having implemented its scheme for granting loans to indigent refugee students within their provinces.

Eastern Pakistan non-Muslim students and trainees, who are overseas and whose parents or guardians have been rendered destitute and have come to the Indian Union from Eastern Pakistan, will now receive the same benefits as those received by students or trainees from Western Pakistan at present abroad.

Refugee students who were getting scholarships in Pakistan can now continus to receive their scholarships in the following provinces: East Punjab, Bihar, Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara.

#### Students Abroad

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have up to April 24, granted loans to 54 students and trainees in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia.

Amounts sanctioned for their maintenance are £ 8,304 for 30 students and trainees in the United Kingdom and £275 for a student in Australia. In the U. S. A. 39,985 dollars have been sanctioned for 23 students and trainees.

To tide over financial difficulties that might be experienced by displaced teachers, it has been decided to allow concessional withdrawals in respect of teachers' provident fund account held in post offices in Pakistan. Those who will produce

their pass books will be allowed withdrawals up to Rs. 500 on identification to the satisfaction of the postmaster and up to Rs. 1,000 on production of an indemnity bond with two solvent sureties.

Those teachers who cannot produce pass books should present their claims to any head post office where they desire to have their accounts transferred. No withdrawals will, however, be allowed in respect of these accounts till they are transferred.

Extraordinary pensions will be granted to those Central Government servants who were injured or the families of those who were killed in Pakistan and who had opted for India but could not be released on or before August 15, 1947 for service in the Indian Dominion.

#### Refugees from Eastern Pakistan

The Government of India have decided to extend the same facilities to Eastern Pakistan refugees as given to non-Muslim refugees from Western Pakistan in the way of granting concessions to those who have not been able to transfer their savings bank accounts or holdings of cash or other certificates to post offices in India.

Depositors with pass books will be allowed withdrawals up to Rs. 500 on proper identification and Rs. 1,000 if supported by an indemnity, bond with two sureties.

Cash and other certificates tendered for transfer will be treated as provisionally transferred and holders will be allowed to encash these certificates up to a limit of Rs. 500 on proper identification.

Those Eastern Pakistan refugees who have lost their pass books or certificates should submit claims on prescribed forms, which can be obtained at any head or sub-post office free of charge.

To help the rehabilitation of refugee businessmen, the Government of India have decided that refugee firms which used to get quotas for export from the Export Trade Controllers at Karachi, Quetta or Peshawar may now be granted quotas for export from India. Other refugee applicants are also being shown due consideration, particularly if prior to their evacuation they were dealing in the commodity for which export quota is applied for.

# Concessions To Refugee Engineering Students

The Government of India have requested all Provincial Governments and the Ministry of States to issue instructions to engineering institutions within their jurisdiction to waive the requirements of domicile in the case of refugee students from Western Pakistan.

The refugee students would have normally been eligible for admission to institutions in their province but have now to look to other provinces for providing the necessary facilities. On account of existing rules for admission to engineering and technological institutions in various

provinces, the Principals may, however, find themselves unable to entertain applications for admission from such students. In this connection several requests have been received from refuges students asking for arrangements to be made in regard to their education in engineering institutions in India.

While requesting the Provincial Governments to waive the domicile requirements, the Government of India. have stressed that the cases of such students may be considered on merits.

Those refugees who did not import goods in the past but wish to do so now, will be considered as newcomers, but the fact that they are refugees will be taken into consideration if other factors justify issue of import licences.

Provincial Governments have been asked to examine sympathetically applications from refugee industrialists, who had some business in Pakistan, for establishment of factories within their respective areas. Wherever possible, facilities to such persons to restart their business will be given in the form of allotment of sites for factories, priority in obtaining construction material, electric power and raw materials.

#### Refugee Contractors

Representations were received from refugee contractors stating that contracts now given for bricks are for such large quantities that no refugee contractor was able to submit a tender for them. They requested that either the contracts should be split up or, as an alternative, refugee contractors should be allowed to form a pool for submitting tenders for such big contracts. The Board has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power and has also made a recommendation to the provincial governments.

The Board has also recommended the setting up of a Central Information Bureau under the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation with one of its branches dealing exclusively with commercial information.

Chamba State has at present over 2000 refugees from Jammu and Kashmir and 376 from Western Pakistan. The majority of Kashmir refugees are expected to go back to their State. The State authorities have provided all refugees with residential accommodation on a temporary basis. Shops have been allotted to those who were shopkeepers. Free rations to destitutes have been provided and to others rations have been made available at concessional rates.

The State is also taking action in adopting Rehabilitation loan schemes and giving financial assistance to refugee students.

Jodhpur State has absorbed 50,000 refugees from Sind. Nearly 30,000 of these are in Jodhpur city itself. The State authorities say that the State has now reached the saturation point and will not be able to take in any more refugees. Those refugees who are in the State are receiving the necessary facilities from the Jodhpur Government in line with the schemes proposed by the Government of India.

The Government of India will shortly be sending 400 refugee families, all belonging to the district of Jhang in West Punjab, to Alwar to start co-operative farming on 4,000 acres of land. They will start work in the beginning of May.

In Kutiyana, Junagadh State, 5,000 refugees will be absorbed. It has been planned to absorb 500 agricultural families, 50 village artisans and 25 professional men. The rest will comprise of businessmen, industrialists, skilled and semi-skilled personnel and industrial labourers.

For refugee agriculturists, 2,300 acres of rich black soil land will be made available, on which bajra, jawar, cotton, groundnut and other crops can be raised. Taccavi loans will be granted and other loans to businessmen and professionals will be given on the lines of the Government of India schemes.

#### Matsya Union

The Matsya Union has so far taken about 80,000 refugees for resettlement on land. The possibilities have been further explored and tentatively it has been decided that 70,000 persons should be settled in the Matsya Union, 65,000 tillers of the soil and 5,000 pursuing occupations incidental to agriculture. It is proposed to appoint special revenue staff in the Matsya Union to expedite rehabilitation. They will demarcate holdings, earmark residential houses against particular holdings and in general prepare a settlement project.

It is also proposed that relief camps should be set up for refugees in the Matsya Union for about 30,000 persons, Enquiries are being made regarding suitable locations for these camps.

### Resettlement of Displaced Teachers

The Government of India have suggested to East Punjab, U. P., Bihar, C. P. and Berar Governments that at least 25 per cent of all vacacnies created as a result of implementation of schemes for the expansion of educational facilities should be reserved for refugee teachers from Pakistan. All vacancies due to migration of Muslims and all vacancies in camp schools any also be reserved for them.

It has been noticed that there is still a large number of teachers displaced from Western Pakistan who have not been able to secure suitable employment in the Indian Union. Shortge of teachers has been one of the factors which have limited expansion of education facilities in the country. The Government of India realise that these teachers, many of whom are trained, should be employed as quickly

as possible. Suggestions have been made accordingly that Provincial Governments should start schools in the refugee camps for the education of children, if not already done so that a certain number of refugee teachers might find employment there.

It has been suggested that the initial salary of the refugee teachers should be fixed after taking into account the last pay drawn by them in Pakistan and the tota' length of their service.

The Government of India have asked the East Punjab Government for an appreciation of the extent of unemployment prevailing among displaced teachers in that province and the probable numbers who can be absorbed in the manner mentioned above.

During the period March 1 to 31, over 20,000 refugees registered themselves at various Employment Exchanges in Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Bombay, the Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, East Punjab, Madras, the United Provinces and West Bengal. During the same period 5,606 persons found employment, involving some 25,000 dependents. Since the inception of the scheme to register refugees for employment, 1,32,739 were registered by Employment Bureaus and 25,704 were employed throughout the Indian Union. The number of applicants who remained on the live registers of Employment Exchanges up to March 31 was 45,753.

Sixteen additional training Centres, with an aggregate capacity of about 1,500 have been opened at Almorra, Bahjoi, Bareilly, Dayalbagh, Etawah, Haldwani, Lucknow (two), Mhaoli, Meerut, Dhulia, Kolhapur, Poona (two) and Ratnagiri. The opening of these Centres and the technical and vocational training that will be imparted, will, it is hoped, facilitate the early resettlement of refugees. Training will be given in diverse trades like mechanics, turners, engine drivers, welders and moulders.

Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Labour for the training of 300 refugee women in a number of vocations. Apart from these trainees, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have 883 refugee women learning a number of useful occupations in the women's Homes set up in Delhi and Kurukshetra.

With a view to finding employment for refugee employees of the Karachi Port Trust, the Government of India have asked major port authorities to consider sympathetically any applications for re-employment received from any such employees, without attaching undue weight to restrictions of age, for entry into the port service or any tests prescribed for fresh recruits.

The Government of Bombay has decided that in future 20 per cent of the vacancies occurring under it should be filled in by the appointment of refugees from Pakistan.

The Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, has been asked to prepare schemes:—

- (i) to set up a vocational training centre with accommodation for 200 trainers alongside the present technical training centre at Ajmer, and
- (ii) to set up a vocational training centre in Delhi for both men and women with accommodation for 500 trainees.

Those facilities for 700 trainees are to be in addition to the scheme already approved for a total of 10,000 trainees.

The Special Employment Bureau of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has started functioning and has registered 1,141 highly qualified displaced persons. The first list of persons registered at the Bureau will be sent to the Provincial Governments, Employers' Associations, private employers, etc. shortly.

(Continued on page 657)

# DISPERSAL OF REFUGEES FROM KURUKSHETRA CAMP

## Reception and Relief Measures

Large tents secured from American Disposals will replace most of the small bivous tents in refugee camps. These will lessen the hardships that refugees will have to face during the coming summer months.

The Government of India have decided to disperse a large number of refugees from the Kurukshetra camp. The inadequate water supply in summer and the threat of floods during the rainy season (Kurukshetra being a low-lying area) have weighed heavily in reaching this decision. Arrangements are already in hand to disperse a portion of 2,00,000 population of the camp, one time the largest city of tents giving shelter to 3,00,000 uprooted human beings. The refugees from Parachinar are being sent to the various provinces and States for resettlement.

#### Camp Population

Population in regular camps in East Punjab comparatively increased during the second half of March and the first week of April. This was partly due to the influx of refugees from smaller and scattered sub-units which were wound up in the beginning of March. Nevertheless, a steady decrease in the camp population continues in Amritsar, Jullundur and Ludhiana districts.

The latest figures of refugees in camps in East Punjab are as follows:—

Ludhiana 29,621; Ferozepore 52,595; Ambala 38,705; Gurgaon 42,240; Rohtak 85,527; Karnal 92,900; Amritsar 13,607; Jullundur 29,897; Hoshiarpur 8,390; Hissar 40,255; and Gurdaspur 19,586.

#### Accommodation

The East Punjab Government is arranging to provide big American Disposals tents to refugees who have till now been living in bivouac tents. Eleven hundred and twenty-five of these have reached Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal camps. These will provide shelter to about 20,000 refugees. From Amritsar, Ferozepore and Jullundur big tents are being sent to Ambala, Gurgoan and Rohtak, where they are replacing bivouacs.

Among other measures which are being simultaneously adopted to get over the problem of the summer accommodation is the shifting of tented camps to shady groves wherever available.

#### Food

The overall position of food supplies in East Punjab camps continues to be satisfactory. Distribution of rations is now handled at all stages directly by Governmental agencies aided by refugee volunteer workers. Food depots, which

used to work on commission basis, have

The Government has decided to continue the enhanced scale of winter rations for some time. Fresh milk supplies are being arranged for East Punjab camps, where shortages were reported. Milk supplies to camp hospitals are regular. The National Christian Council, Ludhiana, continues supplying milk-powder. The total consumption of powdered milk in East Punjab camps was 45,10,75 lbs. during March.

Distribution of quilts, great coats and bundles has now been stopped in refugee camps in the East Punjab. Instead stitched cotton clothes and uniforms are being supplied.

#### Medical Aid

Two 50-beds hospitals at Palwal and Gurgaon and another two 25-bed hospitals at Rewari and Hansi have started functioning. A temporary hospital to receive mental cases from the camps, as well as cases which were being discharged as cured from the Mental Hospital, Lahore, is being set up.

Stocks of fruit juices, recently procured by the Government of India, are being sent to all camp hospitals. There has been no shortage of medicines and other hospital equipment. Penicillin, cholera vaccine, vaccine lymph and D. D. T. are being adequately supplied to camp hospitals.

Health centres set up under the charge of lady doctors and Lady Health Visitors have proved useful in training refugee women in midwifery work. Child Welfare and maternity pictures are displayed in these centres for imparting knowledge.

#### Patel Nagar Refugee Camp

The Patel Nagar refugee camp in Ferozepore provides shelter to about 26,000 refugees, most of whom have migrated from Montgomery and Chunian tehsils.

Divided into 10 blocks, each block is under the supervision of an Assistant Camp Commandant, whose duty is to see that every family in his block receives its quota of rations, clothes and other necessaries. He also looks after the sanitation in his block and in this task he is assisted by the medical staff of the camp. Rations to inmates of the camp are distributed free of charge.

There are adequate arrangements for water supply and electric lighting. Most of the refugees in this camp are expected to be settled in Ferozepore district.

About 835 boys and girls are receiving education. The subjects taught are Punjabi and Hindi. Satisfactory arrangements to impart vocational training to girls have also been made. The camp has several reading rooms. where newspapers



Mr. S. K. Kripalani, Secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitationaddressing refugees in Kurukshetra Camp

are provided. Patel Nagar has a hospital with 50 beds and about 360 out-door patients and 67 indoor patients are treated.

Out of 3,710 families so far registered as refugees in Patel Nagar, 6,133 person are cultivators, 213 skilled labourers, 712 unskilled workers, 20 professional men.

The Government, it is learnt, has decided to start garden colonies for cultivator refugees, and for this nursose 1,000 acres of land have already been selected in different districts. Arrangements to train these cultivators in gardening are being made by the Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation, East Punjah Government.

The Camp has been able to provide employment to 300 women who work at 16 sewing machines turning out about 400 garments every day.

## " A HOUSE AND A JOB FOR EVERY REFUGEE"

(Continued from page 656)

The Government of India have set up an Employment Co-ordination Committee in order to co-ordinate work of the existing Government employment finding agencies and to consider steps for promoting employment. The Committee has so far held two meetings.

The Vocational Training Centre at Kurukshetra has made good progress and nearly one thousand men are enaged in a number of occupations. Some of them are under training and others are doing production work. Proposals are under consideration for shifting this Centre to a more suitable location as Kurukshetra is a low lying area which is flooded during the rains. Two alternative sites have been selected, one near Pipli, a few miles from Kurukshetra, and the other twelve miles from Delhi on the Grand Trunk Road. It is expected that a small township will be built around the cottage and small-scale industries, wherever it is ultimately decided to locate them.



## Employees Killed in Pakistan

#### Compensation to Dependants

The Government of India have decided to grant pensions, compensation and other concessions to those Central Government employees (or their families) who opted for India but could not be released for service in the Indian Dominion on or before August 15, 1947, and were either injured or killed while in Pakistan.

Eligibility for the benefits and safeguards in this respect will be guided by rules provided for in:—

- 1. The Superior Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1936—to officers apointed by the Secretary of State;
- 2. Extraordinry Pension Rules contained in Chapter XXXVIII of the Civil Service Regulations—to other Government servants who were in permanent Government employment before April 1, 1937:
- 3. Central Civil Service (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 1939—to other officers who were not in permanent Government employment before April 1, 1937.

Applications for extraordinry pensions or gratuity should be made by the employee himself if he is injured, or by the dependants (wife and children or in their absence by parents), and should be addressed to the head of the department in which the Government servant was last serving. To avoid delay it has been agreed that the head of the department concerned should be authorised to sanction a provisional pension or provisional gratuity not exceeding two-third of the final pension or gratuity expected to be sanctioned in the case. The anticipated pension or gratuity should be based on the minimum amount prescribed in the relative rules.

Before final sanction is accorded it would be necessary for the usual procedure to be followed, copies of the final sanction being endorsed to the Finance Ministry of the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan. Copies of all final sanctions should be given to the Partition Secretariat for transmission to the Government of Pakistan.

#### FOR WELFARE OF THE BLIND



Blind men learning to make cane chairs to eke out their livelihood

### Vocational Training for the Blind

To promote the cause of education, training and welfare of the blind, a special unit has been instituted in the Ministry of Education, whose main object is to co-ordinate the activities in blind welfare throughout the Indian Union. It will also act as a clearing house for all matters pertaining to blindness.

The Government of India have accepted a uniform Indian Braille framed by an Expert Committee of the Central Advisory. Board of Education as the standard Braille for major Indian languages and have recommended its use in all institutions for the blind in the Indian Dominion. In order to ensure production of suitable literature in Braille, the Government of India are taking steps to set up a Central Braille Press as early as possible.

The St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War-Blinded at Dehra Dun, which is responsible for training and resettlement of blinded ex-servicemen, has also

been taken over by the Ministry of Defence recently in pursuance of the Government's general policy in this matter.

There are about 38 other institutions for the blind in different parts of the country which impart education and vocational training to the civilian blind. Most of these institutions are aided by their respective provincial or State Governments and are doing useful pioneering work in the field of blind welfare, but it is realised that these institutions are not sufficient in number to meet the needs of the entire blind community.

## INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEES

In December last it had been announced in the Press that the Governments of India and Pakistan had come to an agreement that no ex-parte assessments would be made against absentee assessees from West Punjab, East Punjab and Delhi and that property belonging to them in either Dominion would not be auctioned in pursuance of the demands of the Incometax Department upto the end of the financial year 1947-48. It was further agreed between the two Dominions that during the same period the Appellate Assistant Commissioners would not pass ex-parte orders on appeals and that no penalty would be imposed in respect of non-payment of demends on such assessees. The two Governments have now agreed to extend the arrangements by another three months upto 30th June 1948. The imposition of penalty for non-payment of demand will however, be waived till 31st December

## Training Facilities for East Pakistan Refugees

Following up their decision to treat refugees coming out of Eastern Pakistan on the some footing as those from Western Pakistan, the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, has extended the scheme of technical and vocational training to West Bengal, with the object of facilitating the resettlement of displaced persons in normal life.

To begin with, 250 seats have been sanctioned for refugees at the existing

Training Centres of the Ministry of Labour in West Bengal. The allotment of more seats is under consideration.

Admission to training under this scheme will be regulated through Regional and District Selection Committees which are being constituted for the purpose. No fee is charged for training, and free boarding and lodging is provided where hostel accommodation is available; if not, a monthly allowance of Rs. 40 in lieu thereof is admissible.

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## POSTAL RATES

• HE Governments of India and Pakistan have decided to restore from May 15, 1948, the postage rates, which were in existence between the two countries before April 1, 1948, subject to minor adjustments.

It may be recalled that the Indo-Pakistan postage rates were increased to foreign rates at the termination of the Stand-Still Agreement between the two countries, i.e., from April 1, 1948. It was subsequently brought to the notice of the two Governments that nationals of both the countries were hard hit by this increase. The matter was, therefore, examined at the Inter-Dominion Conference held at Calcutta recently and later a delegation was sent to Karachi where tentative decisions were arrived at for reduction of postage rates for exchange of such traffic between India and Pakistan. After further discussions, it has now been finally agreed between the two Dominions that the previous inland rates should be restored. The following rates would, therefore, come into effect from May 15,

#### I-Postal

- (a) Letter Mail (surface mail)
- (1) The inland rates obtaining in the country of origin will apply to the Inter-Dominion correspondence.
- (2) Letter mail shall include the following items:
  - (i) Letters.
  - (ii) Postcards, single and reply.
- (iii) Book pattern, sample, and blind literature packets.
- (iv) Registered newspapers, i.e., newspapers which for the purposes of inland postage are treated as registered newspapers.
  - (b) Air Mails.
- (1) For letters and packets a surcharge of one and half a annas per tola or part shall be levied for the Inter-Dominion air mails. This will be in addition to the surface postage.
- (2) For postcards a surcharge of nine pies per post card shall be levied for the Inter-dominion postcards. This in addition to the surface postage. This will be
  - (c) Ancillary Services.
  - (1) Registration.

The inland registration rates of the country of origin shall apply to registered inter-dominion mail.

(2) Acknowledgement due (advice of

The inland rate of the country of origin shall apply to the inter-dominion letter and parcel mail.

(Continued in Col. 3)

## INDO-PAKISTAN Agreement on Punjab Canal Dispute

JOINT statement was signed on the night of May 4 at New Delhi by the representatives of the Governments of India, Pakistan, East Punjab and West Punjab on the dispute regarding the supply of water by East Punjab to the Central Bari Doab and the Depalpur Canals in West Punjab. According to an understanding reached at that time, the statement which contains in Agreement between the parties concerned is published both from New Delhi and Karachi on May 7.

The following is the full text of the Statement :-

A dispute has arisen between the East and West Punjab Governments regarding the supply by East Punjab of water to the Central Bari Doab and the Depalpur canals in West Punjab. The contention of the East Punjab Government is that under the Punjab Partition (Apportionment of Assets and Liabilities) Order, 1947, and the Arbitral Award the proprietary rights in the waters of the rivers in East Punjab vest wholly in the East Punjab Government and that the West Punjab Government cannot claim any share of these waters as a right. West Punjab Government disputes this contention, its view being that the point has conclusively been decided in its favour by implication by the Arbitral Award and that in accordance with international law and equity, West Punjab has a right to the waters of the West East Punjab rivers.

#### An Assurance

The East Punjab Government has revived the flow of water into these canals on certain conditions of which two are disputed by West Punjab. One, which arises out of the contention in paragraph 1, is the right to the levy of paragraph 1, is right and the seigniorage charges for water and the other is the question of the capital cost of the Madhavpur Head Works and carrier channels to be taken into account.

The East and West Punjab Governments are anxious that this question should be settled in a spirit of goodwill and friendship. Without prejudice to its legal rights in the matter the East Punjab Government has assured the West Punjab Government that it has intention suddenly to withhold water from West Punjab without giving it time to tap alternative sources. The West Punjab Government on its part recognises the natural anxiety of the East Punjab Government to discharge the obligation to develop areas where water is scarce and which were under-developed in relation to parts of West Punjab.

Apart, therefore, from the question of law involved, the Governments are anxious to approach the problem in a practical spirit on the basis of the East Punjab Government progressively diminishing its supply to these canals in order to give reasonable time to enable the West Punjab Government to tap alternative sources.

The West Punjab Government has agreed to deposit immediately in the

Reserve Bank such ad hoc sum as may be specified by the Prime Minister of India. Out of this sum, that Government agrees to the immediate transfer to East Punjab Government of sums over which there is no dispute.

After an examination by each party of the legal issues, of the method of estimating the cost of water to be supplied by the East Punjab Government and of the technical survey of water resources and the means of using for supply to these canals, the two Governments agree that further meetings between their representatives should take place.

The Dominion Governments of India and Pakistan accept the above terms and express the hope that a friendly solution will be reached.

- (Sd.) N. V. Gadgil.
- (Sd.) Jawaharlal Nehru.
- (Sd.) Swaran Singh.
  - (Sd.) Ghulam Mohammad.
  - (Sd.) Shaukat Hyat Khan.
  - (Sd.) Mumtaz Daultana.

(Continued from Col. 1)

#### (3) Express delivery.

The inland rate of the country of origin shall apply to the inter-dominion letter

#### (4) Enquiry fee.

No special fee shall be charged for enquiries in respect of inter-dominion mails.

(5) Insurance fee for letter and parcel

The inland rate of insurance fee of the country of origin shall apply to letter and parcel mail intended for the other dominion.

#### (d) Parcels.

It is agreed that the inland rates should be applied to parcels for the other dominion. Registration of the inter-dominion parcels shall be compulsory. The country of destination shall be entitled to collect delivery fee not exceeding six annas per parcel as may be mutually agreed upon from the addressee at the time of delivery.

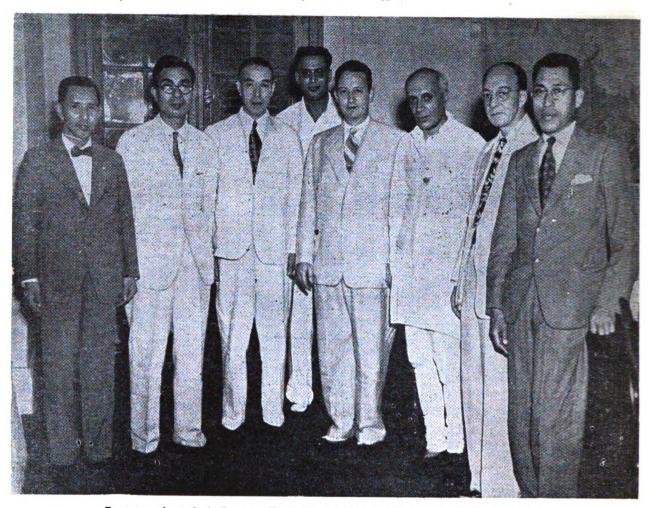
#### (e) Money Orders.

The inland rate of commission on money orders is applicable.

It has been further agreed that with a view to obviate delays in the transmission of mails direct exchange of bags on reciprocal basis should be introduced.

The telegraph and telephone rates will remain unchanged.





Representatives of the Japanese Trade Mission with Pandit Nehru (third from right)

## JAPANESE TRADE MISSION IN INDIA

THE first trade mission from Japan after the second world war, is now on a visit to India. The Mission is sponsored by the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers and Military Rule in Japan—more commonly referred as "SCAP"—with a desire to stimulate trade between India and Japan.

SCAP, it is understood, felt that much of the material required for Japan can at present be procured from India, while textile machinery and metal parts can be exported from Japan to this country.

The Mission came to India early in May and is leaving about the middle of June. So far it has visited Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Ahmedabad and held discussions with representatives of the Governments Central and Provincial as well as with those of Trade and Industry.

The Mission is led by Mr. W. R. Eaton, a high official of the Foreign Trade Division of Scap, and consists of Messrs. R. Donaldson, Keizoo Fuki, Hiroshi Horihiro, Fumihiko Sakai and Cakeno Suke Sugihara, representing cotton, jute, textile and other interests.

On May 7, the Scap Trade Mission from Japan called on the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Prime Minister's room in the Secretariat.

Welcoming the Mission, Pandit Nehru referred to the historical ties between India and Japan and expressed his country's desire to cultivate closer trade, economic and cultural relations with Japan. He said that the economy of both countries should be complementary and that, within the limits of India's programme of industrial and economic development, she would assist as much as possible in sending raw materials to Japan. The Prime Minister also sent greetings and good wishes to the Japanese people.

Mr. W. R. Eaton, Leader of the Mission, thanked the Prime Minister for the hospitality accorded to the Mission by the Government of India. He said that Japan had capacity for the production of capital goods, but she was in need of raw materials. He expressed his wishes for the welfare of India and for the revival of Indo-Japanese trade.

The Mission later met officers of the various Ministries of the Government of

India in the North Block of the Secretariat. Among the Ministries represented were: Commerce, Industry and Supply, Finance, Works, Mines and Power, Communications, External Affairs and Agriculture.

Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary of the Commerce Ministry, welcomed the Mission. Recalling the pre-war trade contacts between India and Japan, he expressed the Government of India's desire to see those relationships re-established to the benefit of both countries. He hoped that on the Mission's return to Japan its members would assist in removing the obstacles now impeding the flow of trade.

Continuing Mr. Desai said that Japan had considerable manufacturing capacity and technical skill. India, too, had made rapid industrial strides, but she needed capital goods and certain types of machinery which Japan could supply. He hoped that by the time the visitors left India some understanding would be arrived at enabling the objectives of the visit to be achieved.

Mr. W. R. Eaton, the leader of the Mission, replied thanking Mr. Desai for his welcome. He touched on Japan's need to secure raw materials such as cotton and jute and stressed the need for an Indian trade representative in Japan. Mr. Desai, in reply, said that the Government had already decided to station a Trade Commissioner in Japan.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1948

### INDO-JAPANESE TRADE PROSPECTS

HERE are several articles, both capital and consumer, which India could import from Japan and which Japan is in a position to export. There are also several articles, such as raw cotton, oilseeds, jute, hessian, hides and skins, iron ore, etc. which India can spare in fair quantities. It is, therefore, very essential for the resumption of private trade that immediate negotiations should be opened with SCAP (Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Japan)". Thus observes the Indian Trade Mission to Japan, whose report has been submitted to the Government of

The Delegation, which left for Tokyo in June, 1947, consisted of Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand (Leader), Mr. R. D. Ashar, Mr. Abu N. Futehally, Mr. N. P. Huteesingh, Mr. P. M. Chinai, Mr. J. P. Patel and Mr. T. P. Barat (Secretary). Its terms of reference were.

To complete arrangements for the sale of raw cotton to Japan and for the import of cotton cloth, cotton yarn, rayon silk and silk fabrics, raw silk, textile machinery and mill work etc. therefrom.

To arrive at satisfactory arrangements for the sale and purchase of such commodities as are to be traded on a Government to Government basis.

To secure for India a substantial share of those commodities which are likely to be available for export.

To ascertain what progress has been made with regard to proposals for the resumption of private trade with Japan, and what steps could usefully be taken by the Government of India to that end.

To ensure that in the event of private trade being resumed, a suitable share of such trade is secured for India.

To advise generally as regards measures required for the rehabilitation and development of India's trade with Japan.

#### Method for Financing Trade

As the yen rate has not yet been fixed in terms of the Rupee or Sterling, the Delegation feels that some provision of credit facilities would be required, at least temporarily, if any substantial trade is to be built up between India and Japan, though this credit should not be given, for a period longer than is absolutely necessary. The following procedure is suggested:

"Indian exporters to Japan would be paid in rupees out of a Special Account to be maintained by the Reserve Bank of India against payments made by Japanese importers in their own currency, for which a Special Account should be maintained by the Controller of SCAP. When exports from Japan to India are resumed, Indian importers would pay for them into the Special Account with the Reserve Bank, while Japanese exporters would receive payment out of the Japanese amount accumulated in the Special Account maintained by SCAP, the balance standing to India's credit in the books of SCAP for any specified period being subject to

an agreed limit. After expiry of such limit, SCAP would take steps to make available to India cash received from the sale in various countries of goods manufactured from Indian commodities. The fixation of a definite agreed rate of exchange between India and Japan would have to be part of this arrangement and a Special Account would have to be kept in a currency suitable to India.

In view of Japan's good prospects of trade with various countries, particularly India, the Delegation believes that Indian banking and insurance companies are likely to have much scope for business in that country after the resumption of normal trade. It is, therefore, thought desirable that some companies should open offices in Japan.

The present is considered an opportune moment for ships on the Indian Register to enter the India-Japan trade. This would allow Indian ships to become used to Japanese ports while they are still under military occupation, and also enable Japanese traders to come to know the ships. It is felt that Indian ships should visit Japan and establish themselves on the run before normal trade channels are reopened. There is also need for a shipping expert to be attached to the India Liaison Office at Tokyo.

Some of the other recommendations are: The ven rate should be fixed.

Without the constitution of an Export-Import Revolving Fund it would not be possible to resume private trade for the import of commodities required by Japan.

Air communication and post and telegraph services with Japan should be resumed without any reservation. Cables from Japan should be permitted against payment in India by receivers, as Japanese traders find it difficult to make payment in American dollars.

A Trade Commissioner, experienced in Indo-Japanese trade and, particularly, having knowledge of the textile industry, should be appointed in Japan.

The Government of India should relax its ecxhange control regulations so as to permit a bank in India which wishes to participate in the trade with Japan to be in a position to grant such banking facilities to the trade here as would be required by SCAP. According to the Indian Exchange Control Regulations, a shipper has to obtain payment within 6 months after goods have been exported from India. The period will have to be relaxed to 9 months in the case of Japan, since in the case of cotton shipments to that country, banks in India will have to negotiate documents for payment to be recovered 9 months after the goods arrive in Japan".

Referring to the industrial rehabilitation and recovery of Japan, the Delegation says that, though not inconsiderable, this has till now been disappointing. Probably little more than one-third ithe level of industrial production attained in the early "thirties", the basic period chosen for the post-war needs of Japan, has now been reached.

Japan needs a number of Indian commodities for its industrial development. For instance, her electrical industries are experiencing a serious shortage of mica, and SCAP is anxious to secure immediate supplies. Other Indian commodities required are jute and jute goods (hessian and goods (hessian and gunny bags), coir yarn and fibre, castor and linseed, shellac,



Pandit Nehru greets Mr. W. R. Eaton, member of the Trade Mission from Japane

hides and skins, bones and sinews (for manufacture of glue) and iron and manganese.

According to the report, a large range of capital goods and equipment, mill stores, and other goods is at present available in Japan. These include: bobbins; shuttles; fibre cans; wire healds; ball bearings; hand tools; machine tools; electrical goods, such as electric motors (up to 2,000 h.p. and more), transformers, electric fans and other household electric appliances (designed to work on 110 volta). floures-According to the report, a large range (designed to work on 110 volts), floureseent lighting equipment; centrifugal pumps; chemicals such as agar agar, copper sulphate, aluminium sulphate, camphor, menthol, tartaric acid, citric acid and vegetable wax; photographic cameras, Diesel and kerosene engines; automatic looms, silk manufacturing machinery, parts and accessories; silk and rayon weaving looms; rayon plant of the Viscose type.

SCAP has offered to India cotton spinning machinery from blow room to spindles, in terms of 100,000 spindles, provided 30,000 tons of coking quality coal are supplied by India to enable production of this machinery. 16,000 doubling spindles are also offered against the supply of 895 tons of coal.

#### Textile Machinery

As regards textile machinery production propsects, the report observes that, although there is machine-shop capacity in Japan, production is limited by the non-availability of essential raw materials. If the requisite raw materials could be supplied, it would be possible for Japan to manufacture fairly substantial quantities of textile machinery for export. The report adds: "If the silk and rayon weaving industries in India have to be developed on a sound basis, it is strongly recommended that India should resort to Japanese machinery, which is efficient; simple in operation and cheaper than Swiss or American machines. Although at the present stage procurement of this machinery is limited, there is no donbt that at a later stage these machines are likely to be freely available".

It is suggested that a person having intimate knowledge of the rayon and silk industries should be attached to the Indian Liaison Mission at Tokyo. Also, that the Government of India should either invite Japanese "key" technicians to India to advise the Indian Silk industry, or should depute Indian technicians to Japan to study Japenese methods of sericulture and production. But for building up the rayon industry, it is suggested that India should look to methods employed in the U.S. A., rather than in Japan.

Referring to Japan's cotton textile industry, the report reveals that the number of installed and rehabilitated spindles on July 1, 1947 was 2.9 millions, of which operating spindles averaged 2.25 millions. It was expected that by March 1948, 3.3 million spindles would be installed. The target to be reached in 1949 is 4 million spindles. The number of looms installed on July 1, 1947, was 34,385 in the bigger mills and 137,000 in the smaller mills. By 1949, it is estimated, these figures will be raised to 37,000 and 150,000 respectively.

are being produced owing to inadequate bleaching facilities.

The consumption of raw cotton in Japan is increasing. It was 22,000 bales in July 1946, 66,000 bales in June 1947, and in December 1947 it was estimated at 80,000 bales. SCAP estimates that consumption in the 1947-48 season will amount to 725,000 bales, plus 200,000 bales for stock-piling and 50,000 bales. for miscellaneous purposes. If conditions are favourable, consumption could be stepped up appreciably. The off-take of Indian cotton in the 1947-48 season, on the basis of 400 lbs per bale, is estimated at 314,688 bales.

Production of cotton fabrics increased from 1 million yards a month in July 1948 to 60 million yards in June 1947. About 20 per cent of total production is for domestic consumption and 80 per cent is made available for export. The principal varieties of exports are shirtings, poplins, sheetings, jeans, drills, flannels, striped drill, ticking and gingham, towels and knitted under- sheets.

In the woollen industry, the aim is to step up production to almost half of Japan's pre-war capacity by installing 815 woollen cards and 733,000 worsted spindles.

At present Japan has no spun silk to offer to India. The very small quantities which are being produced are reserved for domestic consumption. SCAP assured the delegation that yarns of 150 deniers, 30 filaments, suitable for the Indian market, would be supplied from October 1947.

Regarding woven silk piecegoods, the Delegation feels that it would not be desirable, in the interests of the home industry, to import manufactured fabrics from Japan, except specialised qualities.

Although India has a large production of woven rayon fabrics, yet in view of appreciable imports from the U.S. A. and the U. K., the report states that the question of purchases from Japan may be considered as Japanese cloth is cheaper.

At present Quinine Sulphate, Quinine Bisulphate, Quinine Hydrochloride and Quinine Bihydrochloride imported under licence into India can be cleared from the Customs only after the importer has executed an agreement to sell 60 per cent of the consignment to Government at prescribed rates and to sell the remaining 40 per cent only to duly approved persons. or institutions at prescribed rates.

It has now been decided to relax these conditions. Hereafter consignments of these Quinine Salts imported under licence can be cleared on the importer executing an agreement not to sell the Quinine Salts above the prescribed rates and to submit quarterly reports to Government showing how the quinine was disposed of.

Applications for import licences will continue to be made to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi. Import licences will be granted subject to certain conditions which can be ascertained from the Import Trade Controllers.

### The knitting industry has a capacity of about 12 million lbs. per month for all fibres, but only 6 million lbs. per year of Cotton Piecegoods

URING 1947, more than 20,000 applications were received by the Chief Controller of Exports under the New-comers' scheme for the export of cotton piecegoods. In the absence of any marked improvement in the supply position of mill-made cloth, Government found it not possible to increase the exportable quota to such an extent as would make it sufficient for even the minimum requirements of all the applicants to be met. So, a large number of applicants could not be given quotas.

The stage has now been reached when the parties to whom quotes under the scheme have been given may expect to be assured of continuity of allotment so as to ensure future business with their clients overseas. On the other hand, it is felt that a more rigid scrutiny should be made of new applications in view of the limited supplies of cloth available for export.

#### Registered New-comers

The Government of India has accordingly decided that firms to whom allotments have been made for July-December 1947 shall be treated as "Registered New-comers" for purposes of future allotment. These firms will apply, along with Established shippers, to the ports concerned for quotas. Subject to their having utilised past quotas satisfactorily and their continuing to receive orders from importers overseas, they will be eligible for fresh quotas.

Individuals or firms who have not already applied under this scheme may apply to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi (not the Export Trade Control authorities at the ports) for registration as new-comers. Such applications should be on the prescribed form, but no fee is required. They should indicate the destination or destinations for which registration is applied, the nature of the applicant's contact with the cotton piecegoods trade and his experience of the export business. They should also contain such further evidence, such as amount of income-tax paid, banker's reference etc., as would enable the Chief Controller to judge an applicant's standing and ability.

Applications will be considered as they are received, and selected applicants will take their chance along with registered new comers in the periodic allotment of quotas. When applying for registration. applicants will not be required to produce proof of orders from overseas. This will be required only at the time of the issue of licences.

The Government of India have decided to enforce cuts in the consumption of petrol for the quarter beginning 1st May, 1948. This action had to be taken partly on account of the difficult world supply position and partly on account of the need to obtain more supplies of black oil for purposes of maintaining the level of internal production. The basic ration for private cars and motor cycles will, therefore be reduced to half the present scale with effect from that date.

## LIBERALISING EXPORT OF JUTE GOODS TO HARD CURRENCY AREAS

SATISFIED that India is in a position to continue to supply soft currency areas with a sufficiency of jute goods the Government of India have decided immediately to liberalise exports to hard currency countries, says a Press Note issued by the Commerce Ministry on May 3. Procedure for the implementation of this and other lines of policy it added, will be discussed with an Advisory Committee that is being set up. These decisions follow a review of the working of jute goods export control during informal consultations with representatives of the interests concerned and the Government of Bengal.

For some time past the industry has been advocating relaxation of existing control over the export of jute goods, having regard to the supply position as well as the importance to India's economy of the need of earning as much hard currency as possible. The Government of India felt, however, that they must meet the essential requirements of various countries in the soft currency areas, even at the risk of foregoing some possible earning of hard currency. They, therefore, maintained destinational quotas for all ecountries.

#### Industry's Assurances

The latest review of the position, however, and the assurance given by the industry have satisfied Government that it will be possible to maintain adequate and reasonable supplies to countries in the soft currency areas, while, at the same time, liberalising exports to hard currency areas. The industry has given Government the further assurance that sufficient domestic supplies will be available to meet India's internal requirements and that any ad hoc demands, which Government might have to make in order to fulfil their barter obligations with particular countries, will also be met by the industry in full.

Having regard to these assurances, the Government of India have decided that, with immediate effect, every effort will be made to license applications for the export of jute goods to hard currency areas in full. Exceptions to this policy will be countries with which India has entered into specific barter agreements for the supply of jute goods against the supply of other essential commodities, chiefly foodgrains.

With the beginning of the next jute year, although destinational quotas for hard currency areas will be fixed, the Government of India will be prepared to license larger quantities, if there is evidence of such demand, provided the importing countries give certain assurances regarding re-exports.

In regard to other areas, destinational quotas will be fixed as usual, but their distribution will take place on a basis somewhat different from that of recent months. The quota will be divided between those who have actually shipped jute goods during the period January 1947 to June 1948 and in proportion to the volume of their shipments. In coming to this decision the Government have been influenced by the fact that a sufficient large number of "new comers" have

come in during the period now being taken as the basic period; and, therefore, it would not mean the maintenance of existing vested interests only if the quotas were distributed on the basis indicated above. Further, "new comers" will have ample and unrestricted opportunity in regard to shipments to hard currency areas. On the other hand, this system will remedy some of the defects which, undoubtedly, existed in allocation under pro rata system.

The Government will, however, keep in band a reserve quota of 10 per cent for soft currency areas, to be used to accommodate "new comers" in specially deserving cases and for making such destinational and other adjustments as may be necessary from time to time.

#### Advisory Con mittee

Detailed procedure to implement the policy outlined above will be discussed with an Advisory Committee which Government are presently setting up. The broad features of future policy are being published at this stage to enable

the industry to make its plans accordingly. The composition of the Advisory Committee will be as follows:

The Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, West Bengal, Chairman, Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Member-Secretary, Respresentatives of (i) The Indian Jute Mills' Association, (ii) The Calcutta Jute Fabric Shippers' Association, (iii) The Calcutta Gunny Traders' Association, (iv) The Calcutta Baled-Jute Association, (v) The Calcutta Jute Balers' Association, (v) The Indian Jute Fabric Shippers' Association.

#### PAKISTAN COTTON EXEMPT FROM IMPORT DUTY

Pakistan having been declared a foreign territory with effect from 1st March, 1948, imports of cotton from Pakistan have to bear the Indian import duty of 2 annas a pound. Since this duty will raise the price of imported Pakistan cotton and have the effect of infiating the price of Indian cotton and consequently of cotton textiles, the Government of India, have decided that cotton grown in the Federation of Pakistan and imported therefrom into India till the 31st August, 1948, should be exempt from the Indian import duty!

#### RISE IN INDIA'S EXPORTS

PROVIFIONAL estimates place India's total earnings from exports during the first quarter of 1948 at Rs. 97crores. Dollar area countries contributed nearly 30 per cent of this amount.

Figures relating to quantities exported from the three major ports of the Indian Dominion—Bombay, Calcutta and Madras—indicate that the levels attained in February in respect of major items of export were maintained, and in many cases exceeded, in March. Compared with shipments in the first quarter of 1946, exports during the first three months of this year showed considerable increase in quantity in respect of jute manufactures, tea, coal, coke, hemp raw, cotton waste, hides and skins, hemp, groundnut and linsed oil, miscellaneous seeds, wax and wool raw and that, in spite of the fact that the figures for 1946 included exports from ports which now lie in Pakistan.

#### Jute Shipments 94,000 Tons

Shipments of jute fibres and manufactures during March 1948 were considerable. Nearly 94,000 tons of jute cloth and bag were exported as compared with an average figure of 55,000 tons for January and February. Of this quantity, nearly 30,000 tons of hessian cloth were consigned to the U. S. A., against 13,000 tons in February and 10,000 tons in January. Total raw jute shipments reached a peak of 34.000 tons, against 19,000 tons in January and 15,000 tons in February.

Shipments of groundnut from Madras were heavy towards the United Kingdom and Europe in particular.

Export of Niger-seed to France stood at 2,300 tons—acuble February's figure. In addition, 2,000 tons of Kardi seed were consigned to that country.

The 10,000 tons of tea exported included 6,000 tons to the U. K. The U. S. A. and Eire ranked next with consignments of 1,000 tons each.

Australia took nearly 370 tons of wax, or 50 per cent of the total shipment of wax during the month.

#### Manganese

As regards Manganese ore, 6,000 tons were sent to the U. K.

The U. S. A. took 1,700 tons of mica splittings, the U. K. ranking next with 700 tons.

Lac was exported to verious destinations to the extent of 2,830 tons. Major consignments were shipped to the U. S. A., Belgium, Sweden, Brazil and Argentina took smaller quantities.

Export of hides and skins (tanned) were mostly intended for the U. K. As regards raw hides and skins, nearly 600 tons were sent to the U. S. A., and 400 tons to Holland.

Nearly 330 tons of gum were consigned to the U. S. A., to which 1.600 tons of myrobalans were also exported.

Belgium continued to show considerable interest in India's export of bones and manures. From a total export of 1,600 tons, nearly 650 tons were consigned to Beigium.

## Common Heritage of India and China Sardar K. M. Panikkar Presents Credentials

His Excellency Sardar K. M. Panikkar, India's Ambassador to China, presenting his credentials to Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek at Nanking on April 19 said:

Your Excellency, in presenting my credentials as India's Ambassador to the Republic of China I deem it a great privilege to represent my country in this great and ancient land. The relationship of the peoples of our two countries has been through the ages one of friendship based on understanding. The last few years of direct diplomatic relations have witnessed a strengthening of that friendship, which has shown itself in many fields, political, economic and cultural.

In fact, it is one of the principal objectives of India's foreign policy to develop and maintain unimpaired the most friendly understanding and sympathetic co-operation with her great zeighbour, China. Between them our two countries have more than 800 million people, or nearly two-fifths of the human race. We are motivated in our approach to international questions by the same ideals of peace. We share also the

supreme faith in human destiny, as our two countries through their thousands of years of history have seen the growth and decay of nations and the triumph of the principles of toleration and good neighbourliness and international charity. The co-operation of India and China can therefore, be the most important factor in the peace of Asia and a major contribution to the welfare of mankind in general.

#### Forging Ahead

We have barely completed eight months of our existence as an independent nation. What a period it has been of crisis following crisis. The trials and tribulations we have gone through during the period culminating in the supreme disaster of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, were of an unparalleled character. They constituted a threat to our nationhood and a challenge to our leadership. We have however, successfully weathered the storm and can now look forward with assurance to our future as a free nation. Through travail and sorrow a rejuvenated India forges

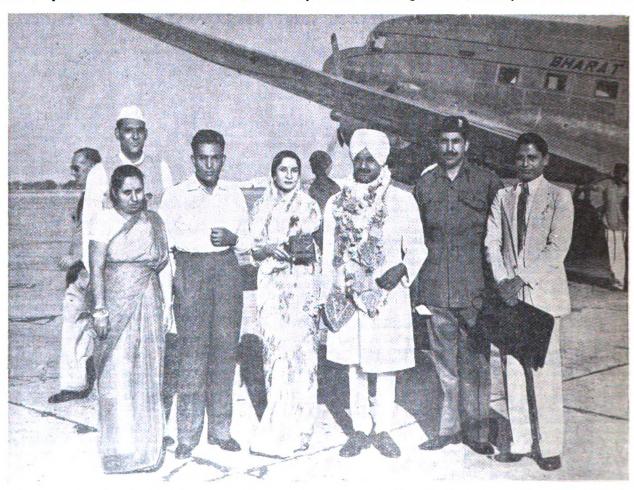
ahead to take her proper place in th family of nations. Our own constitution is assuming shape and we will watch with special neighbourly interest the working of the new constitution in China.

It will be my constant endeavour as Irdia's Ambassador to promote cordial understanding and friendly co-operation between the two countries. In this work I feel I have the support of the people of both countries—who in many respects have a common heritage and have no cause for rivalry or jealousy with each other.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency and the Chinese people the most cordial greetings and good wishes of the Government and the people of India.

## OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS

The Government of India have decided that refugee scholars applying for Government of India overseas scholarships in Dentistry, Nursing, Medical and Allied subjects should submit their applications to the respective Provincial Governments and administrations within whose jurisdiction their camps are located or where they are residing at present. Candidates serving in Kurukshetra Camp should, however, send their applications direct to the Government of India, Miristry of Health, New Delhi.



Wing Commander Rup Chaud, India's Ambassador to Afghanistan and Mrs. Rup Chand photographed at the Palam Air port prior to their departure for Kabul on April 24



Syed Ali Zaheer with Iranian journalists at his first Press Conference in Teheran

### SYED ALI ZAHEER ON FREE INDIA'S MESSAGE

H IS Excellency Syed Ali Zaheer, Indian Ambassador in Iran, was at home' to the Indian community in Teheran on April 16, 1948. A miniature India had assembled in the new offices of the Indian Embassy, every Indian community being present.

Addressing the gathering the Ambassador said that though he was his country's official Ambassador to Iran, in fact every Indian who went abroad was in some sense an Ambassador of India. By him his country was judged and valued and it was the duty of every Indian to show that he was a citizen of a great country and to uphold its dignity and proclaim in his conduct its ancient traditions. In the long years of the past India had indeed gone out to the world with her message of tolerance, humanity and peace. With this message she had now returned to the world as a free nation.

Within the short period of seven months of attainment of her independence, India had secured her representation in almost all the capitals of the world. The period of transition from subjection to freedom, the Ambassador added, had been necessarily difficult; but the leadership and wise counsels of Mahatma Gandhi, now unhappily gone from us, had triumphed and we were now a settled and united people. Through history the inherent strength of the Indian people had emerged out of temporary tribulations. This strength the entire world of today had recognised, more especially through the personality of Mahatma

Gandhi to whom it had paid a homage rare in history. The principles of Gandhiji's philosophy had travelled further than India and held the minds of the peaceloving men in every part of the world.

The Indian Embassy at Teheran, said the Ambassador, had made it its business to serve the Indian nationals in Iran and was always ready to be of assistance to Indians.

Replying on behalf of the Indian community, Sardar Mohan Singh said that the Indian Ambassador and the Embassy were a source of great strength to the Indian community in Iran and complimented the Ambassador on his successful stewardship of the Indian community and Indian interests. He assured the Ambassador of their fullest help and co-operation to him and added that the members of the Indian community would do everything in their power to uphold the honour of India and be worthy of its ancient traditions.

#### Visit to S. Iran

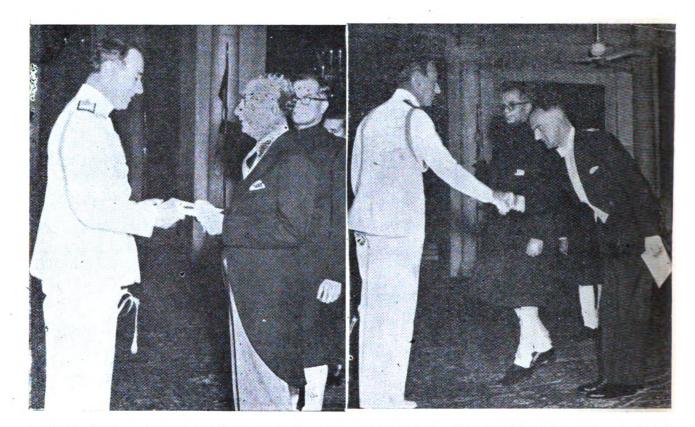
Syed Ali Zaheer, recently toured Southern Iran and Basra visiting among other places Ahwaz, Khorramshahr, Abadan and Basra. Wherever he went he was accorded an enthusiastic welcome and he utilised the opportunity—this being his first visit—to make acquaintance with the members of the Indian community at all these places and make personal enquiries as to their welfare.

At Abadan, he had lunch with about 800 Indian members of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's staff. A reception was given by the Khorramshahr Indian Association, at which 300 guests, including the Governor-General of Ahwaz, Governor of Khorramshahr and Vice-Admiral Zelly Commanding Royal Iranian Navy, Pakistan nationals and officers of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company were present.

Replying to the Association's address of welcome, the Ambassador referred to the age-old bonds existing between India and Iran, which he had come to strengthen. He appreciated the presence of Pakistan nationals at the function and said that there was no division of hearts but only political division into India and Pakistan.

A reception, attended by a thousand guests, was held in his honour at the Abadan Indian Club. Replying to the welcome address, the Ambassador referred to India's unique position in world affairs today, because of the immutable truths for which India stood, the great moral principles on which India based her foreign policy and the great teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, to which the world might well turn torn, as it was by conflicts and suspicions.

At Basra, the Ambassador was welcomed by members of the Indian community and the British Consulate-General and entertained at a reception. After visiting Zubair, the historical town near Basra, the Ambassador returned to Teheran.



(Left) His Excellency M. Ali Motamedy, Iranian Ambassador, presenting his credentials to Farl Mountbatten of Burma. (Right) M. Armin Daenikar, Swiss Envoy, presented his credentials to the Governor-General on May 12. Here the Swiss Minister is being greeted by Lord Mountbatten

### Dr. Syud Hussain Visits World's Oldest University

The Indian Ambassador in Egypt Dr. Sved Hussain, recently visited the Al Azhar University, reputed to be the world's oldest university which recently celebrated its thousandth anniversary.

Dr. Syed Hussain was received by His Eminence Sheikh Mamun Al Shinnawi, Rector, who expressed warm sentiments of regard and friendship for India and felicitations on India's attainment of freedom.

Al Azhar University during these thousand years had been the custodian of Islamic learning and culture, but under the previous Rector, Sheikh Al Maraghi who was tutor to King Farouk, it had begun modernisation with the introduction of teaching in modern sciences and liberal arts. The present Rector, Sheikh Mamun Al Shinnawi, hopes to introduce other branches of secular knowledge while retaining its ancient tradition as the seat of Islamic learning.

The University intended shortly to start a Girls College which would be a historical departure for so orthodox an institution, but it showed the progressive trend of present day Egypt. There had always been a few students from India at the Al Azhar University, but the Rector told the Indian Ambassador that he would like to see an organised regular exchange of students between Egypt and India so that they may become better acquainted with one another's culture. There were over 1,700 foreign students from Andalusia, Morocco, Senga, Albania, Jugoslavia, Turkey, Poland, Turkistan, China, Indonesia and India as well as from other countries.

Th Rector added the revival of all oriental countries, Muslim and non-Muslim, and friendship between them was necessary for world progress.

Dr. Syud Hussain was accompanied by the Cultural Secretary of the Ministry of Education. Later, the Indian Ambass ador's visit was returned by Sheikh Mamun Al Shinnawi.

Under the auspices of the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, schools for refugee children have been started at Mehrauli and Lodi Colony. The Women's Section is planning to start more schools as soon as arrangements for accommodation are complete.

### I. L. O. COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS

The following persons were nominated by the Central Government as India's representatives to the first session of the International Labour Organisation Industrial Committee on Chemicals which opened at Paris recently.

- Government Delegates.
  1. The Hon'ble Shree Binodanand Jha, Minister of Health, Government of Bihar, Patna.
- Mr. S. S. Bajpai, India Government Trade Commissioner, Paris.

Employers' Delegates.

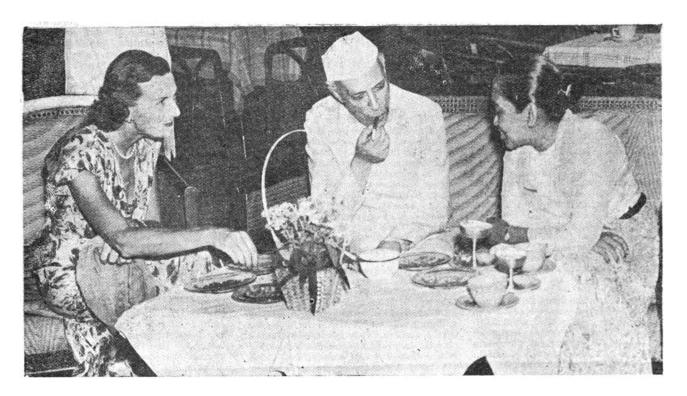
Dr. L. A. Bhatt, c/o Messrs. Kilachand Devehand & Co., Bombay

Workers' Delegates.

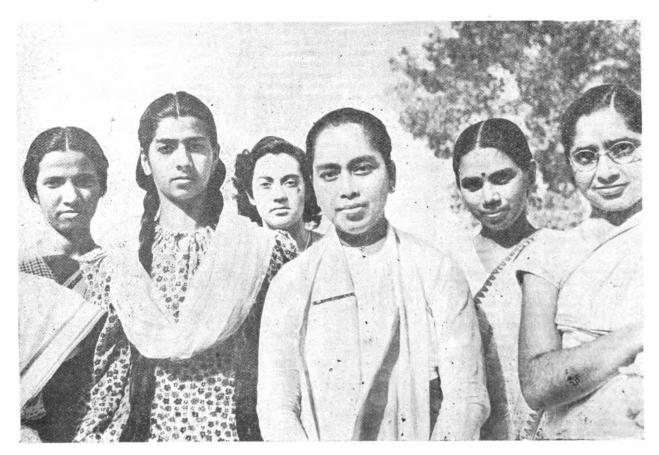
- 1. Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Ex-President, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Calcutta.
- 2. Shree Somnath P. Dave, Secretary, Gujrat Branch of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows :-

- (1) the problems of the chemical industries in the light of recent events and changes, and
- (2) conditions of labour and the organisation of industrial relations in the chemical industries.



Lady Mountbatten, Pandit Nehru and Madame Aung San, wife of the late Gen. Aung San of Burma, photographed at a reception held recently in honour of Madame Aung San at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi. (Below) Madame Aung San with students of the New Delbi Nursing College which she visited during her brief stay in Celhi



## DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

### Dr. S. P. Mukherji Lays Foundation Stone of Leather Institute

Laying the foundation-stone of the Central Leather Research Institute in Madras on April 24, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, said that a new impetus to pure and applied research had been given by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Council was now engaged in setting up a series of National Laboratories in the interest of industrial development of the country. It was but proper that the Leather Research Institute should be located in Madras in view of the great importance of the industry in the future development of the Province.

He appealed to the manufacturers and tanners in the Province to co-operate with the Institute and make it a useful institution. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee thanked the Madras Government for making available land for the location of the Institute. The function was held in a special pandal erected on the site of the Institute adjacent to the Engineering College, Guindy. There was a large and distinguished gathering including a large number of persons interested in the promotion of the leather industry. The Premier of Madras and other Ministers were also present.

### Pandit Nehru's Message

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, has sent the following message: "I send my good wishes on occasion of foundation-stone laying ceremony of Leather Research Institute at Madras. Each such ceremony is symbolic of the foundation we are laying for great development of scientific research and application of science for public good. Indeed, these are the foundations strong and true of India of the future that we are building today. May science flourish in India and remove the many ills that our people suffer from ".

Laying the foundation-stone of the Institute, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee said that it pleased him greatly that the efforts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were bearing fruit one after another. The Leather Research Institute was the sixth in the chain of National Laboratories the Council was setting up. All may be aware of the actsetting up. An may be aware or the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Several processes developed in its laboratories had helped the introduction of new industries. A the introduction of new industries. A new impetus to pure and applied research in India's Scientific Institutes had been given by the Council. The Council was now actively engaged in setting up a series of National Laboratories in the interest of soientific and industrial development of the country. Madras had now been selected as the centre. Madras had now been selected as the centre for the location of the National Leather Research Institute in view of the great importance of the leather industry in the future development of the resources of this Presidency.

"The leather industry", continued Dr. Mookerjee, "is one of the principal industries of India, as the value of exports of leather from India comes to nearly 3 to 4 crores of rupees per annum. The Indian Union produces on an average 21 million hides per annum, of which about 9 million hides are utilised for village tanning. India dresses about 8.6 million hides, every year, the bulk of which is done in the Madras Presidency and is known as E. I. Kips. These are generally exported to outside countries for being finished into processed leather. The export trade on this kind of goods is dependent on India being able to maintain high standards of equality and it is, for this reason felt, that the establishment of an Institute in Madras will go a long way towards the education of the tanners. It is definitely in India's national interest to export finished leather rather than raw and semi-finished hides. It is the policy of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to locate as far as possible the National Laboratories in centres which have special importance and which will be most profited by these laboratories. It is in accordance with this policy that the sites for the Central Glass and Ceramics Institute, the National Metallaurgical Laboratory, and the National Fuel Research Institute, have been chosen.

"I have heard a great deal about the skill of the Madrasi tanner", he added. "This skill, which has been handed over from father to son, has essentially remained based on empirical knowledge. While it gives us much pleasures to know that this skill has received world-wide appreciation we should now harness the accumulated scientific knowledge and apply it in developing our leather industry along modern lines".

Continuing Dr. Mukerjee said: This laboratory is not menat to take over the work at present carried on elsewhere in India, in institutions, by individuals and industrial concerns: it will undertake work of the kind that does not ordinarily come under the purview of these. The Central Laboratory will undoubtedly take up large-range problems, fundamental, applied and development, which are usually not tackled in the Universities for want of funds or lack of facilities. Certain types of investigations are also not taken up by the industrial organisations as their solution does not hold out prospects of bringing immediate monetary advantage to the firms. The Central Leather Research Institute will fill this gap.

### Co-operative Research

"This naturally leads me on to the subject of co-operative research in industry. That research must be carried out continually by the industrial organisations for their own development and welfare is beyond doubt. But not all concerns could finance reserch on a scale that would produce results; this could be done only by co-operative research. It is with this idea that the conference of tanners and leather manufacturers was held this afternoon and I am sure that the Leather Industry Research Association would soon be formed and they will have ample opportunities to solve their problems of production and development with the facilities available in the Central Leather Research Institute.

Another thing which strikes me particularly is the basis on which this great industry flourishes in India. This



Trainees at work in the smithy off the Orissa, School of Engineering, Cuttack

industry has continued essentially on a cottage industry basis despite the fact that the biggest tannery in the world is in India. At present we in India are deeply involved in a controversy on the question of nationalisation of industries. A section of the people wants that all the industries should be nationalised. Nationalisation in the sense that the industry should be government-owned is possible only when the industry is organised in a few big units. But the Indian Leather Industry not being organised on this basis cannot be nationalised like the more organised industries, such as iron and steel or cement, but in the very nature of its present organiation it is a national industry—it belongs to the people. There may be certain disadvantages in this, such as the difficulties in the introduction of mechanised forms of production and in the application of some of the modern techniques and discoveries at the various stages of manufacture. The Leather Research Institute should try its best to adopt these modern techniques and scientific discoveries to the Indian Leather Industry so that a harmonious and happy blending of the two types of economy may be brought about. It would be good for the people and good for the Government. It will be a great experiment worth trying and if successful, will go a long way in solving many of our difficulties in India.

### Scientific Talent

"I have great faith in the scientificalent of our country. I am sure that in the trials and duties that await us in the new independent India the scientists have a great and noble part to play. They possess great opportunities of service to the nation. They cannot only solve the abstract problems of nature but also the applied problems of industrial development and progress and by the manner in which they solve them find solutions for many of our pressing economic questions and thus create a new type of National economy in which the millions of our fellow countrymen may have a decent standard of living. I assure them that if they show some success in these endeavours they will see the whole country rallying round them. I wish them all success in their efforts. I am glad to say that my hon'ble friend Mr. Shanmukham Chetti has promised liberal financial support to the Central Leather Research Institute.

Dr. Mukerji than ked the Madras Government for making available land for the location of the new institute and promising to raise the level of the ground to a suitable height at their own cost.

Continuing the speaker stated that they were all thankful to those people for the able assistance they had given for scientific advancement. The future policy of the Government was to see that there was proper regional development and the policy which had been enunciated must be implemented by all. He would appeal to the Premier of Madras and the Madars Government to summon a confernce of industrialists in Madras and draft a practical programme for industrial development. The Central Government were going to take upon themselves certain very heavy responsibilities, and if the Provinces should have a fair share of assistance, they should

(Continued on page 671)

# SALT INDUSTRY: EXPERT COMMITTEE SET UP

A Salt Expert Committee has been appointed to advise the Government of India on measures necessary to place the Salt industry on a sound footing.

Mr. P. A. Narielwala of Messrs. Tata Sons Ltd., is the Chairman of the Committee, which consists of three other members, viz., Dr. K. I. Moudgill, Director of Scientific and Industrial Research. Travancore, Rai Bahadur Shiv Charan Das, Salt Controller to the Government of India, and Dr. M. D. Mithal, Director, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

The Committee's terms of reference are:

- (i) To examine the existing methods of salt production in Government and private-owned salt works, and to make recommendations as to what steps should be taken to increase production, to improve quality and reduce costs; where possible to give an estimate of the costs involved in increasing production and improving quality.
- (ii) To indicate the areas in which new salt works may be established with advantage and the technical standards which should be prescribed for these works.
- (iii) To examine and report on the best method of enforcing minimum standards of quality of salt offered for sale and methods to prevent wasteful production of salt below such quality.
- (iv) To report on the necessity and/ or usefulness of model factories to guide production and to give concrete proposals for their establishment.
- (v) To report on the character and extent of the technical assistance and supervision which must be provided to private Salt works to enable them to increase the quantity and improve the quality of production. Should Government teeff maintain a permanent technical staff for this purpose; if so, what should be the qualifications of such staff.
- (vi) The report on the desirability and possibility of establishing whether under State control or otherwise, modern installations for the production of salt otherwise than by solar evaporation, particularly for the manufacture of high quality edible salt, salt for industrial use and by-products of salt. For this purpose an assessment should be made of the industrial requirements of salt and the proportion of such requirements which the consuming industries can economically buy from outside sources.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 23 says:

The Government of India are formulating comprehensive measures so step up indigenous production of salt so that

India attains complete self-sufficiency in this vital commodity in as short a time as possible. Details of the Government plan including a licensing system for large-scale manufacturers and measures to encourage production by co-operative societies will be published shortly.

Meanwhile Government consider that the first instalment of the plan should be made public immediately so that small-scale manufacturers may take full advantage of the current salt season.

Henceforth individuals or groups may freely produce salt in any land to which they have lawful access for this purpose and by whatever process they desire, i.e., construction of pans and solar evaporation or boiling of brine or scrapping or excavation of saline earth or natural formations of salt provided that the total area of land covered by the salt works set up by any individual or group is not more than 10 acres. No. licences are needed and no applications for licence need be sent to any Government authority in such cases. The provisions of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, will not stand in the way of the right of the small-saele manufacturer mentioned

#### Gandbi-Irwin Pact

It will be appreciated that Government's new policy is greatly in advance of the concession which was given as a result of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931 to villagers. At that time the Government of India merely permitted manufacture and collection of salt by local residents in villages immediately adjoining areas where salt could be collected or made. Even this small concession was hedged in with restrictions. The salt produced could not be sold for purposes of trade outside the villages nor could it be carried except by persons on foot. Under Government's new policy salt produced in units covering not more than 10 acres will not be subject to any restrictions by way of storage, transport and sale.

As, however, salt has an intimate bearing on the health of the people, Government attach considerable importance to the quality of the salt produced by small-scale manufacturers without licence. While the high quality of salt produced by large-scale factories will automatically set a standard inviting emulation by small-scale manufacturers, Government reserve the right to take suitable preventive measures against the sale of unwholesome salt for human consumption.

Dr. N. P. Chakravarti, M.A., Ph. D., has been appointed Director-General of Archaeology in India with effect from the 30th April 1948 in succession to Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, C.I.E., who has proceeded on short leave preparatory to the termination of his contract.





Women working at a reeling machine in a silk factory. Their job is to join broken threads and to change the bobbins

# IMPLICATIONS OF REVISED COTTON TEXTILE POLICY

The actual position regarding the existing control orders since the Government of India's declaration of cotton textile policy on April 21, is that price control over cloth and yarn has been entirely removed and no price will be stamped. But the tex-mark and the month of packing will continue to be stamped as before and these are the only markings prescribed by law. The packeting regulations relating to cloth and yarn continue.

As regards the various production controls, the restrictions on the use of sizing and filling materials continue. The limits on the numbers of counts of yarn that may be spun and the number of varieties of cloth that may be woven also continue. A mill will be allowed hereafter to weave a saree border exceeding 2 inches in width provided folded yarn in excess of what would be required for the manufacture of a 2 inches border

is not used. The orders issued on the mills requiring them to utilise a minimum number of looms of 48 inches to 58 inches reed space for the manufacture of dhoties and sarees are cancelled.

The control on the manufacture and sale of sewing thread yarn and sewing threads has been removed. The prohibitions against the use of sewing thread in the production of cloth and against the employment of any spindle except for the spinning of cotton yarn have been cancelled.

The restrictions against acquisition and installation of powerlooms by any person continue, but there will be no more restrictions against the acquisition of working of handlooms, sewing thread winding and spooling machines and hosiery machines.

Control over millstores continues as before except that there are now no res-

trictions in trading in dyes and hydrosulphite of sods.

There will be no more quota-holders either of cloth or of yarn and the mills will be at liberty to choose their buyers. But refusal to sell without sufficient cause is still an offence. Hoarding of cloth and yarn continue to be an offence so that manufacturers and dealers can keep cloth and yarn whether in unopened bales or in loose conditions only for specified periods, and manufacturers, dealers and other persons can possess stocks only upto the limit of their normal requirements as at present. Time-barred cloth or yarn will have to be reported to the authorities as before.

The Textile Commissioner retains the power to direct manufacturers and dealers as regards the sale and delivery of cloth and yarn in their hands. This, however, will be exercised when absolutely necessary.

### Export Regulations

As regards movement, all restrictions imposed by the Central Government against movement of yarn within the Indian Union whether by rail, road, post, or other means have been removed, but those in respect of other cotton textiles remain. The position briefly in respect of cloth and apparel is that transport by passenger train is prohibited altogether in the absence of a permit from the Textile Commissioner. The only exception is that a railway passenger may carry, as his personal luggage, within the Indian Union, cloth and apparel upto a limit of 30 lbs. As regards transport by goods train, handloom cloth and apparel made of handloom cloth can move freely within a province, but for movement outside the province, permission of the Provincial authority is necessary. All other cloth may move freely by goods train within the zone but for movement outside the zone, there must be a permit from the Textile Commissioner.

The registration system in force in the Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur cities continues in respect of cloth, apparel and hosiery.

All cloth and yarn produced hereafter by the mills whether for export or for sale in India will have the same markings. As the trading is now free, the class of export wholesale dealers is abolished. The mills being also free to sell to any body they like, the necessity for A & B forms no longer exists and both forms will be cancelled. Exporters will hereafter have to fulfil only those conditions which are prescribed in the export regulations by the Ministry of Commerce. As price control has been removed, except in the case of Australia, British East Africa (including Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Sudan), there will be no export price as such fixed by Law for export to any country. Cloth which is already marked for export cannot be diverted to the Indian market without the permission of the Textile Commissioner and in the absence of such permission, should be exported or sold for export only. Similarly, price-marked cloth cannot be exported or sold for export and should be sold in the Indian market only.

## PROTECTION FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES the examination of toods and drugs. Calcium Chloride a by-product in its manufacture—also has many industrial Tariff Board's Recommendation

"The Starch Industry largely came into existence during the war as a result of the assurance of protection given by the Government", comments the Indian Tariff Board in its report on the industry's claim for protection. "When foreign imports of starch were not available, it served an extremely useful purpose in supplying the textile industry with the one of its essential raw materials".

The report points out that India, being one of the largest manufacturers of cotton and jute fabrics, has a ready market for the consumption of starch. The Board is satisfied that the starch industry, which is run on sound business lines, is eligible for protection.

Regarding details of protection, the Tariff Board recommends conversion of the existing revenue duty of 18 per cent into a protective ad valorem duty at the same rate, which should remain in force up to March 31, 1950. The Government of India has accepted this recommendation.

#### Glucose Industry

Recommending protection for the Indian Glucose Industry, the Tariff Board comments: "The preparation of a certain quantity of glucose is essential to place the Indian starch industry on a strong competitive footing with foreign manu-facturers and should therefore be regarded as an integral part of the scheme of protection and encouragement of the Indian starch industry". Moreover, it is pointed out that Glusoce is a food product; therefore, its manufacture should be fostered in the general interest of the health of the people.

The Tariff Board's recommendation, which has been accepted by the Government, is that the present revenue duty of 30 per cent. should be converted into a protective duty, and should remain in force until March 31, 1950.

### Potassium Permanganate

In its report on the Potassium Permanganate industry's claim for protection, the Indian Tariff Board recommends the conversion of the existing revenue duty of 30 per cent into a protective duty at the same rate. With regard to Ether Sul-phuric P. B. and Anaesthetic industries, the Board suggests that the case should be kept open for enquiry at a future date as the industry is not yet in a position to produce sufficient data in respect of costs of production. In the case of the Chloroform industry, it is felt that no natural advantages exist in India for this commodity's production and that no case has been made out for grant of protection. The Government of India, in its Resolution of April 12, 1948, accepted these main recommendations of the Board.

Potassium Permangante is used as a deodorant and disinfectant in the interests of public health and is also employed as a oxidising agent in the manufacture of various fine chemicals, dye-stuffs, pharma-ceuticals and synthetic drugs. As a bleaching agent and a raw material, it figures in the manufacture of several organic compounds. Therefore, it should be available to consumers at as low a price as possible.

It is estimated that the annual demand for Potassium Permanganate, both for public health and industrial purposes, is 200 tons. The productive capacity as at present installed in the country is comparatively low.

The Tariff Board feels that the present revenue duty of 30 per cent ad valorem gives adequate protection to the industry. It, however, recommends that the revenue duty should be converted into an equivalent protective duty which should remain in force till March 31,1949. If before March 31, 1949, the landed cost falls below Rs. 156 per cwt., the Government should raise the duty so as to equate the landed cost with the fair selling price as estimated by the Board.

### Ether Sulphuric

The principal raw material required in the manufacture of ether sulphuric is alcohol. In fact, the economic production of ether depends upon the price of alcohol prevailing in the market. The pre-war price of alcohol in India was 12 to 14 annas per gallon, but it has now risen very considerably ranging from Rs. 1.8-0 per gallon to Rs. 5-8-0 per gallon accord-ing to the province. Other chemicals required in small quantities are sulphuric acid, caustic soda, potassium permanganate and calcium chloride, which are available

The Indian demand in the near future for the anaesthetic variety is estimated at 90,000 lbs. per annum, while that for the B. P. variety for industrial purposes will be about 2,50,000 lbs. per annum, making a total of 3,40,000 lbs. per annum. Plant installed in the country for the manufacture of ether can produce 3,00,000 lbs. of ether P. B. and 1,50,000 lbs. of ether anaesthetic; and this capacity is sufficient to meet the country's estimated requirements of both varieties during the next few years.

The Board feels that the industry has not been able to produce sufficient data with regard to costs of production from which definite conclusions could be drawn. Until the industry is in a position to present accurate data with regard to costs of production, it is suggested that the case should be kept open for further inquiry.

Chloroform is used generally as an anaesthetic and occasionally as an antiseptic in hospitals. It must therefore conform to the B. P. (pharmsceutical) standard of purity. Employed as a solvent in many industries, it readily dissolves fats, resins, etc. It is also used in the extraction of alkaloids and as an analytical reagent in

the examination of foods and drugs.

Before the war the production of chloroform in India averaged 3,000 lbs. per annum, while imports were of the order of 2,50,000 fbs. per annum. During the war, local production capacity rose to 60,000 lbs. a year, the balance of India's requirements being met by imports from the United Kingdom on a monthly basis

It is estimated that in the immediate future the requirements of the anaesthetic variety of chloroform for hospitals in India will be of the order of 50,000 to 70,000 lbs. per annum, while the demand for the commercial variety for industrial purposes will be over 2,00,000 tbs. per

On behalf of the industry it was represented that a protective duty of at least 60 per cent would be necessary to equalise landed costs with costs of produc-tion in India. The Board, however, found itself unable to accept this suggestion, as the industry does not enjoy the natural advantage of having its raw materials (particularly bleaching powder) available in the country at competitive prices. Also, if a high protective duty be imposed to stimulate the manufacture of chloroform of the anaesthetic variety, it would impose an unduly high burden on the users of the commercial quality, who constitute the bulk of the consumers.

### INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(Continued from page 669)

have ready plans of developement. He was going to ask all Provincial Governments to prepare and formulate schemes for development in consultation with the private industrialists so that they could co-ordinate schemes of national development so far as India was concerned.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mukerji stated that it was also essential that cottage industries should be developed. So far as Madras was concerned, the handloom industry would provide a big opportunity for development. He wished that the Institute would have the goodwill of the trade. He then laid the foundation-stone amid great cheers.

Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, proposing a vote of thanks. said that it was red latter day in the annals of South India when they were laying the foundation stone of a national laboratory. He hoped that the Institute would not only be a great research station but would train men to become great in the industry and hoped that not only pupils from India but from other countries in the Far East would come and take advantage of the training offered. The speaker then thanked Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar for the great interest which he took in the Institute and for giving a fillip to the industry. He thanked the Government of Madras for its great interest in the scheme and for giving the site free to the Institute.



# FIRST STEAM ROAD-ROLLERS BUILT IN INDIA

Conditions such as control over management, India could for some time to come take advantage of foreign assistance in industrialising the country rapidly," said Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, performing the inauguration ceremony of the first batch of the steam road-rollers built in India, at Jamshedpur on April 22.

This was not a matter to be looked at from the political angle, Dr. Mookerjee added. There can be no question of any political domination coming back to the country through industrial endeavour which may be put into with the help of foreign experts. It must be a policy of give and take.

India possessed raw materials and a fairly large man-power. What she lacked were technical experts, capital goods, and trained labour. Co-operation and assistance from foreign Governments in this respect were likely to prove beneficial not only to the parties concerned but also could go a long way to solve the problem of production with which the world as a whole was confronted today. Now that India has achieved freedom there was no reason why her economic relations with foreign countries should not be stabilized.

It would, however, be natural, the Minister continued, that in cases of collaboration between Indian and foreign Governments India should insist on full arrangements being made for the training of Indian personnel so that she might in the near future stand on her own legs instead of leaning on creches for all time to come. He was glad to find that the manufacture of steam road-rollers was an instance of such collaboration between Indian and foreign Governments in a real spirit of co-operation.

Indian workers, though they were called upon to do work that was new to them, soon adjusted themselves to the demands which were made on their skill and talents. That showed that

suitable material—human material—existed in the country.

India had to make up leeway in the Industrial field, Dr. Mookerjee observed. We could see if we just looked into the figures how backward we were. Government had new schemes in hand but were experiencing difficulties on account of general economic problems which were an obstacle not to our growth but also to the growth of other countries. He was however, hopeful that India would, gradually surmount the difficulties and forge ahead. These very people who had produced steam road-rollers in India had a plan to manufacture locomotives which was a much bigger job. Some difficulties were pointed out to Dr. Mookerjee when ne was shown round the works before the ceremony. Plans were however, being drawn up, plants had been ordered abroad and other preli-minaries were being pushed through so that in the course of a year or two sufficient progress would be achieved in this direction.

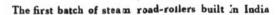
He saw before him a large number of young Indians anxious to do something for the good of the country but they could not proceed further because of their feeling of insecurity. It was for this reason that the Government of India decided to announce their industrial policy which would enable the Government to play their part in the future industrial development of the country, giving at the same time ample scope to private enterprise. He pointed out that for the last half a century we had witnessed struggles in the political field for purposes of achieving independence so that we might be able to enjoy that elementary right to which every human being was entitled, namely to become member of a free nation. Once we became politically free we realized that unless we are in a position to declare the industrialisation of the country it was not possible to solve the great problems which confronted the country today, particularly in regard to economic poverty which we see all round us.

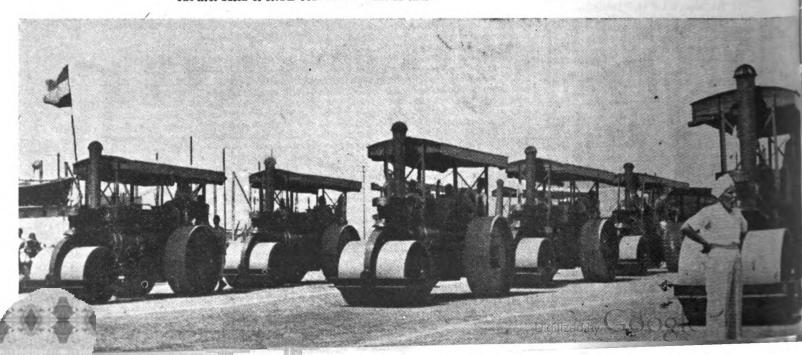


Dr. S. P. Mookerjee puts the saffron Swastika mark on the "City of Delhi", one of the first steam road-rollers built in India. On his left is Sir Gurunath Bewoor

The need for increasing production was supreme at present. Citing the instance of steel, which happened to be the main production in Jemshedour, Dr. Mookerjee said that India was short of her requirements of steel. The existing production of steel in India was about one million tons only whereas she needed at least three times that quantity. It was a matter of deep regret that even the existing factories were not always turning out the maximum they could produce. At appeal should, therefore be made to all concerned with such essential factories that such an undesirable situation be put an end to.

If national progress was to be achieved production must be kept at the highest level. Petty differences amongst the various parties and organizations must be buried and everything possible be done to step up production at least by 30 per cent. immediately. Let us mark the beginning of a new era of national endeavour which would make it possible for this country to be placed on the route to real economic prosperity, Dr. Mookerjee concluded.





### GANGA BARRAGE PROJECT

### C.B. T. Discusses Scheme for Ship Canal Between Diamond Harbour and Kidderpore

THE terms of reference to the survey party investigating the Ganga Barrage Multi-purpose Project which, besides bringing under plough the vast tracts of hitherto uncultivated land in north east India, will provide a direct and all-season navigation route between Calcutta and Ganga in the Indian Dominion, were approved by the Central Board of Transport which met in New Delhi on April 19. The Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport, presided and representatives of the Transport, Railways, Industry and Supply, States and Finance Ministries and of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission were present.

The multi-purpose uses of the barrage are:

- (1) To provide economic foundations and river control for the construction of a railway and road bridge. The proposal for a bridge which was made by the Premier of West Bangal was considered by the Board early this month when a preliminary examination revealed that without the barrage and the river training, which it involves, provision of a bridge would be impracticable.
- (2) Supply of water for resuscitating the moribund rivers, namely, the Bhagirathi and its dead branches in the Murshidabad, Nadia, and 24-Parganas districts, and irrigation. The major objective in regard to irrigation is to bring the waste land in these three districts under cultivation. This would greatly facilitate the rehabilitation and settlement of refugees from Eastern Pakistan.
- (3) To improve headwater supply of the Hooghly for the benefit of Calcutta port, which is vitally dependent for its existence upon the maintenance of an efficient waterway between the docks and the sea, the port being 90 miles from the head of the Bay of Bengal.
- (4) To provide a direct and all-season navigation route between Calcutta and the Ganga. The network of river transport services in North-East India has been cut by partition. Bihar, West Bengal and Assam are now practically separate entities. At present regular steamer services run between Calcutta and Patna (Digha), but as the Nadia rivers (the Bhagirathi, the Bhairab-Jellangi the Mathabhanga-Churny, the first deltaic offshoots from the Ganga) are almost dry for nearly eight months of the year, a circuitous route from Calcutta through Eastern Pakistan extending about 550 miles has to be taken. Therefore, the present scheme when completed would constitute a vital contribution to the communications system of the country from many aspects. It would be the most economical mode of transport for heavy materials

and goods in bulk and will have an important bearing on coal transport.

It has been decided that an engineering survey of the barrage should be carried out by the W. Bengal P. W. D. with the assistance and under the direction of CWINC.

The Board considered the scheme for a ship canal between Diamond Harbour and the Kidderpore Docks. The object of the scheme is to short-circuit the 42 miles of dangerous and difficult river navigation in this stretch off the Hooghly and to provide a sheltered deep water approach to the dock system at Calcutta. A preliminary technical examination of the scheme has already been made and it is now proposed to construct three models of the river to enable a decision to be made as to whether the Upper Reaches, i.e. between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour could be improved by dredging and/or training works and, if so, whether this course is preferable to short-circuiting the Upper Reaches by means of a ship canal. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 9.81 lakhs was approved for the construction of these models.

## BAMBOO SUBSTITUTE FOR STEEL

An overall annual deficit of about a million tons of steel as against India's minimum requirements of two million tons, has led to an intensive research for substitutes

The Indian bamboo, enormous quantities of which go to waste every year, is the latest claimant for an effective substitute for steel. It is stated that the bamboo can be used successfully as a substitute for steel in concrete, in the construction of roofs, posts, doors and window frames, and floors of buildings, and a life of 30 years is predicted for the structures made of bamboo concrete.

Further research in this direction will, it is understood, be undertaken by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. If the results are successful, the cost of country's housing programme will have been considerably reduced and its dependence for other building materials from abroad will have been curtailed.

The dispute between the Godhur and Kirkend Collieries, Kusunda, and their workers in respect of the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Dispute) and certain other matters has been referred for adjudication to the Industrial Tribunal at Dhanbad, states a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour.

## EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

The Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, are now open to all categories of employment-seekers, and are not confined to ex-Servicemen and discharged warworkers only.

With the recent decision of the Governments of Madras and Bombay to widen the scope of the Employment Exchanges in their Regions, the starting of a full-fledged and broad-based national employment service has been made possible. The demand for the extension of the scope of the Employment Service in India has been there from the very beginning, and the various Provincial Governments, with whom the decision rested, agreed at one time or other to such expansion. Now all the Provinces in the Indian Dominion have fallen in line with the policy of making the Employment Service available to everybody who seeks employment assistance.

The Employment Exchanges were thrown open to displaced persons from Pakistan as early as Soptember last. Up to the middle of March 1948, these Exchanges had found employment of 21,933 displaced persons alone, besides a very large number of other categories of employment-seekers.

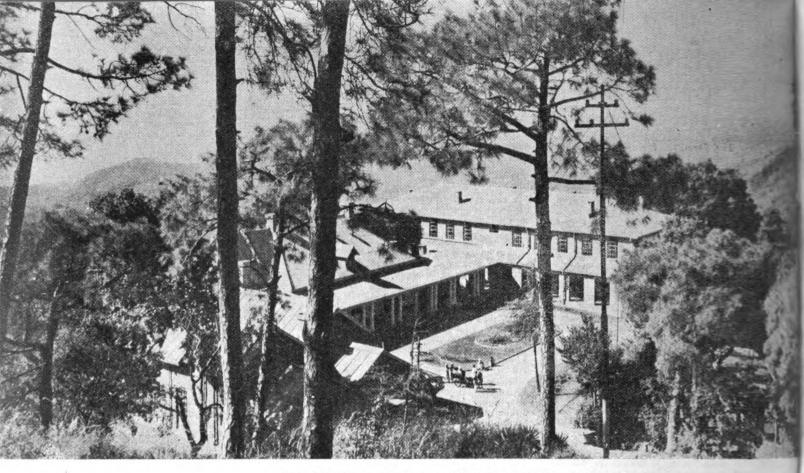
### **EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**

The Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour has hitherto provided facilities for employment-seekers possessing qualifications and/or experience of an administrative, executive, supervisory, managerial, higher teachnical, scientific or professional nature at Appointments Branches established at Regional Employment Exchanges only, all other employment-seekers having been registered and dealt with by the Employment Exchange or District Employment Office serving the area in which they reside.

Experience has shown that a more efficient service can be rendered even to employment-seekers possessing special qualifications by a decentralisation of work on the lines of the normal Employment Service. It has accordingly been decided that in future all employment-seekers, irrespective of their special qualifications and/or experience, shall be registered and dealt with by the Employment Exchange or District Employment Office serving the area in which they reside. Similarly, vacancies for workers of all categories will be dealt with by the nearest Employment Exchange of District Employment Office.

The revised arrangements will, however, still enable employment seekers to be considered for vacancies in other Exchange areas. This will be effected through the vacancy clearing system which links up all Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices throughout the Employment Service.





The Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium at Kasauli near Simla

## Latest Methods to Combat Tuberculosis

### Dr. Jivraj Mehta Outlines Government's Plans

"Tuberculosis is one of the worst enemies of mankind. It stalks steal-thily everywhere and has sinister potentialities to ruin men and women. The enemy must be fought ruthlessly with every available weapon", said Her Excellency Lady Mountbatten presiding over the annual general meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India, on April 20. Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, and Chairman of the Association, presented the Annual Report of the Association.

Lady Mountbatten, in her Presidential Address, said.

"It is said that in India about 5 lakhs of people die every year from tuberculosis and another 25 lakhs become active tuberculous cases. This is an appalling situation and calls for concerted action from every individual. The enemy has to be fought ruthlessly with every available weapon and the conditions favouring the enemy should be completely eliminated if mankind is to become immune from this scourge.

The surest way of combating diseases, and especially tuberculosis, is to improve the peoples' standard of life and power fresistance to disease. Side by side facilities for treatment, such as sanatoriam

and clinics with adequate number of specialists must become available. The battle against tuberculosis should be fought by official and non-official agencies. The Government's solicitude for the welfare of the people is well-known. On the non-official side the Tuberculosis Association of India and its affiliated bodies are doing their best to place the tuberculosis problem before the people and the authorities in its perspective. The Central Association has as its Chairman the Director-General of Health Services who is thus able to view the tuberculosis problem from the point of view of an official of the Government of India, and also as the chief executive authority of the Association.

According to the Bhore Committee whatever the developments of state activities in the field of health may be in the future there will always remain opportunities for voluntary agencies to play their part in the campaign against tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Association of India and its affiliates have a wide field which offers a variety of useful activity, especially in organising Care and After-Care Committees, Organised Home Treatment schemes, Rehabilitation Centres—and generally of devising methods for improvements in the direction of the amelioration of the social and medical conditions of the sufferers,

On them devolves the duty of placing before the health authorities the needs of the people and of enlisting popular support to official activities.

It is also necessary that to ensure satisfactory results there should be standardisation of methods in training and instruction, and uniformity of policy. The conferences of experts organised by the Tuberculosis Association of India are very helpful in achieving these by discussion among experienced workers in the field. The proposed journal will be a powerful medium of propagating the latest methods as applicable to Indian conditions and I am sure those workers in foreign countries who have agreed to serve as Corresponding Members on the Tuberculosis Association of India will be of assistance in giving facts relating to the latest methods in those countries".

### Annual Report

Presenting the Annual Report of the Association Dr. Jivraj Mehta drew the attention of all those engaged in tuberculosis work, to some of the main aspects of the campaign if substantial results were to be achieved and said: "I would give priority No. 1 to the desirability of a vigorous propagands drive to educate the public on the nature of tuberculosis, its potentialities for causing the greatest harm to society and the ways and means of preventing the infection and spread of the disease. In any warfare it is necessary to build up the people's morale, and this principle holds good in the war against tuberculosis also. The propagands

activities of the Tuberculosis Association of India and its affiliated bodies should be intensified and I would suggest that every opportunity be seized to tell the people all about tuberculosis and how society should protect itself against the inroads of the tuberculosis germ. In the present stage of the country development it is necessary to educate the people on the modern methods of treatment of tuberculosis and to reconcile them to recognised measures of control of the disease.

"Though it is highly essential to have a large number of tuberculosis specialists and public health nurses to help us in the crusade against tuberculosis, it would serve a relatively small purpose only unless we have facilities for institutional treatment. The minimum bed requirement for tuberculous cases in Indiataking one bed for one death-is about 5 lakhs as against the 8,000 beds we now have. With this handicap it is impossible to insist on institutional treatment and if we have to achieve any measure of success institutional treatment should be compulsory. The local health authority, therefore, will have to devise a scheme of home isolation and treatment though this admittedly is a less satisfactory method of dealing with the situation especially in view of the existing housing and economic conditions of the people. Official measures should be supplemented by voluntary organisations concentrating more on Organised Home Treatment schemes and Care and Aftercare programmes. It is also necessary to isolate the incurable, and to rehabilitate the incapacitated. It should be the ultimate goal of the state that no open tuberculous case should be left unprovided for, but the immediate need is to prevent the spread of the disease and in this the Tuberclosis Association of India and its affiliated hodies have a vital part to play in conjunction with the State".

### Recent Developments

The speaker then referred to the plan the Government of India were taking to combat tuberculosis and said:

"We have a Tuberculosis Adviser in the Ministry of Health, Government of India. The Government are trying to keep abreast of recent developments in the methods of control of tuberculosis, such as mass radiography, B. C. G. vaccination and also the new drugs such as Streptomycin for the treatment of tuberculosis and I can assure you that every effort, will be made to the extent that funds may be available to introduce these measures in India.

"The introduction of these new methods pre-supposes a well advanced organisation, but we have not come to the stage when these methods could be used in many centres. A beginning, however, will be made in selected contres before long. I have again to emphasise that in order to achieve success in these trials, strong public opinion in favour of those methods should have to be cultivated. so that old prejudices of the people for or against certain methods may not act as an impediment to progress, and Government efforts might receive full support from the people. It is one of the main duties of the Association to build up such public opinion in the country".

## PLANNED EFFORT TO ERADICATE DISEASE

## Environmental Hygiene Committee to be set up

THE term sanitation is used to indicate the application of scientific knowledge to the control of the environment in which human beings live in groups in order to reduce hazards to health risingout of biological or social factors as well as to promote conditions which help to create and maintain reasonable standards of convenience and comforts", said Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, broadcasting from All India Radio, New Delhi, on May 2.

Continuing he said:

Biologically man is but one among the innumerable species inhabitating the earth and he is competing with all the others for the securing of food, shelter and other conditions essential for survival. Fortunately for himself man has attained, in comparison with the other species, at least partial mastery over his own fate by his ability to control his environment to serve his needs. Thus he is able to produce food while other animals are dependent on such supplies as nature provides; he has secured for himself immunity against changing conditions of temperature, wind and rain by evolving suitable housing and clothing and, above all, he has succeeded through the progress of scientific knowledge and its application to life, is eliminating in an increasing measure the menace to his health and wellbeing which results from the invasion of his body by various types of intruders such as disease-producing bacteria, many kinds of worms including the hookworm, tapeworm and guineaworm and other organisms like those responsible for malaria and filariasis.

Social factors influencing health include those which arise mainly from men living in communities under varying degrees of crowding. There arises, in such circumstances, the need for continuous effort to remove from the residential area filth and refuse, the accumulation of which would prove inimical to the life of the people. Congestion promotes the transference of infection from the sick to the healthy. Control over housing conditions so as to provide adequate living space, and proper ventilation becomes therefore, a necessity. The growth of industries and other forms of occupational activity also produce their problems such as the pollution of air by smoke and of natural waters like rivers and lakes by trade wastes. Thus organised community effort becomes essential for eliminating the detrimental effects produced by such industries and

The best example of how sanitation can change a pestilential region where high rates of morbidity and mortality kept the population sparse in numbers and at a very low level of health, into a place as healthy as any part of the world can be, is perhaps the Papama in Central America. The history of the Panama Canal is, apart from its being a record

of engineering triumph, an outstanding example of what scientific knowledge and organised human effort can achieve in the eradication of conditions inimical to man's health and wellbeing.

Malaria, the most important health problem in the country, can be solved only as the result of improved sanitation. Malaria is primarily a rural disease and, in many parts of the country, the malarial season is coincident with the latter part of the monsoon period and the succeeding one or two months. In India about 85 per cent of the people live in villages and most of them are dependent on agriculture as their main occupation. Therefore, the prevalence of malaria, by reducing the health and working capacity of the rural population, vitally affects their economic status and the country's food production, because it is during this period that the maximum agricultural effort is needed in connection with harvesting operations.

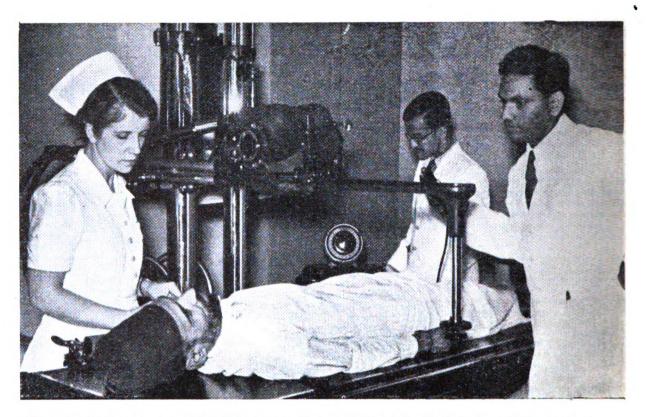
### Planned Effort

Apart from this, there are large tracts of land in India the development of which is considerably hampered owing to the prevalence of malaria. Examples of such tracts are the Wyanaad, the Malnad of Mysore, a large area in the contiguous territories of the provinces of Madras, Orissa and the Central Provinces and a long stretch of Sub-Himalayan belt of These areas are all sparsely populated but they possess large natural resources and their full development is today very much handicapped by the wide prevalence of malaria. If this disease can be controlled and the territories properly exploited, the food pro-blem of the country can largely be solved and the pressure of population in congested areas can be lessened through a more equitable distribution of the people than that which exists at present.

Apart from anti-malarial operations the prevailing unsatisfactory sanitary conditions of Indian towns and villages are mainly responsible for the high incidence of a number of other forms of illness, particularly the bowel diseases such as cholera, dysentry and typhoid fever. A planned programme of rapid improvement of sanitation will help to reduce the incidence of preventible diseases at least by 50 per cent. The consequent gain in the health and working capacity of the people and the increase in the community's general sense of wellbeing must be enormous.

Having thus briefly indicated what insanitation costs India let us examine the field that ought to be covered in organising public effort for the improvement of environmental hygiene. The Blore Committee has suggested the following:---

(a) town and village planning; (b) housing, rural and urban; (c) water



Kasauli Sauatorium has an up-to-date X-Ray room. Here, the Medical Officer-In-charge is examining a patient

supply for towns and villages; (d) general sanitation, including conservancy and drainage; (e) river and beach pollution; (f) control of insects, rodents and other vectors of disease, such as mosquitoes, rats, fleas and flies and (g) control of certain trades, industries and occupations dangerous and offensive to the community.

### Vast Field

The mere enumeration of these subjects is sufficient to indicate the vast field to be covered and the enormous extent of combined governmental and private effort which will be needed for making our towns and villages and the homes that exist in them clean and sanitary in order to make it possible for our people to lead healthy lives. There is no short cut to such achievements. They can be realised only through planned effort on a comprehensive basis, such effort being continued relentlessly through many years. The first step should be the preparation of a detailed programme of action taking into consideration, in the early stages of the programme, our existing deficiencies in funds and trained personnel. The Bhore Committee put forward certain valuable proposals under each of the heads I have mentioned but, concerned as that Committee was with the investigation of the health problems of India in all their aspects, it could not naturally devote such detailed attention to environmental hygiene as the subject required.

The Government of India in the Health Ministry is, therefore, considering the desirability of appointing immediately a small committee of technical experts to be known as the Environmental Hygiene Committee. It will be its duty to examine the recommendations of the Bhore Committee as well as the plans put forward by Provincial Governments in their five-year programmes of health development and to suggest an integrated scheme of organised effort intended to promote a co-ordinated advance in this field over the country as a whole, the Central and Provincial Governments working in close co-operation towards the attainment of the objectives to be achieved. One of the immediate purposes of such a programme should be the establishment of adequate facilities for the production of the required trained personnel such as town planners, achitects and public health engineers. The Committee will no doubt be up against the problem of finance when constructional activity on an unprecedented scale is to be organised and carried out through a long period of years. One of the tasks of this Committee will therefore, be to suggest ways and means, as far as possible, to raise funds for the execution of its own proposals. The responsibility for the successful fulfilment of the programme will no doubt rest on Governments, but its achievement can be secured only through sound technical advice and guidance and the work of this Committee, if it results in setting in motion the machinery necessary for the continuous supply of such advice and guidance, will have amply justified the purpose with which it is being brought into existence.

## INDIAN VICE-CONSULATE AT ZAHIDAN

The Government of India have decided to open a Vice Consulate at Zahidan and to appoint Mr. A. T. G. Wilson as the first Indian Vice Consul there.

### Rehabilitation of Refugee Women

A Village Social Workers Training Centre has been started by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The Centre will trainsocial workers for rural reconstruction work and will be organised on the lines of the Kasturba Gram Sevika Scheme.

To help in the rehabilitation of refugee women, it has been decided that the Training Centre will admit only those women who have migrated to India from West Pakistan and are between the ages of 16 and 35.

The Charkha (spinning wheel) will be the nucleus of studies in the centre which will train workers in spinning, weaving, tailoring and soap-making. Gardening and cooking also form a part of the training, besides nursing and first aid there will also be a provision for general education and physical culture. The trainees themselves will be responsible for running the mess in the centre. They will also look after the gardens and general cleanliness,

The Training Centre is located in the Poor House buildings near Kingsway Refugee Camp. About 150 refugee women will be admitted. The minimum qualification for admission is a pass in the middle school or an equivalent examination. Besides medical fitness, candidates will be required to give an undertaking to serve in rural areas for at least three years after the course is completed. During this period she will be a paid Government employee.



Earl Mountbatten of Burma addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association

# Lord Mountbatten's Tribute To Red Cross

His Excellency Earl Mountbatten addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association on the April 20 said:—

The great events of the year 1947, which witnessed the historic achievement of freedom by this great country, were unfortunately marred by the misery which fell to the lot of the vast numbers involved in the mass migrations. But it must be a matter of real gratification to us all that during those troubled days our humanitarian organisations bent all their energies to minister to the needs of the sick and wounded refugees in camps and hospitals.

It is significant that in this emergency service the Red Cross, St. John and other voluntary social service bodies have worked together towards alleviation of suffering under the co-ordinating organisation called the United Council for Relief and Welfare started under the Chairmanship of my wife in September.

My wife during her tours has seen in refugee camps, hospitals and other spheres the multifarious duties performed be members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade who have come in many batches to Delhi and East Punjab from Bengal, Bombay and other places and has complimented them on having so loyally answered the call for refugee

relief work. The cheerfulness with which St. John volunteers rushed to render first aid wherever they were called has brought them well earned praise from the authorities and the gratitude of those they helped. The prompt help given to Pakistan bound refugees injured in the train crash near Karnal during the night of 10th-11th October, and recently in February the Bannu refugees injured at Gujrat, stands out conspicuously amongst the many incidents of devotion to service during the last eight months.

### Magnificent Work

The crisis demonstrated once again the value of training in First Aid, Home Nursing and other health subjects and it is good to know that notwithstanding disturbed conditions, the Provincial, State and Railway St. John Centres trained a large number of persons in these very useful subjects. I trust that appreciating the ever present need for this training to supplement the country's medical facilities, the St. John Centres will continue to conduct classes in large numbers so that at all homes there is someone who can act as an intelligent nursing aid and in all factories, offices, shops, etc., someone is at hand to render proper first aid in case of an accident.

The Indian Red Cross has done magnificent work indeed in providing hospital

and other comfort supplies to camps and hospitals whenever the official stocks ran low or were not readily available in places where they were required urgently. These stores, a share of which was readily sent for use in Pakistan, helped greatly in healing many sick and injured refugees whose health had been impaired by long marches, difficult journeys, and living in the open in improvised camps.

Another sphere in which Red Cross help has been greatly appreciated was in the organisation of services for mothers and children in the camps.

Medical stores, milk powder, blankets, warm clothing, etc., sent by the Society to the newly-formed branch in Jammu and Kashmir State have met the urgent requirements of the refugees in the State.

Amongst its various activities I want to pay special tribute to the help given by the Red Cross in the setting up of the Displaced Persons' Enquiries and Search Service in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to relieve the anxiety of refugees by helping contact between separated families and missing relations. Red Cross welfare workers in the camps are doing fine work in this field and I hope that wherever refugees have found shelter Red Cross Branches will give this Service the support it deserves.

### Spirit of Unity

In anxious times, it is very pleasing to note the solidarity displayed by the Red Cross family in helping the afflicted in different parts of the world. The spirit has been amply demonstrated by the British, American, Belgian, Canadian and Australian Red Cross Societies, and the Red Lion and Crescent Society of Iran which have sent us valuable supplies for refugee relief, and though fully occupied with relief at home the Indian Society too has played its part by sending help to several needy Societies abroad.

It is noteworthy that Red Cross services to Military Hospitals including the Welfare Service have been maintained satisfactorily and the Homes for the disabled continue to provide confort and treatment to ex-servicemen who unfortunately were left with serious disabilities from active service. We are very happy that the Joint War Organisation's funds are now to vest with the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association and these services will also henceforth be the responsibility of the Society.

As you know, we shall only be here for another couple of months, but I am sure that wherever our paths may lie in the future we shall always continue to take the closest interest in the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade in India and the Indian Red Cross Society. We wish them every success in their benevolent tasks.

Trade parcels may now be sent to Japan under conditions which have been notified by the Ministry of Commerce. The route and rates of postage on such parcels to Japan are the same as for gift parcels.

# ENGLISH TO BE REPLACED IN FIVE YEARS ties and that this period should be utilised to prepare for the introduction of the regional or the state language of the

### Maulana Azad's Address

THE first meeting of the Committee recently appointed by the Government of India to examine the question of the medium of instruction and examination at the university stage began in New Delhi on May 1. The Committee consists of Vice-Chancellors of all the 24 Universities in the Indian Union, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, and Dr. S. K:

In his inaugural address to the Committees the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Government of India, expressed the hope that the Committee would give careful thought to this most important question and arrive at decisions which would help national progress and unity. At the outset, the Education Minister ex-plained the background to the appoint-ment of the Committee as a result of the resolution passed by the All-India Education Conference held in New Delhi last January. He explained that all Provinces were agreed that in Primary and Secondary Education, the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue. As regards University Education, so far English had been the medium of instruction as well as examination. This had given India a common medium of thought and expression. However, Maulana Azad felt that now English had to give way to an Indian language. He said that if we could agree on one national language being the medium of instruction in all our universities, it would be a great unifying factor and provide the necessary medium for inter-provincial communication.

Continuing Maulana Azad said that the Committee must remember that there were several languages in India which had developed a rich and progressive litera-ture and were in a position to serve as the medium of instruction up to the . highest stage of education. He stressed upon the Committee that the problem had to be examined very carefully and that they must recognise the great importance of the provincial or regional languages. They had to decide whether one national language or the provincial or regoinal languages were to be the medium of instruction in the Universities. Secondly, if the provincial languages were selected to be the medium of in-struction, they had to decide what should be the place of the national language in the University curriculum. He pointed out that the Committee had not been appointed to decide as to whether English should remain as the medium of instruction or not. This question had already been decided by the All-India Education Conference. That Conference was of the opinion that within a period of five years we should prepare for replacing English.

### Regional Languages

The Education Minister also referred to the fact that some of his colleagues in the Government of India were of the opinion that the time for the transition to the national language or regional languages should be at least ten years, but he felt that we should make every effort to effect the change in five years. The Committee may, however, consider how long the period of transition should be and by what stages English should be replaced.

Continuing Maulana Azad said that the Committee would also have to determine what place English should have in our University curriculum. He stressed the great importance of English as an international language and said it would always have its honoured place in our education. He concluded by emphasizing the need for an early decision in the matter and expressed the hope that a Committee of such distinguished educationists would give a lead to the country which would be in its best interests.

Reassembling on May 2, the Committee resolved that there should be a five-year period of transition during which English would continue to be the medium of instruction and examination in the Universiarea concerned.

Regarding the place of the federal or national language in secondary and higher education, the committee decided that a test in the federal language adopted by the Constituent Assembly will be obligatory for all students, but the result of the test will have no effect on the academic career of the pupil. The Committee also felt that every University should provide facilities to students for taking up the federal language and its literature as an optional subject of study.

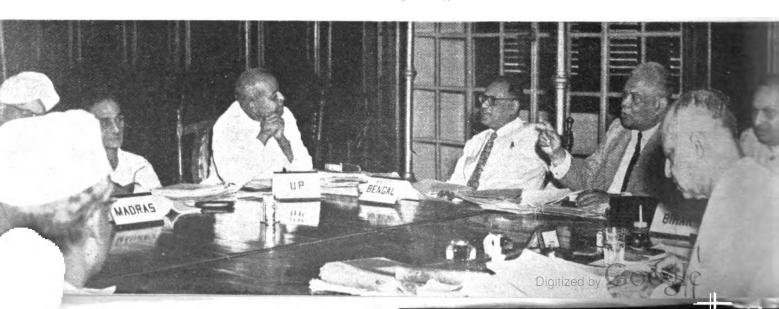
On the question of the script of the federal language, the Committee decided that the script eventually adopted by the Constituent Assembly should be accepted by all Universities. There was, however, a strong minority which held the view that the Roman script should the view that the roman script should in any case be an additional script for the federal language. So far as the regional languages are concerned, the Committee resolved that they should use either their own script or the federal script. Here also there was a strong minority in the Committee in favour of the Roman script being adopted for all the Indian languages as an additional

The Committee also decided that the process of replacement of English by the regional languages should be gradual and by stages. It resolved that the English language should, however, be a compulsory subject in all Universities.

Regarding steps to be taken for the preparation of text-books for implementing its decisions on the medium of instruction, the Committee resolved that as far as the natural sciences were concerned the Central Government should supervise the preparation of standard books. As regards other subjects the Centre may give such aid to the provinces as may be necessary.

The Committee recommended the appointment of a board of philologists and scientists to prepare a common (Continued on page 679)

Members of the provincial and Federal Public Service Commissions met in New Delhi recently to discuss the functions and status of the F. P. S.C. in the new constitution of India



### Facilities For Higher Technical AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE **Education**

### Government Scheme For Training Craftsmen

Facilities for higher technological education at 14 technical institutions in India financially assisted by Government would be made available to students from all over the country and the need of backward provinces would be specially kept in mind, according to the decision taken by the All-India Council for Technical Education which met in Bombay on April 22. Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Finance Minister, West Bengal, presided.

The Joint Committee of the All-India Board of Technical Studies in textile technology, engineering, chemical technology and commerce and business administration was directed to evolve a scheme for the training of engineers and technologists in business as well as industral administration which, the Council emphasised, was so necessary if they were to take their rightful place in executive positions in the country's industry. The Council urged that the eastern and the western higher technical institutions be establisted without delay.

A representative committee of the council including Dr. Tara Chand, Education Secretary, Government of India, and Mr. S. Lall, Labour Secretary, Government of India, visited the site at North Kurla, near Bombay and approved the same for locating the Western Higher Technical Institution. The choice of the site at Hijli in West Bengal, 73 miles from Calcutta and less than 50 miles from Jamshedpur, close on the borders of Bihar and Orissa, was also approved for locating the Eastern Higher Technical Institution. In regard to the northern and southern institutions the Council recommended that steps should be taken forthwith for the purchase of suitable sites for each institution with the respective provincial and State Governments. The Council was of the opinion that these Governments should provide the necessary land free of charge and make available the necessary supply of electricity and water.

### Financial Assistance

The Council also recommended that Provincial and State Governments should establish more schemes for the training of craftsmen on sufficiently broad and sound basis so that the requirements for this type of personnel for India's expanding industries may be met. On the recommendation of the Council the Government of India have accepted in principle the scheme for strengthening 14 existing higher technical institutions by means of suitable financial assistance from Central revenue and Rs. 19 lakhs have been disbursed to some of these institutions, subject to their fulfilling certain conditions laid down by the Council. The most important condition is that extra facilities created with the financial assistance from the Government of India will be made available to students from the whole of India, irrespective of any provincial or other considera-

tions. In this respect the needs of backward provinces will be specially kept in mind. The question of special provision for students of each province is being taken up with the respective Governments.

A sum of Rs. 1,75,00,000 for the entire five-year scheme of strengthening existing 14 higher technical institutions should be sanctioned with a view to meeting the dearth of technical institutions and technical personnel in the country.

The Council appointed a Sub-committee to consider and report as to what different types of institutions and nature of training for different categories of technical personnel are needed by different industries. This committee will also consider other questions including that of organisation of apprenticeship training. The name of suitable industries for such training would be suggested by this

The Council had before them the report on the reorganisation of the Indian School of Mines and the report of a departmental committee of the Government of India for the training of personnel for the Merchant Navy in India. The Council expressed its general satisfaction with the findings of these committees and directed and authorised the chairman to appoint a special committee to look into the question of training of men required for the Merchant Navy in India as well as for different Port Trust Authorities.

Later some members of the Council including Dr. Tarachand, Education Secretary, Mr. S. Lall, Labour Secretary and Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta, Secretary to the Council visited the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Sir J. J. School of Art and some other technological institutions in Bombay.

#### MAULANA AZAD'S ADDRESS

(Continued from page 678)

scientific terminology for all Indian languages, making use of international terms as far as possible and in consultation with provinces and universities. It resolved that the Central Government should sanction a substantial sum for this Board and that the Board be directed to complete its work within five years.

The Committee requested the Central Government to examine the question of allowing extra-territorial jurisdiction to the various universities to help solve the language problems of linguistic minorities within a region.

Finally the Committee discussed the question of the medium of examination for the Federal Public Services and resolved that the Federal Public Service Commission examinations should be conducted in the State or regional language of the candidate. But after qualify. ing, the candidate would be required to pass a test in the federal language.

# FACTORY FOR INDIA

THE Government of India have been considering for some time the establishment of a factory in India for the manufacture of all automatic telephone and carrier equipment. Apart from its value as a national industry, the factory in India will be the quickest means of meeting the ever increasing demand for telephones, including replace-ments. An official delegation of the Government of India visited Europe for finally settling the question and as a result of its negotiations, an agreement was executed on May 3, 1948, between the Government of India and the Automatic Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., England.

The Agreement which is for a period of 15 years in the first instance provides that, on terms agreed, the Company will allow the Government of India full use of all its existing and future patents and of other technical information which it is in possession of. It will also make available to the Government of India on payment—on a proportionate basis—patents acquired from other parties under which the Company has to pay royalties or similar considerations.

The Company will also assist the Government in the early establishment of a fully equipped telephone factory in India both by acting as Consulting Engineers as well as by lending technical personnel when required till nationals of India are trained for the purpose, the Company also undertaking to train Indian nationals in its own works in England.

Until such time as the factory in India is able to manufacture all telephone equipment needed in the country, the Company will as a part of the agreement, appoint the Government of India as its sole agent in respect of all products manufactured by the Company and needed in the interim period.

### PROVIDENT FUNDS IN **PAKISTAN POST OFFICES**

In order to afford facilities to the displaced teachers from Pakistan who have migrated to India, the Government of India have decided to allow concessional withdrawals in respect of the Teacher's Provident Fund Accounts held in Post Offices in Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by D.G. P. & T. on April 12. Any teacher who can produce the pass book of his Teacher's Provident Fund Account will present the same to any Head Post Office in the Indian Dominion with an application for withdrawal and a certificate from the Provincial Education authority appointed for this purpose by the Government of India, (a list of such officers who can grant the certificate can be had from any head post office) when withdrawals will be allowed upto Rs. 500 on identification to the satisfaction of the Postmaster and upto Rs. 1000 on production of an indemnity bond with two solvent surities.

# UNIFORM SCHEME OF SECONDARY **EDUCATION**

The Committee on Secondary Educa-tion in India appointed by the Ministry of Education held its first meeting on May 3 in New Delhi under the chair-manship of Dr. Tara Chand, Education Secretary to the Government of India. The meeting was attended by the Directors of Public Instruction of Bombay. Assam, West Bengal, Madras, Orissa and U. P., and representatives of Mysore, Travancore and Baroda States; Professor Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India.

Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Educational
Adviser to the Government of Bombay and Mr. K. Zacharia, Member, Federal Public Service Commission.

In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Tara Chand pointed out that although Education was a provincial subject, it was desirable to maintain uniformity throughout the country. The Government of India, therefore, felt that the Committee should prepare a framework within which the provinces could fit in their schemes for secondary education. schemes for secondary education.

The Committee then took up agenda and recorded unanimous decisions in all cases but one in which there was one dissentient. With regard to the period of and graduations in secondary education, the Committee recommended that after a compulsory junior basic course of five years, there should be a senior basic pre-secondary course for three years and then a Secondary course for four years. The Committee was unanimous that before joining the first year of a degree course, the student should undergo a course of education for twelve years.

### Multilateral Schools

The Committee resolved that the teaching of the federal or national language should be started at the end of the junior basic stage and should be compulsory throughout the pre-secondary stage but may be optional thereafter.

With regard to English, the Committee were of the opinion that it should not be brought in the junior basic stage. As for the students who take up the senior basic course, it should be optional but compulsory for those who take up the pre-secondary course. They also resolved that English should be compulsory at the secondary stage. The Committee further recommended that the federal language should become a compulsory subject at the secondary stage when English ceases to be the medium of instruction in the universities.

The Committee were in favour of multilateral schools, i.e., schools with varying bias, as for example, agriculture, commerce or technical, as variety was encouraged in such institutions. They were, however, of the opinion that unilateral schools should not be discouraged where local circumstances demund.

The Committee held that the stage had not yet been reached when a form of selection for the Secondary stage could be discussed.

Regarding examinations, the Committee resolved that there should be only one examination at the end of the secondary stage and as far as possible it should be such as to meet the requirements of the Universities.

On the question of steps necessary for training an adequate number of teachers, the Committee recommended that as an emergency measure Matriculate teachers may be required to undergo training for one year only in the first instance. After teaching in schools for a certain period, these teachers should again undergo refresher courses. It was also recommended that for the benefit of the students who intend to take to teaching as their profession, education should be one of the subjects in the universities.

The setting up of Provincial boards to advise provincial educational authorities on problems connected with secondrities on problems connected with secondary education, viz., examination, courses of studies, text books, etc., was recommended by the Committee in another resolution. It further recommended that an All-India Council should be established at the Council should be lished at the Centre with a view to act as a co-ordinating body for the proposed provincial Boards.

The Committee stressed the need for encouraging youth movements and scouts associations, in all schools and recommended the establishment of a few public schools which will specially cater for the requirement of the military academies. Admission to these public schools would be on merit only and there would be a provision for at least 50 per cent of the seats in these schools being

### Committee on Secondary **Education** in India

In accordance with the recommenda-tions of the Central Advisory Board of Education which met in New Delhi in January, the Government of India have appointed a Committee to review the present position of Secondary Edu. cation in India and to make recommendations in regard to its aims, object and scope; content and methods; organization; examination or other methods of assessment of results; arragements for the training of secondary school teachers and any other problems relating to Secondary Education which the Committee may consider relevant.

Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, is the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence Prof. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser, will act as Chairman Educational Adviser, will act as Chairman.
Other members of the Committee are
the Directors of Public Instruction of
Assam, West Bengal, C. P. and Berar,
Bihar, Madras, Orissa, East Punjab,
Bombay, U. P., Mysore State and
Travancore State; Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser to the Government of Bombay; Mr. K. Zachria, Member, Federal Public Service Commission; Mrs. Hanna Sen; the Principal of St. Mary's College for Women, Poons, and one representative each of Jammu and Kashmir and Baroda States.

The agenda for the first meeting of the Committee, which began in New Delhi on April 30, included the consideration of the aims and objects of Secondary Education as defined in the Sargent Report; the period of and graduations in Secondary Education; the place of the national language and English in Secondary Education; special steps to be taken for the growth of leadership both for the Armed Forces and for civil life; financial implications of the proposed system of Secondary Education; the different types of Secondary Schools to be established and the steps to be taken for training of the steps to be taken for training adequate number of teachers and the conditions of their service.

### Commission's Activities Historical Records

More than sixty eminent historians from all over the country assembled at Indore in December 1946 for the twenty. third annual session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the proceedings of which have just been issued in a separate volume.

The session, which was presided over by the Hon'ble Shri C. Rajagopalachari, then Member in Charge for Education and Arts in the Interim Government, urged upon the Government the necessity of throwing open all non-confidential records of the last century to bona fide research students. In another resolution the Commission called for suitable legislation against unwarranted destruction and export of documents.

For some time past, the Indian Historical Records Commission has been devoting much of its time to the important

problem of salvaging manuscript records in private custody. The present volume publishes a report of the work so far done in this connection by the Regional Survey Committee. Considerable work has been done in this field and a campaign of publicity was carried on against public indifference and apathy towards old manuscripts in general and historical records in particular. The Government of India sanctioned a token grant of Rs. 6,500 for the year 1946-47 to meet the office requirement of the ad hoc Survey Committees carrying out this work in the provinces.

The publication contains 35 short articles based on unpublished sources and covering a wide field ranging from the Imperial Moghuls to the concluding years of the East India Company. It also gives a detailed account of the work done under the various schemes of the National Archives of India.

# GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

### Prof. Humayun Kabir's Broadcast

of free India to help in the cause of education, as without education we cannot hope to realize the ideals for which we have struggled so long", said Professor Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India, in a broadcast talk on "Our Educational Programme" on April 24 from the Delhi station of All-India Radio.

Indicating in broad outline some of the more important aspects of Government's immediate educational programme, he said:—

First and foremost in our programme today is the provision of universal compulsory education for the nation. In the past, education, like so many other things in India, was like a pyramid resting on its apex. The first task of the National Government was to put the pyramid right and make education as broad-based as possible.

A beginning had no doubt, been made in the preparation of plans in the Sargent Report. That plan, however, required 40 years to make education universal and compulsory. The Indian people were not prepared to wait so long and, in fact, to wait was dangerous. Under the leadership of Maulana Azad, the All-India Education Conference, therefore, decided that education must be made universal and compulsory not in 40 years but in ten.

Education is a provincial subject and hence so far as the Provinces are con-cerned, the Central Government can only tender advice. In the Centrally administered areas education is, however, its direct responsibility. The National Government have decided that in these areas we will go ahead with the programme so that they can serve both as a model and a challenge to the Provinces. In the Delhi Province, arrangements have been made to start 150 new type basic schools before July 1949, and cover the whole of the rural area by such schools by 1950. Compulsion will, in the first year, be applied only to the 6 age-group, but every year compulsion will be extended by one class so that in five years' time all children between 6 and 11 will receive universal, compulsory and free education. It is then hoped to extend such education upto the age of 14 so that the whole of the Basic Education Plan may be implemented in 8 years instead of 40 years. Similar programmes are being made for the other Centrally administered areas.

#### Adult Education

Education of the children is important, but of even greater immediate importance is the eduction of adults and adolescents. For them literacy is not enough and sometimes the best way of approaching them is through other methods. Experience in other countries has shown that group activities attract adolescents

most, while adults respond quickest to an economic incentive. The Ministry of Education are preparing plans by which the new rural schools may also be the centres of village life and attract adolescents and adults equally. Classes for children in the morning, games and group activity plus instructions for adolescents in the afternoon and club and social centres for adults at night are some of the schemes the Government have under examination. The Adult Education Committee appointed for the purpose have already submitted their interim report.

If two or three days in the week are devoted to women alone, we may expect good results, and once women have taken to education more than half the problem is solved.

Two new sections in the Ministry of Education are working in the preparation of a syllabus of Social Education and the organisation of Physical Education.

#### **Technical Training**

The introduction of Basic and Adult Education will go a long way towards solving many of our problems, but the solution will not be complete without re-organisation of Secondary and University Education. On the recommendation of the All-India Education Conference, Maulana Azad has appointed two Committees of experts—one consisting of Vice-Chancellors of the Indian Universities and the other of Directors of Public Instruction of Provinces and States—to examine these questions and suggest improvements which can be immediately enforced. The Government are also thinking of appointing a University Commission to survey the whole field of higher education in free India.

The attainment of freedom has opened up tremendous possibilities of industrial



Mr. V. K. Krishaa Menon, Sir C. V. Raman (Centre) and Sir Stafford Cripps photographed at the luncheon given in honour of the distinguished Indian scientist by India's High Commissioner in London

and technical development in the country. Only a fringe of our vast reserves of material wealth and human skill has so far been brought into use. Full utilisation requires increased facilities for technical and technological education.

While keenly conscious of the necessity of going ahead with programmes of training in Science and Technology, the Government realise that a nation must be judged not only by its material wealth and prosperity but also by its achievements in the realm of the spirit. Experience has shown that even technical and technological advance depends, in the ultimate analysis, on fundamental research. Provision has, therefore, been made to encourage fundamental research in the pure Sciences.

India has, in the past, been remarkable for its achievements in the field of culture and civilization. No one can deny the supreme heights to which the Indian mind rose in the realms of Metaphysics and Philosophy. This is, however, largely forgotten outside India, and modern students of Philosophy have only a vague idea about India's contribution. At the instance of the Education Minister, an Editorial Board with Dr. Radhakrishanan as its Chairman, has recently been appointed to prepare a survey of human thought throughout the ages, which will recognize no local or geographical barriers and thus lead to a true appreciation of India's contribution towards the development of human thought.

It is eqully important to have a true appreciation of our country's past history. All Histories used in India today suffer from gaps and distortions. The Indian Historical Congress and the Bhrtiya Itihas Parishad have schemes for writing compendious histories of India. The Government are making efforts to co-ordinate the activities of these two bodies and supervise the production of a work which will satisfy the best standards of historical scholarship.

#### Cultural Trust

Government are also conscious of the part played by Arts and Letters in civilizing the emotions and making men worthy citizens of a worthy state. The blueprint of a Cultural Trust, which, through its Academies, will be the repository of our cultural heritage, is now being prepared. There will be an Academy of Letters which will not only conserve but also help to develop, through enlightened appreciation and criticism, different forms of artistic, philosophical and historical work in the different Indian languages. The Academy of Arts will seek to promote the growth of painting, sculpture, architecture and other forms of graphic, plastic and applied Arts. The Academy of Music, Drama and Dancing will, as the name itself shows, seek to preserve and develop our heritage in these arts. Plans are in hand to organise almost immediately two great centres of music in the north and in the south. Recently, on the advice of an Expert Committee, Government awarded prizes of Rs. 2,500 to each of six promising artists selected from all over India.

Steps are also being taken to strengthen the Archaeological Survey of India and

to extend the scope and activities of the National Archives. A Committee has been appointed to work out the details for the establishment of a National Library. There are also proposals for extending further the scope and activities of the Anthropological Survey.

I have given a very brief outline of some of the activities adopted as our immedite programme. The lack of funds is however, a bottle-neck which must be removed if we want to carry out these and other programmes of development. The provision of education to all people is bound to be expensive but the expenses must somehow be met. The Ministry is appointing a Committee of financial experts to examine the question and make recommendations as to how to solve the problem of finance. The other bottle-neck is the lack of trained teachers. Government are taking steps to increase facilities for training in Jamia Millia, Visva Bharati and other places, but for some years we must largely depend upon voluntary effort by individuals and private bodies.

## INDIA AND PAKISTAN RATIFY CALCUTTA AGREEMENT

The following joint statement has been issued by the Government of India and Pakistan.

"The Government of India and Pakistan having carefully considered the inter-Dominion agreement negotiated and signed at Calcutta on the 19th April, 1948, desire to notify that they have ratified the agreement and that it is their firm intention to insist on its being fully implemented in letter and in spirit by all concerned in each Dominion.

## CENTRAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, have recently appointed a Committee on Physical Education to prepare a scheme for a Central Training College of Physical Education. Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, is the Chairman of the Committee and the other members are Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Mr. G. F. Andrews, Chief Inspector of Physical Education, Madras, Mr. P. M. Joseph, Principal, Y. M. C. A. College of Physical Education, Madras, Mr. K. N. Roy, Director of Physical Education and Recreation, West Bengal, Mr. P. N. Mathur, Director of Social Service, Lukenow, Mr. H. V. Deshpande, General Secretary, National Association of Physical Education and Recreation, Amraoti, Mr. G. D. Sondhi, Retired I. E. S. and formerly Principal, Government College, Lahore, Dr. B. C. Das Gupta, Deputy Director General, Health Services, India, Mr. A. W. Howard, Principal, Christian College of Physical Education, Lucknow and Mr. K. M. Khwaja, Physical Director, Aligarh University.

At its first meeting held in New Delhi on May 3, the Committee defined the purpose of the proposed Central College of ,Physical Education as training of teachers for Physical Education for the Centrally Administered Areas, advanced course in Physical Education for training teachers in organization and administration, training of coaches as well as play and recreation leaders and publication of information and literature on Physical Education. The Committee also decided that in the proposed college research work on Physical Education would be carried on by students as well as teachers.

# BOARD OF EDITORS TO WRITE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

appointed a Board of Editors with Dr. Sarvepalli Radha-krishnan as Chairman to prepare a history of Philosophy", said a Press Note issued by the Education Ministry on April 24. Other members of the Board are Professors A. R. Wadia, D. M. Dutta and Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India. Prof. Kabir will also act as Secretary of the Board.

"The Board held its first meeting in Delhi recently and has prepared a tentative distribution of work among different scholars. It has also decided that the contributors should, as far as possible be nationals of the Indian Dominion".

In his presidential address to the All India Educational Conference held in Delhi in January 1948, the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, suggested that the Government should undertake the preparation of a history of Philosophy, which would reveal the continuity in development of

human thought and the value of India's contribution to the evolution of modern Philosophy. He added that most histories of Philosophy written by American and European scholars either altogether ignored or made merely a passing reference to India's contribution. On the other hand, books by Indians tended to deal exclusively with Indian Philosophy.

The Education Minister emphasized that a true evaluation of India's place in the world of Philosophy was necessary not only from the point of view of knowledge but also in order to acquire a proper appreciation of the meaning of India's civilization and culture in the modern context.

This proposal was supported by the conference and later in his statement of policy during the budget session of the Dominion Parliament, Maulana Azad reiterated the proposal. The Board has been appointed by the Minister of Education in consultation with the Chairman, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

# CULTURAL LINKS BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA

### 1,100 Year-old Sanskrit Document Discovered

POLLOWING the discovery of a 1,100 years old Sanskrit document, an inscription on a gold plaque, in the ruins of the Parambanan Temple, near Jogjakarta, capital of Indonesia, 'the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, Indonesia, has extended an invitation to Indian archaeologists to visit sites of archaeological interest in the country.

"The architecture of our old temples being very much influenced by Hindu culture", says the invitation from Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Ali Sastroamidjajo, to Mr. Raghavan, India's Consul-General in Indonesia, "it may be of great importance that your archaeologists come to Indonesia and see them personally. Besides, they may come in contact with our archaeologists so that the latter can partake in the scientific experiences of your scholars".

#### Indian Colonisation

The spread of Indian culture to Java and other islands of Indonesia forms one of the most notable episodes in early Indian history. The island of Java is first mentioned in the Ramayana, under the name of Yavadwipa or 'barley-island'. It was one of the places where search parties were sent in quest of Sita, and it is by this name that it was known to Ptolemy, the classical geographer of the second century A. D. Stray facts, gathered from different sources, indicate that Hindu and Hinduized States, owing their origin to immigrants or colonists from India, had been established in Java by the fifth century.

From the eight century there were in Central Java rulers professing the Saiva faith. The language of their inscriptions is Sanskrit, but the script is Kavi, the local derivative of the South Indian script.

In the last quarter of the eighth century Central Java was conquered by the Sailendra rulers of Srivijaya, the capital of Sumatra, who were Mahayana Buddhists. Significantly enough, the script of their inscriptions is akin to that of East India, which, with Nalanda as the focus, was the home of Mahayana Buddhism in early medieval days. One of them, Balapotradeva of the ninth century erected a monastery at Nalanda.

Under the Sailendras, Java was studded with Buddhist monuments, the most prominent of which is the stupa at Borobudur (A. D. 850). This lofty edifice, following a recognized Indian form of temple-and-stupa-architecture, consists of seven terraces, each flanked internally by galleries of sculptures depicting Buddhist scenes and pa ntheon. The dimensions of the structure, its gigantic conception and its lavish decoration make it one of the most renowned

monuments of the world.

The next Brahmanical rulers of Java were responsible for the remarkable group of eight temples at Parambanan, four of which are dedicated respectively to Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu and Nandi. Long rows of panels representing scenes from the Ramayana form the chief decoration on the temples.

In the tenth century the scene shifts to East Java, now ruled by a Brahmanical dynasty. Under Erlangga ((A. D. 1035), the most noted member of the dynasty, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana were translated into the local language.

In the thirteenth century the cult of Buddhist Tantriam became widespread. At the same time Javanese art became more and more allied to the Polynesian art. Islam entered Java in the fifteenth century and gradually replaced all other religions of the island. However, the popular customs, festivals and mythology of Java even now continue to be dominated by elements of Indian culture which she imbibed in the formative period of her history.

#### Discovery of Gold Plaque

The archaeology of Java affords a rich field for research, though much spade-work has already been done by Dutch archaeologists. A recent notable discovery of the Sailendra epoch has been brought to the notice of the Government of India through the courtesy of the Minister of Education in Java: it consists of an inscribed gold plaque found in the ruins of the temples at Plaosan near Parambanan, on the border of Sura-karta and Jogikacarta. Excavation here was started by Dr. Stutterheim, the Dutch archaeologist, in 1940 and continued in subsequent years by M. Suhamir, Official of the Archaeological Survey Republic of Indonesia. The nucleus of thetemple consists of two oblong shrines originally with Buddhist images, in an oblong enclosure, which is divided into two parts by a partition wall. The enclosure is surrounded on all sides by three parallel rows of smaller structures, the first (inner) one consisting of shrines with images of the Dhyani-Buddhas and the other two of stupes. Some slight, epigraphic evidence indicates according to Suhamir, that the stupes of the inner row contain the funeral relics of King Rake Pikatan (mid ninth century) and those of outer row of his queen. A bronze urn, containing a burnt-offering of seeds, etc., was found between the ruins of two stupas of the outer range, and nearby was found the gold plaque (8"X\right\rightarrow") mentioned above. The inscription on the plaque gives the text of a Buddhist *Dharani* (charm) in Sanskrit which has as yet not been traced to any Buddhist text.

In India, clay or stone plaques in-

scribed with Buddhist texts (including dharanis) have been found inside stupes at Nalanda and elsewhere. The custom of enshrining sacred texts inside stupes is an old one and is referred to by Buddha himself in one of his sermons.

## DRUG MUSEUM FOR INDIA

A number of crude drugs of vegetable origin as well as a number of fixed and essential oils have been collected for the work of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee of the Government of India. This collection with proper labelling and the herbarium sheets of most of them has been sent, to the Director-General Indian Medical Service, by Mr. S. N. Bal, a member of the committee, to form the nucleus of a drug museum, according to the report of the Botanical Survey of India, for 1945-46.

Though the gallery of the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, was closed to the public during this period, the Department continued to supply information regarding the botanical products of India to Military and Civil hospitals, Medical institutions and industrial concerns.

During the year, the Curator, Mr. S. N. Bal undertook short tours in Birbhum and Darjeeling districts in Bengal, Benares in U. P. and some parts of Orissa to collect specimens for the sectional herbarium and the gallery. Mr. Bal also carried out experiments on Indian Jasmines—of which there are about 43 species—and their essential oils, under a scheme of research sanctioned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Arrangements were made for enfleurage experiments in the Laboratory. The wild forms when fully investigated and cultivated on a large scale, are expected to produce a better variety of fragrant flowers and to be of great value in extracting essential oils.

### TELEGRAMS TO JAPAN

Telegrams to and from Japan are now admitted in any plain language and in secret code and cypher languages, states a Press Note issued on April 16. Telegrams relating to commercial correspondence are also admitted with the exception of the following categories:—

- (1) Telegrams trasferring cash cheques, pay orders or other letters of credit or of finance.
- (2) Telegrams relating to conversion, gambling or disguise of Japanese fortune to foreign countries by letters, money orders, documents or some other means to escape regulations in force regarding ex-change or conversion of money to foreign countries.
- (3) Relating to authorisation of transfers of translation, reproductions or representations or other right concerning various articles, dramas, music, films and other means of information or expressions.
- (4) Telegrams relating to all warrants or copyright of fine arts except description and explanation of means and procedure of using such thing and recognition of all legitimate authorities.





Mr. R. K. Shanmakham Chetty, Figance Minister, presenting a Small Savings Scheme shield to a winner

### SMALL SAVINGS AID NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"In the past, people did not feel a spirit of readiness to come to the Government's help by investing their savings in National Savings schemes, but now these schemes have acquired a new significance", declared the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister for Finance, presiding over the presentation ceremony of the Small Savings Scheme shields competition (1946-47) on April 28.

Stating that the country's entire outlook having now changed it was essential for the people to give more money to the Government for the mobilisation of savings, he said that this was all the more important in view of Government's large-scale plans for development. He felt that the Government would have to depend in an increasing measure on the savings of the middle classes.

Referring to the recent issues of two new series of savings certificates, the Finance Minister declared that he had endeavoured to make them more attractive to the small investor. A Central Commissioner for National Savings would shortly be appointed. Also, provinces and states would be regrouped for this purpose in the near future. He hoped that this would result in the establishment and even the working classes, in the interests of national savings. The target was something of closer contact with the middle classes, The target was something more than Rs. 100 crores a year, but so far savings had not exceeded Rs. 22 to 23 crores per year. He hoped the contemplated arrangements would make possible the attainment of the target figures.

Speaking before the presentation of the shields by the Finance Minister, Mr. S. C. Jain, Assistant National Savings Commissioner, said that the Small Savings Scheme had been started in India towards the end of 1943 "with the object of raising funds to finance the war and to withdraw from circulation extra purchasing power in the hands of the public to check the upward trend of prices". With the attainment of freedom, however, the Scheme had assumed a definite social and economic aspect. To achieve maximum production it is necessary, to save and to maintain an equilibrium between savings and investment ".

Mr. Jain declared that the average per capita monthly target of 3.5 annas for the country as a whole had never been achieved but with the change in the attitude of the public towards investment in National Savings Certificates; additional facilities for short-term investment and abolition of the period of lock-up in the two new series, he hoped that the target would soon be reached.

Full advantage was being taken of "social and group instincts" in inculcating the habit of thrift, and savings groups were being organised in Government offices, factories, plantations and mines. Also, entertainment was being provided, particularly in the province of Bombay, through the medium of Art Circles Savings Groups.

The system of presenting shields had been devised to stimulate the habit of

competition. He regretted, healthy however, that there would be no competition for the year 1947-48 because of the "fast-moving changes necessitating re-consideration of the basis of the competi-

The following is the list of shields presented by the Finance Minister.

Shields

Winner (Province or State.)

All-India (Challenge) gold shield for the highest monthly average for the year 1946-47.

Rajkot Civil Station.

H. E. the Governor-General's gold shield for the highest monthly average for the year in each of the 4 groups.

**Provinces** 

**Major States** 

Bombay. Savanur State Centrally Administered Rajkot Civil Provinces and Areas

**Grouped States** 

Station Bhajji State.

Hon'ble the Finance Minister's Silver Shields for the highest quarterly average:

Class I Class II Bombay Rajkot Civil Station

### COASTAL SHIPPING FOR COAL TRANSPORT

Proposals for increased utilisation of coastal shipping for coal transport from Calcutta Port were discussed in New Delhi on April 28 at a meeting between the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport and representatives of Indian Shipping companies. Those present included Mr. Y. N. Sukthankar, Secretary, and Mr. S. Chakravarti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar, Member of the Railway Board, Mr. L. T. Gholap, Controller of Indian Shipping, and Messrs. K. P Shaw. N. H. G. Grant and J. W. Dixon, representatives of shipping companies.

The present difficult rail transport conditions in the country render it necessary to relieve the strain on railways to the maximum extent possible by the fullest utilisation of other forms of transport particularly, coastal shipping. Coal movements represent the crux of the problem and any stepping up of despatches by sea would also greatly help to clear coal stocks at pitheads.

Discussions at the meeting revealed that owing to the increased rice exports from Burma and other factors it would be difficult for the shipping companies to guarantee steady shipping programme of 34 ships a month as recommended by the Standing Committee. The Committee will now consider ways and means of meeting this target by other measures.

The Committee appointed a sub-committee to go generally into the ques-tion of co-ordinated movement of food-The Committee grains from porte so as to eliminate wastage of rail transport.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1948

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# INDIA'S POPULATION RECORD

## Census Commissioner's Broadcast

"It seems to me that the census has never been looked at in the right way. What has too often happened is that the census was looked at as a kind of comet or periodical epidemic or in general some kind of spasmodic eruption which has to be endured, got rid of and forgotten. That is unsound,", observed Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner, in a broadcast from A. I. R., Delhi, on April 30. He added:—

It is all a matter of wave-length. The long waves of the census series beat in the past in a ten-year term on the administrative shores of India. The Incometax waves for example beat once a year, far shorter and more immediately perceptible, the pay day wave-length is one month, one week or possibly even one day, but they are all wave-lengths within the same administrative system.

It is a commonplace of modern scientific theory to think of wave groups or wave fronts as operating units and there is a good deal in that, that could be applied to the administrative scene. Actually one might say that the small waves were merely carried on the big ones and that, in liquids like the sea, is of course actually the case. But it is the case too in a country. Its entire fiscal and other systems start from the fact that it has so many people of such and such age and sex distribution to feed, educate, move, doctor, bury, police and so on. Also that the needs of these people will determine import programmes, export possibilities, fiscal returns and all the rest. It is a census that gives Government these facts or, to use more general and better terminology, whatever tells the Government how many people it has and how many it is likely to have in future is at the root of everything.

### Basic Operation

Seen thus, the population record is absolutely fundamental and the securing of that record should be the basic operation of any Government I referred just now to more general terminology as being better than the specific word census. The reason for this is that names are apt to stick in an odd way and do gain in uncritical or uninformed circles a much wider scope than they should have. Thus a census is merely one method, whereas the sound scientific approach is to decide what we want and then decide which methods would be suitable and practicable.

People talk as if a census done at one moment every ten years was in itself a kind of absolute—something like the laws of Moses, ancient and unalterable. I do not look on it in that way at all. It is only one method of getting at the fundamental fact, which is, how many people have we and how do they live? Ships collect barnacles unless they are cleaned from time to time; most men grow crusts as they grow older, and administra-

tive systems are very like ships and men, that is, they can collect quite a lot of barnacles and weeds and so on. And so with a census, the idea of everything on a single night was one of the barnacles which I stripped off in 1941, and similarly the idea that a single countrywide count is the only way of getting at population data. It may with this or that modification be the best method at present but it does not at all follow that it is the best in essence or will be in future.

After all what is the base of a population record? How do people come about at all? Evidently because they are born and they die. Subsidiary aspects are that they may come in from or go outside. Being born and dying from this point of view is merely what are called in a rather ugly phrase vital statistics. And if a country's vital statistics were 100 per cent sound it would have the essence of its population record on tap at any time. You see how this illustrates the point I made already. Vital statistics are not under the Census Commissioner but in essence they deal with a topic just the same as that he has to rsue.

### Age Record

Vital statistics give the essence undoubtedly; but they do not give all that a country really needs. For example the age distribution. Mind you, a really good system of vital statistics will go a long way to this too; but before they could, they would have had to be going for at least ten years. Or better still a generation, by which time they would have had under a complete record one turn-over of the population so to speak.

But the age record is of immense importance to any country and particularly to one whose population is rapidly changing. Quite apart from such obvious points as the need to know how many children of school-going age there are or are likely to be in the next five or ten years, there is the wider fact that governments need to know what the population will look like not ten but twenty or thirty and more years ahead. This ought to come from the vital statistics but we are far short of that; and where it must come from is the age determination from the entire country.

That is, one operation carried out at the same time all over the land. In fact at present you might say that after the aspect of existing numbers, the age distribution was the prime function of the periodical investigations we call a census. This is particularly important now since we had no age tabulation in 1941, although to their great credit the chief States of India from Kashmir in the North to Travancore in the South extracted a full age table.

Another important point is how do the people live? Through what pursuits do they secure the wherewithal for their daily life? As time goes on this kind of record should be more and more forthcoming from regular sources of statistics e.g., factory and industrial figures, but again for the present it is largely a census job.

I shall not go on further with these points for they relate rather to the ultimate enumeration and tabulation. What comes before all that is the system whereby we do the count. The first thing is to ensure that every house or place where people may be found is visited by one of our enumerators and is not visited by more than one. There is no use having a universal count unless all are in. We must catch every man", as a village officer said to me in Madras years ago. He was quite right.

### Specific Beats

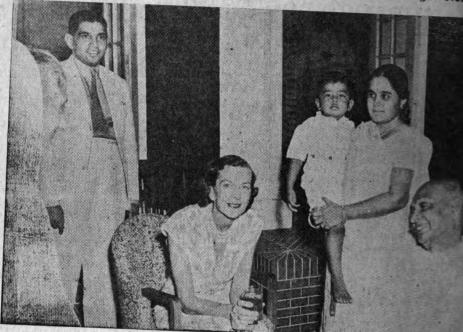
Now in a country of the size and complexity of India—or in any other for that matter—it is not enough to collect a number of bright boys and say let us have a census. We have to arrange specific beats to make sure that every place within the beat is marked and identified and is present on the list given to the man. And also that no house appears in more than one man's list. Evidently this means a list of houses and that has always been the foundation of any census anywhere. We have all seen at times or other an odd-looking number on a house wall; that was a census number put there and forgotten. Past practice was to the census, and then let it drop.

I criticised that method long ago and I want to and it now. Quite apart from the labour every ten years we should have the numbers permanent, so that every man, whether he lives in a village or a city, will have a specific address which he can quote and what the postman can find. With a maintained house list in existence all subsequent enquiries, not only the census by any means, would be greatly assisted and we should have laid the first steps towards making serious use of sampling. In a country of the size and limited resources of India, the burden of all-in counts must be reduced.

So that is the stage I am at now, to work with Provinces and States to get houses numbered in a systematic way throughout the country and have these numbers maintained. This will have to be done by the Provincial and State Governments, for the cardinal point of the Indian Census is that it is not a purely Central subject at all. So far as the tabulation is concerned, yes, but for the far more fundamental enumeration stage, no; it is an example of a truly All-India effort, very greatly to the country's credit; for when we consider the size of the population involved and the cheapness, there is no comparable operation in the whole world and this distinction flows mainly from the fact that by and large the people of the country from Provincial Governments down to village officers and citizens, all take their share.

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Sardar Patel with Earl Mountbatten (above left) and w.
Lady Mountbatten (above)

Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, entertained the Princes of Central India States recently in New Delhi. Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Mountbatten, Pandit Nehru, and the Maharaja of Kashmir were among the distinguished guests.

Sardar Patel and Paudit Nehru

The Deputy Prime Minister and Maharaja of Kashmir

Sardar Patel's

Party To

Princes





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ne 15, 1948

STEPPING UP FOOD PRODUCTION

PRICE

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The Prime Minister going aboard the new Constellation Aircraft "Rajput Princess" while iraugurating the first All-Indian-Irans-Oceanic Air Line. Appearing in the picture are Pandit Nehru, Sri Sharmukham Chetty, Nr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Mr. J. R. D. Tata

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## STEPPING UP FOOD PRODUCTION BY 10 MILLION TONS A YEAR

# Foodgrains Policy Committee Recommendations

stant threat of scarcity, famine and helpless dependence on imports to which the country is exposed at present, it must set before it the task of increasing the foodgrains production annually by 10 million tons within the shortest possible time".

Large-scale multi-purpose projects to provide assured irrigation; intensive efforts to raise the production from the soil already under culrivation by increased use of water, manure and improved seeds and the development of culturable waste lands must be an integral part of a comprehensive food production policy for the immediate future.

To put this plan into effective operation, it will be necessary to establish a Central Board of Agricultural Planning, to set up Provincial Boards of Agriculture and an autonomous Central Land Reclamation Organisation with a capital of Rs. 50 crores.

These are the main recommendations of the final report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee which was published on May 22. The Committee was set up by the Government of India in September 1947 to examine the possibilities and to recommend measures for securing a definite increase in the food production within the country in the next 5 years.

#### Grow More Food

The expected increase in foodgrains production from the multi-purpose projects is 4 million tons and from the existing food production plans of the Provinces and States within the next five years 3 million tons. The gap of 3 million tons is expected to be bridged by the reclamation and cultivation of culturable waste lands of all types.

On December 1, 1947, the main recommendations of the interim report of the Committee were published in the press. These recommendations dealt with the extent to which reliance was to be placed on imports and suggested a revised food policy of "progressive decontrol."

The final report is divided into five chapters. The first deals with the nature and results of the food production efforts made during the years 1943 to 1947; and the second examines the potentialities of increasing food production and indicates in outline the revision that is necessary in the food production policy for the next 5 years; the third describes in detail the essentials of the Revised Food Production Plan and the organisation which is necessary for its

execution; the fourth discusses the problem of subsidiary foods and the last chapter deals with the food policy during the next five years.

After a careful examination of the efforts made to increase internal food production during the period 1943-47 the Committee has come to the conclusion that, by and large, the Grow More Food Campaign did not produce the results aimed at. The measures which were undertaken were doubtless in the right direction, but the objectives were too diversified, the efforts were inadequate and in most areas the necessary vigour and drive was lacking. If definite results are to be achieved in food production in the future, a radical revision of the approach is necessary and a new production policy and machinery has to be devised."

The main planks of the Grow More Food Campaign between 1943 and 1947 were (a) a switch-over from cash crops to food crops (b) intensive cultivation of existing cultivated lands through better irrigation, better seeds, better manures and better farming practices and (c) extensive cultivation by bringing under the plough current or old fallows or cultivable waste lands.

The Committee is of the opinion that the increase in the production of millets and rice in the provinces where the restriction policy was followed, has not been commensurate with the reduction in the area and production of cotton and jute. The policy pursued has resulted in reducing the production and exports of cotton and jute without a corresponding gain in the production of foodgrains. It recommends, therefore, that the Central Government should immediately consult provinces and States to examine the advisability of continuing the policy of restriction of area under cash crops, in favour of food crops.

#### **Potentialities**

In examining the nature of the foodgrains deficit in the country and the potentialities for increasing internal food production the Committee's view is that the Indian food economy is exposed to a number of risks, the principal of which are: (a) the total average production of cereals is short in relation to the requirements of the existing population, (v) the annual cereals production fluctuates widely once in three years and (c) there are certain chronic deficit areas known, as 'the famine tracts' in different parts of the country.

The Committee accepts the view of experts that agricultural development in India has not been commensurate with

the potential resources, and that there is considerable scope for increasing production. A series of large-scale multi-purpose storage dams on the major rivers of the country can alone reduce the absolute dependence of Indian agriculture on the monsoon, and provide assured irrigation to large areas thereby increasing production by 20 to 30 per cent.

Production can also be stepped up by intensive cultivation of areas already cultivated, through hetter irrigation, manures and seeds.

Dealing with development of deficit areas such as the Deccan districts of Satara, Bijapore, Dharwar, Sholapur, the Ceded Districts of the Madras Presidency, certain districts of the East Punjab, parts of Rajputana and Kathiawar where normal rainfall is scanty and agricultural yield per acre low, the Committee recommends a special rehabilitation programme, embracing increased irrigation facilities and dry farming methods combined with a deliberate attempt to locate small-scale industries, to create alternate avenues of employment. The Government of Bombay has during recent years, contour-bunded nearly seven lakh acres of such land which will enable crops to be raised, by dry farming methods. The Committee recommends a "vigorous extension" of this type of work in other provinces and States.

#### Revised Plan

Dealing with culturable waste land the Committee considers it "indefensible" that large areas of land should continue to remain unused without serious and concerted effort being made to survey the areas, determine the most suitable blocks of land which could be brought under cultivation and to develop them as rapidly as possible. The whole approach to the problem in the past has been of a haphazard and improvised nature and the problem has not been tackled in the past with a clear-cut programme of development supported by necessary provision and executed by an adequate organisation.

The Committee has reiterated the fact that agricultural development must remain primarily the responsibility of the provinces and states. Subject to this broad principle, the Central Government have certain vital functions to perform. They should co-ordinate the individual plans of each province and state into the framework of a common all-India food production plan, procure and allocate essential supplies to provinces and states required by them for their food production, and undertake direct responsibility for reclaiming suitable blocks of cultivable waste hand, It is the Committee's view that unless the Centre undertakes the responsibility for reclamation of such lands and making them suitable for cultivation, large area which can be under cultivation will continue to remain uncultivated.

The Committee is of the view that the financial assistance required for the implementation of provincial five-year food production plans should come out of the block grants made by the Central Government to the provinces for developmental purposes. The widest possible freedom of action should be given to provinces and States in selecting their own schemes and their execution. A special review of the progress made by each area to implement its food production should be undertaken at the end of three years, and if the review shows that adequate results have not been achieved by any particular area, this should be taken into account in determining the development grant to be given to that province during the next five-year period.

To ensure the fullest collaboration between the Centre and the provinces and the states and a rapid reclamation of cultivable waste land; the Committee suggests the establishment of two bodies: (a) Central Board of Agricultural Planning and (b) a Board of Agriculture in each province, state or region. The Central Board will consist of representatives of province, states, growers and the Central Government. Its functions will be to examine and co-ordinate the food production plans of the Provinces and states from year to year, to determine the priorities in the allocation of machinery, manure and other supplies and to review and report to the Government the progress of the plans each year. This Board will also examine and approve plans for the reclamation of land to be undertaken by the Central Land Reclamation Organisation, an autonomous organisation to be set up by Statute.

### Land Reclamation

The functions of the Provincial Board will be (i) to recommend to the Central Board in regard to the suitability and availability of lands for reclamation (ii) to assist the Central Organisation in reclamation work (iii) to advise Provincial Governments about the agency for subsequent cultivation of reclaimed land and (iv) to review and report to the Central Board the progress of provincial food production plans.

To execute the plans approved by the Central Board of Agricultural Planning the Committee recommends the establishment of an autonomous organisation called the Central Land Reclamation Organisation with a capital of Rs. 50 crores to be subscribed by the Central Government. The Organisation will have a Board of maximum seven Directors who will be nominated by the Central Government. On the Board, will be experts in commercial management, agriculture, finance, land revenue, administration, irrigation and a representative of the growers.

The Organisation's work will ordinarily be confined to reclaiming land and making it available to Provincial Boards of Agriculture for settlement and disposal. The actual cost incurred for each project will be recovered from the province or state in whose area the project lies, in 20 equal instalments. The Committee is of the view that this

Central Land Reclamation Organisation should not ordinarily undertake reclamation of an area of less than 10,000 acres and the reclaimed lands should be so settled as to avoid division in units of less than 200 acres which is considered to be the minimum economic unit for mechanised production.

The setting up a committee of experts to examine in all its aspects the possibility of establishing additional units for the production of suitable types of fertilizers has been recommended. The Government should also undertake an immediate survey to prospect, improve and develop the known gypsum and phosphatic deposits in the country.

The Committee has examined suggestions for increasing the production and consumption of highlielding root crops like potatoes, sweet potatoes, tapioca and of bananas. The Committee agrees that encouragement should be given for increasing the production of potatoes and sweet potatoes on suitable uncultivated lands in all provinces and states, but it does not consider them as substitute foods for principal cereal grains, nor does it favour their production on the lands now under principal cereal crops.

The Committee has recommended that exploratory work in regard to the development of deep-sea fishing and a concentrated programme of developing inland fisheries should be given priority in the Central and provincial food production plans.

The Committee is of the view that in a vital commodity like food reliance on imports exposes the country during a period of emergency to risks which are unjustifiable, and therefore recommends that as a matter of policy dependence on imports of foodgrains should be terminated as early as possible.

#### Central Reserve

It, however, accepts the view that on current levels of production and demand there is a substantial shortage of foodgrains within the country; and as the food production plans recommended by them will take time to produce appreciable results, it will be necessary for India to obtain some imports of foodgrains from overseas for current consumption and the maintenance of a Central reserve. In its view therefore the quantities of imports required in any year should be guided by two basic principles: (a) that the scale of imports should be restricted as far as possible to quantities needed for the maintenance of a Central reserve for meeting an emergency such as the failure of crops in any area and (b) the need for imports should be terminated after a period of not more than 5 years. All imports of foodgrains within the All imports of toodgrains within the next 5 years should be a monopoly of the Government. This will enable the Government to insulate the domestic price levels from world prices, and enable the Central Government to build enable the Central Government to build the control of a reserve at comparatively cheap prices.

The Committee recommends that the Government should maintain a reserve of 1 million tons of foodgrains throughout the 5-year period of first food

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production plan. This reserve show be mainly in wheat and rice.

The Committee recommends an uniquity into the desirability of setur, up an autonomous executive, organistion to handle the foodgrain more under Government auspices. The organisation should perform pure executive functions of receiving the grain, keeping it in suitable storage and disposing of it at prices determined to the Government.

Referring to its plan for food production in the country, the Committee amoup in the following words: "Our anxiethroughout our deliberations has been constituted by the practicability of every measure suggested for our consideration and to formulate a reasonable, withought-out and co-ordinated plan of action. We would like to stress the need for urgency as we are convinced that only by vigorous and early execution of a plan of this kind, the food economy of the country can be placed beyond the threst of recurring scarcity and famine".

#### Notes of Dissent

Five members of the Committee have added separate notes.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao observes that reclamation of uncultivated waste land. recommended by the Committee, is not likely to result in any significant addition to food production during the next five years because of numerous difficulties such as the procurement of necessary finance and foreign exchange and materials, equipment and labour. He recommends that reclamation of already cultivated, but weed and Kans infected land, should be undertaken first and believes that this is more economical and more capable of yielding significant results in the next five-year period. It this recommendation is adopted, then the proposed Central Land Reclamation Organization Dr. Rao thinks, would not be necessary and the reclamation work could be undertaken by Provincial Governments in consultation with farmen, co-operatives.

Dr. Rao considers that the really important item which we should consider for increasing the food production within the next five years is intensive cultivation and a more economical and effective use of the existing area under cultivation. For this purpose greater attention should be paid to the farmer who constitutes the central figure many food production plan and all steps taken to induce and step up his incentive for increasing the food production. "Farmers' conferences should be encouraged at all regional levels and that farmers' co-operatives and village panchayats set up as part of the food production drive".

Sir Shri Ram, in a separate neta advocates the substitution of ceres consumption in India to a limited extent by sweet potatoes and ground nut. He points out that the yield a sweet potatoes per acre is larger that that of the wheat or rice and that it is be grown in almost every part of the country. He also considers that it is best to use ground-nut cake as hums.

food. Both sweet potatoes and groundnut can be used, he points out, by grinding them into flour and mixing with flour of cereals.

Thakur Phool Singh does not see the justification for the establishment of a Central Agricultural Board as proposed in the majority recommendations and feels that the task can best be done by co-operatives of agriculturists. These co-operatives should also undertake co-operative finance and co-operative marketing. He is of the view that reclamation of uncultivable waste land will be a costly affair, and likely to raise many new problems whereas intensive cultivation could achieve the same and even better results. The best way to increase production in a short period, he suggests, is to concentrate on minor works which do not depend on import of machinery, chemical manures, nor put a strain on our resources.

Mr. Hossain Imam, while expressing complete agreement with the recommendations of the majority emphasizes the need for fuller mechanization of agriculture in India. While appreciating the difficulties in the way of complete mechanization he is of the opinion that they are surmountable and observes that mechanization will ensure better results, assure large urban supply and great increase in the national wealth.

Mr. Bali Reddi while expressing general agreement with the recommendations urges, among other things, the necessity of proper representation of the peasants and cultivators in the proposed Central Agricultural Board. He also suggests that Government should give active help to peasants to organize themselves and that kisans should be closely associated in all aspects of food production work.

## EXPORT OF CASTOR SEED AND GROUNDNUTS

The Government of India will not insist upon intending exporters of castorseed, groundnut and groundnut oil producing letters of credit or bank guarantees along with their applications for licences, provided there is other evidence of sale. Such applicants, provided they receive allotments, will be given provisional licences, which will be confirmed on the production of letters of credit within a month from the date of issue of the licences. But exporters whose applications are accompanied by such guarantees and who are successful in obtaining allotments will be issued confirmed licences.

This change from the procedure announced on April 7 and 10, 1948, is made because of traders' representations that it is difficult to secure either a letter of credit or a bark guarantee since most overseas buyers are unwilling to furnish such in advance.

The Government of India have decided to allow export of gur out of the Indian Union with the immediate effect. No export licence will be necessary for exporting gur.

No export of molasses outside India will be allowed but export of chitta molasses from U. P. to East Bengal (Pakistan) only will be allowed freely. No export licences are required.

# END DEPENDENCE ON FOOD IMPORTS

### Food Minister's Appeal to Cultivators

DO not know how far my voice to-day through this radio talk will reach those whom I would fain address face to face on a topic of the greatest national importance. I want to speak out my thoughts to those great builders of a propsperous India whom we know as the tillers of the soil. Scattered in lacs of villages, working on millions of fields, it is you who are creating the basic wealth of India. More than even those citizens of our country who labour over the desk or in the factories, it is you who sow and reap in numberless farms of India, who make the life of the people of this country happy and contented.

You and the rest of us have laboured and striven hard these thirty years to end India's political bondage and win for its people freedom from foreign rule. You and the rest of us have been yearning to harvest the fruits of this struggle in terms of peace, justice and prosperity for all. But this process of harvesting these fruits is proving to be tedious and tiring. It needs the co-operative effort of us all to shorten this process and bring soon within the nation's homes a sonse of both freedom and happiness.

A Broadcast talk by Shree Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, from AIR, Delhi, on May 22.

But how can such feelings fill people's hearts if, in spite of our political liberty, we are yet under foreign domination in a matter so fundamental as the economy of our national life? There can be no true political freedom unless it also spells full economic freedom. But economic freedom has no meaning, if in a matter so basic as food our country is every year at the mercy of some international council or other to give us rationed doles of rice and wheat and other grains for the poor man's hearth in every one of the numberless hamlets that fill our countryside. Distant Australia, and more distant Argentina, have now to feed the villager in the remotest corner of our land.

It was with a view to end this unwholesome dependence on foreign dole
that your Government felt that it was
time we planned out a programme for
India's freedom of food to supplement
the political freedom we have just
gained. A Committee on which able
men worked vigorously and hard has
recently reported upon the measures
which must be taken to achieve this
freedom of food. That report is now
before us. The Committee has made
valuable recommendations and Government will be coming to their conclusions
in regard to these recommendations
as soon as Provinces and public organisations have expressed their view on the
contents of the Committee's Report.

Large multi-purpose projects, coupling irrigation with electric power, and stupendous schemes for the reclamation of waste and weeded lands have been broadly outlined by the Committee. These will no doubt cost much money and occupy several years of strenuous, efficient and co-ordinated work. This task will fall within the jurisdiction of Government. It is in this field that we must work with a far-seeing mind and a big heart and draw in and secure the co-operation of various elements of our national life, whose conjunction would lead to quickest success.

It is not the purpose of my today's talk to dilate on these projects and schemes. These must await consideration and implementation by the Government of the country in such a manner as may give us the best results. Other proposals of smaller dimensions and well within the power of Provincial Governments have also been recommended for immediate adoption. They relate to more intensive cultivation and use of improved methods on the very farms which today cannot fully feed us. It is this sphere of action that every one of us is to be tested in the coming few years. You, the tillers of the soil, have also to share in the test. And after all, what is the effort which you have to put forth?

If each cultivator put forth even onetenth more effort than what he is doing today, the nation's immediate need would be well nigh met.

### Public Servant's Duty

Are we so utterly helpless as to be unable to produce the eleventh stalk of wheat where today we produce only ten?

Is it not a fact that here and there our neighbouring tillers produce twice the yield per acre which we do? Shall we not begin to think why we should fall behind? Your comrades of Europe are putting forth effort to increase the wheat yield by forty per cent in a single year. Your comrade in the western countries feels that he is not working only for the needs of his family: he realises that he is producing for the nee is of his country.

The same ambition should fill your

Sow and reap for yourselves by all means but also sow and reap for your country.

I cannot but think at this moment of the thousands of those public servants of the Agriculture Departments of our Provinces and States, who on an occa-



sion like this, can fittingly function as the true guides, philosophers and friends to those who produce the nation's food. These, the creators of our basic wealth, need individual help and guidance to overcome their numerous little difficulties. There could be no nobler mission for the officials of the Agriculture Department than to move in the midst of the nation's producers and help them with materials and advise so as to liberate India from its bondage for good. The role of the tiller of the soil can be as great as that of the greatest architect of India's biggest projects, and those officials of Government, who with earnestness and assiduity guide the cultivators to achieve the national goal of economic freedom, can share with them the glory of the achievement. Should we not all, non-officials and officials, feel the tragedy of the situation?

With nature's magnificent gifts of the Himalayas and the Vindhyas and their daughters, the mighty rivers, which supply the bloodstream of our economic life, with a soil which, if well tended, is suited to vast multi-purpose agricultural production, with a man and cattle power which has the potentiality, if properly used, to feed half the world and feed it well and sumptuously-with all these factors in our favour,-we in India seem to be destined to beg our food from half a dozen countries in the East and West for several years to come. This is a position which no self-respecting nation can tolerate. It is a position which no self-respecting member of our nation should long tolerate.

Have we ever realised that if anything happens to interrupt the free passage of food ships across the seas, India would have to face relentless starvation?

It is a great national task which is making its call both to the tiller and to the official, and all great tasks well done cannot but evoke appreciation and recognition. Let us all fulfil our parts in the great task of making India self-sufficient in food for its rapidly growing population.

### First Priority

Food has always claimed first priority in our domestic life. Food has been claiming first priority in our national budget. Let food receive first priority in the nation's production plans. Agriculture is the fountain of national wealth. Food must form our principal agricultural product. We must plan for food production along more than one line.

Schemes which will take some time must be coupled with schemes which can be implemented immediately. Both need our attention. It is these latter which I am anxious today to commend both to the agriculturists and the officials of our numerous Provinces and States. It is in this sphere that our own will and determination can largely give us the fruit. It is in this sphere that our own capacity for co-operative work can produce certain results. It would be a great pity if the qualities which carried us through to success over thirty years of political struggle, should now suddenly

be unavailable when the battle for the economic freedem of India has yet to be won to supplement the achievement of political liberty.

The nation is, as I have ventured to suggest, passing through a fresh test. I hope we shall pass the test successfully. We are now entering upon the next sowing season in the country. Our efforts during this season are to be the beginning of that test. I know that many Provinces have been planning for this season. I hope full and free co-operation between the officials and the agriculturists will help the nation to achieve its first success in its march to economic freedom. Will the tiller and the public servants disappoint the nation's hopes?"

## INDIAN DELEGATION TO ECAFE

The Indian Delegation to the third Session of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Asia and Far East which met on June 1, at Ootacumund, was led by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister of Railways and Transport. Following Matthai's election as chairman of the session, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerje took his place as leader of the delegation. The personnel of the Delegation included:

Leader and Representative of the Government of India: Dr. John Matthai. Alternate: Mr. K. Sitaram Reddi. Minister of Industries, Madras. Advisers: Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary. Ministry of Commerce; Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Supply; Dr. S. N. Roy. Ministry of Labour; Mr. S. Chakravarti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Transport; and Mr. B. P. Adarkar, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, Secretary to the Leader of the Delegation.

Public Relations Officer; Mr. Bino: U. Rao.

Secretary to the Delegation; Mr. R. D. Sethi.

Progress so far made by the Central and Provincial Governments in implementing the recommendations of the Famine Inquiry Commission is described in a Report issued by the Ministry of Food on May 18.

In their Final Report published in September 1945, the Famine Inquiry Commission examined the problem of food shortage in India and made recommendations which cover practically the whole field of development of agriculture, husbandry, etc. The recommendations of the Commission intended to provide a basis for a large. scale attempt to increase the production of food and to raise the standards of nutrition in India with a view to remov. ing the recurring threat of scarcity and famine. The implementation of these recommendations rested with the Ministries concerned of the Central, Provincial and State Governments.

# 6,000 NEW TUBE-WELLS PLANNED Aid to Grow More Food Campaign

The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has drawn up a programme of construction of 6,000 tube-wells in various parts of the country over the next five or six years as an aid to the Grow More Food Campaign.

This was revealed by Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, at a Conference held at New Delhi, on May 21 at which the Irrigation Adviser, Government of India, the Technical Officer to the Electrical Commissioner, Government of India, and Chief Engineers of the United Provinces and Bihar Governments were present.

The Conference was convened by the Ministry of Agriculture to consider ways and means of co-ordinating at the provincial level the work of construction of tube-wells and provision of power supply so that a comprehensive estimate could be submitted to the Central Government.

Mr. Sen pointed out that the lack of electric energy for tube-wells was proving a bottle-neck. He invited representatives from the Provinces to explain the present position in their areas and also their plans for the future. He informed the meeting that the Government of India had asked for the services of two experts from the United States to survey

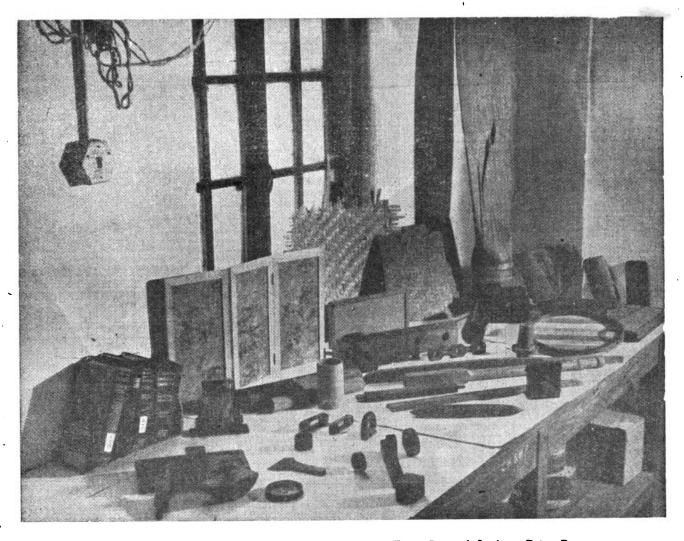
the Provinces and prepare schemes for constructing tube-wells. The experts are expected to arrive in India shortly.

The Chief Engineer of the United Provinces explained that they already had about 2,100 tube-wells in U.P. and that plans had been prepared for constructing about 750 more as electric became available. The U.P. Government, it was stated, had placed orders for power plant costing about Rs. 96 lakhs. It was stressed that apart from electric energy, the shortage of tube-well materials was also acting as a bottle-neck.

The Chief Engineer of the Bihar Government stated that Bihar at present had 134 tube-wells and there were plans to construct 250 more as and when these could be energized.

Mr. Sen invited the representatives of the two Governments to submit to the Central Government lists of their requirements of equipment etc. to enable the Centre to imvestigate how far it could be of help in this direction.

The Conference also discussed the manufacture of borehole pumps in India. It was suggested that further particulars about cost should be obtained before the Provinces could express a definite opinion.



Samples of articles made out of laminated wood at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun

# MANIFOLD USES OF INDIAN TIMBER Work of the Forest Research Institute

MONG primitive peoples wood and other forest products serve a wide range of domestic needs and are in-dispensable to their methods of life. The industrial and commercial nations of the world have developed numberless substitutes for wood but have not thereby decreased their consumption of it or become less dependent on forests. New demands have arisen that utilise the products of forest in a multitude of ways unknown to primitive man. Directly or indirectly every aspect of modern life would be handicapped if the woods, resins and other products of forests become scarce or unduly expensive. Some of the numerous ways in which these products help, are in the growing and packing of foods, the manufacture of plastics, clothing and paper, the construction of means of transport and communications and the making of a wide range of items of less essential nature.

Think of the use of wood for structural purposes in all its myriad forms. It has

carried loads, transported foods, framed and sheathed buildings and sheltered the builder. The use of wood as railway sleepers, while relatively small in volume, is of tremendous importance. It is hard to conceive of the railway transportation system having reached into all the corners of the globe except upon a wood, This age-ald engineering material, wood, has delivered unusually valuable service to man.

#### Silviculture

In India, the regions of the Himalayas and other mountain tracts well supplied with rainfall originally supported vast forests of a quality as good as in any other continent. This heritage has been freely used; much of it has been wasted, but fortunately a good part of it still remains. About one-sixth of India's land area is still covered with forests. An intelligent consideration of the wise use, conservation and protection of these essential materials is the duty of every Indian.

It would be useful here to briefly survey the work done at the Indian Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and look for a few useful lines of development for the future.

It is the object of forest management to give to man full possession and control of the forest. Forest management in its broad sense is a long and exacting process which involves the investment of considerable capital. A forest is more than a mere group of trees. It includes not only the trees but also the soil, the undergrowth and reproduction as also game, livestock, insects and men that resort to it. The component parts of a forest bear the same relation to each other as do the individuals in a village or town. The trees are mutually dependent against windthrow, and snowbreak and the close canopy of the trees allows the formation of that essential complex compound humus' which is used for maintaining soil fertility. At the same time the trees compete for food, moisture and light. So intensive is the struggle for existence in forest life that 100 trees on an acre at maturity. may be the final survivals of 10,000 saxdlings that started life.

A forest is the product of soil and climate. Silviculature is the science

of biological response to environment utilised for growing trees and forest grops, and affording them protection till maturity.

The work of the silviculturist is therefore of great value not only to the forest departments of Indian provinces and states, but also to the owners of private forests, industries using wood, and land owners or corporations engaged in tree planting.

Closely linked with silviculture are two subjects of universal interest—land use and erosion. India is already alive to the dangers of the latter. Valuable information has been collected and published on some aspects of erosion control, including effects of control of grazing, stocking with better grasses and contour trenching.

The largest use of wood, fuel, is the most primitive, the most wasteful and among the most important. Considerable work has been done on collecting information about suitable species, and some material has been published on the silviculture of village and fuel plantation.

### Death-Dealing Insects

An epidemic which a little over 30 years ago, destroyed 60 lakhs of trees in Central and North India and caused the nation a loss running into several crores of rupees was due to an insect, the sal borer; the spike disease of sandal in Coorg, Madras, and Mysore is estimated to have killed sandal trees valued at over Rs. 2 crores. These figures give a measure of the destructive power of insects on forest trees and forest products.

The entomologist aims to check or prevent such losses. It is for him to ascertain what groups of insects are most injurious to particular trees or timber, to study their life history and rate of development, and determine suitable and practical methods of preventing their increase. The control schemes devised for the sal heartwood boring insect, have enabled the forest departments of the states and the provinces, to adopt standard measures at insignificant costs. It is now possible to predict with confidence the periods of epidemics and the precautionary measures to be taken.

The entomologist has also proved that the high rate of mortality among sandal trees is due to a disease caused by a virus which is carried by a sapsucking insect. New outbreaks have been suppressed and the pread of the disease checked.

To a casual observer the entomologist has no connection with forest products and their utilisation in industry. It is not however generally known, that industries concerned with the manufacture of furniture, packing cases, plywood, matches and sports goods have to guard against special insect pests. A few examples will illustrate the importance of the subject.

(1) As a result of measures taken, the plywood industry in Assam to-day

produces tea chests and panels that leave the factories entirely free from the defects due to a certain type of beetles. (2) Advice on mill hygience given to the manufacturers of packing cases and matches in Bengal, the C.P. and Bombay has eliminated complaints of defective finish. (3) Rejections of pith hats by the Army because of the damage by an insect have ceased as a result of suitable remedies taken. (4) Complaints from the Army regarding solid bamboos used as lances and from the police about their lathis have ceased, because of suitable preventives against damage by an insect which feeds on the sap of bamboos. (5) Frequent and serious interrugations on the high voltage transmission cables caused by swarms of flies in the U.P. have been successfully prevented.

### Plant Specimens

The entomologist lists more than 100 species of white ants and the prevention of damage by them is a widespread problem. The species vary widely in their habits and before effective control measures can be confidently prescribed, thorough biological studies are needed. Exploratory work in this connection has been carried out at the Research Institute during the last three years. This must now be followed up with a comprehensive survey of these destructive insects, their biology and control measures.

The herbarium of the Indian Forest Research Institute comprises over 2½ lakh plant specimens representing the flora of all parts of the world, but more specially of India. It forms the basis of all fundamental research in systematic botany, in describing plants new to science and in bringing to light the little known plants from the myriad types growing in the forests. When dealing with plant produce whether timter or other, it is of the greatest importance to correlate with the several items of research, the correct identity of the species concerned.

To take only one example: the importance of grasses is well recognised, not only as raw material for making paper and essential oils but also as indicators of soil and forest types.

#### Utilization of Products

The variety and abundance of Indian economic forest products (technically called "minor forest products") is perhaps unequalled in any other similar area in the world. Over 3,000 species of plants besides a large number of animal products play an important role in the rural and industrial economy of the nation. Essential oils, resins and gums, fatty oils and fats, medicinal plants, canes, bamboos, grasses, other products such as honey and lac, and materials for packing and wrapping are the means of livelihood for millions of inhabitants near the forest. Many of these "minor products" valued at crores of rupees form the raw material for a number of modern industries, and some are also valuable items of international trade.

In 1939-40 raw materials worth about Rs. 4 crores were exported. In addition

there are many other items, which if properly investigated and utilized, will improve the economic position of the country. To cite one example: till about 5 years ago 35 lakhs of maunds of tamarind seed were thrown away as waste; to-day nearly 6 lakhs maunds of seed kernels are being turned into a product similar to starch for sizing purposes. Investigations also show that tamarind seed kernels are by far the cheapest source of a 'pectin', which is utilized in the preparation of jams and jellies. And so the quest for substitutes proceeds apace at a tempo quickened by the necessities of a free nation, awaiting great industrial development. It is a quest which may produce results even more astonishing than those already achieved, not only in reference to the materials and substitutes available in India's forests, but also in reference to the revolution that may be effected in the economics of our country. The ready availability of a wealth of raw materials in India might well act as an incentive to the successful development of many new industries.

Two other examples will illustrate the vast potentialities for the exploitation of forest products other than timber.

The most important natural source of camphor, supplying 75 per cent of the world's demand is a plant which has failed as a commercial proposition in India. The manufacture of synthetic camphor has also proved uneconomical. Experiments conducted on the cultivation of a little known shrubby plant in India, show that it yields camphor which is identical in all respects to the imported commodity. This plant can be harvested within six months of its sowing. India's annual imports of camphor average 20,00,000 lbs. with the rapid industrialisation of the country, the demand for camphor will increase rapidly.

### Soil Stabilization

Four years ago experiments conducted at the Forest Research Institute revealed the property of certain forest products in bringing about the stabilisation of soil and their binding property for sand. Think of the lasting benefits of this research to the millions of India's village population, whose mud houses are every year washed away and where village roads become impassable during the monsoon. If further experiments on this 'pakki matti' are successful, the teeming poor of India will have, at an insignificant cost, mud houses that will stand up against heavy rains, floors that will match cement ones, and roads that will be impervious to the ravages of the rains.

India produces about 4,000 different timbers, not all of which can be exploited economically. The development of forest industries therefore depends in a large measure upon the science of wood technology which deals with the internal structure of different timbers and recommends their most suitable uses. Two examples will illustrate how wood technology facilitates the scientific and efficient management of industries.

The spruce of North America is the most important timber in the world for aircraft construction. During the last two wars this timber was practically unavailable in India. Field surveys which were started in the hill forests of the Punjab and the U.P. showed that aircraft quality timber is available in this country in the Indian varieties of spruce and fir.

A special type of South American timber used for certain parts of ships was lost to India during the last war and the prices rocketted to Rs. 500 per cubic ft. against normal of Rs. 161. Surveys made in bay and Madras revealed a suitable substitute known as the 'red cutch.' which is now available at Rs. 10 to 15 per cubic ft. and is being used by most of the shipbuilding firms in Bombay.

Teak, an increasingly expensive raw material, has for centuries been used for ship-building. There is no reason why attempts should not be made to find

substitutes for teak at least for the non-vital parts of the ships.

Wood seasoning is intimately connected with the development of wood working industries and the utilization of wood in any form; for wooden poles, railway sleepers and carriages, for furniture and cabinet making, packing case manufacture, shuttles, bobbins, sports goods and bent wood articles, plywood and laminated wood, for ritle furniture and the various ordnance stores. In the past Indian timbers have suffered against imported varieties because of a lack of proper seasoning of the wood before use.

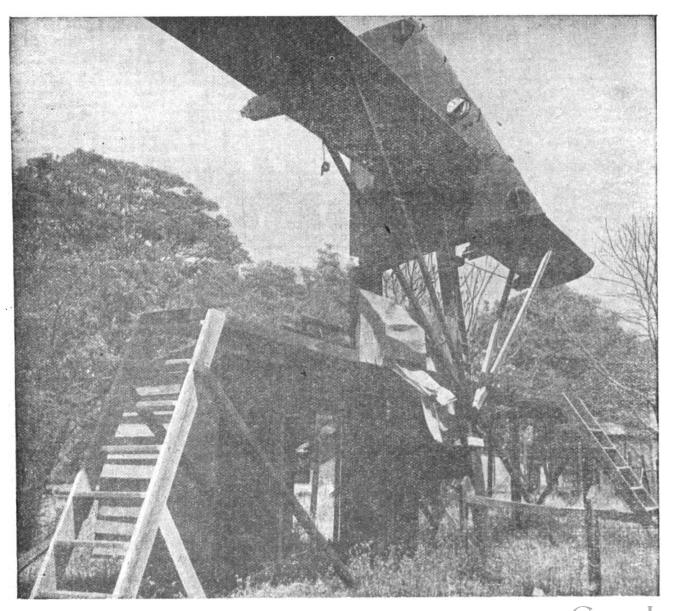
#### Substitute for Steel

A great deal of work was carried out on this subject during the war, when supplies of foreign timber were suddenly lost to India. Among the important investigations made are: the suitability of Indian timbers for textile and jute mill accessories such as bobbins, shuttles

and pencils. At present the latte industry depends largely upon imported timber.

For the manufacture of handles of umbrellas and walking sticks, sports goods and bent-wood furniture, it is necessary to investigate the bending properties of Indian woods. Some work in this connection has already been done but considerable progress has still to be made. The importance of this investigasion has increased considerably on account of the partition of the country; sports goods manufacture has for long been concentrated at Sialkot, which is now in Pakistan.

Till recently wood has been used mostly in the natural state with all its attendant defects. Recent researches have been directed towards improving the properties of wood so that it can withstand the competition from other powerful competitors. The subject has, as a result of the war, assumed enormous importance because of an overall shortage



Aircraft components made of Indian timber in the Forest Research lastitute undergoing weethering trials

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of steel. As against India's minimum annual requirements of two million tons of steel the availabilities are reported to be only about a million tons. Either the courtry's industrial development and its building programme are to be hampered and delayed or "treated" wood has to replace steel in many directions. The work on this subject is therefore, of immediate importance to the railways, the shipbuilding and aircraft industries, the telephone, tele-graph and electricity industry, the chemical, plywood, adhesives, sports goods, textile and all other industries utilizing wood. In this endeavour is involved Rs. 15 crores worth of timber per angum.

### Railway Sleepers

The foundations of wood preservation research in India were laid about 30 years ago: the first commercial wood treating plant which was started at Dhilwan in the Punjab has treated over 4 million railway sleepers. There are at present six creosoting and some ascuplants in operation in India, which impregnate several lakhs of cubic feet of timber annually, against decay and termites attack.

The total demand for railway sleepers during the next few years is estimated at 39 lakhs of broad gauge and 25 lakhs of metre gauge aleepers costing about Rs. 5 crores per annum. With the decrease in the available supplies of naturally durable sleepers, the more extensive use of treated sleepers has become imperative and the Government of India are reported to be working on a scheme of opening many more centres for the treatment of Indian wood.

Another important field of timber utilization in which wood preservation plays an important part is that of marine plays an important part is that of marine structures. Several lakhs of cubic feet of timber are used in Indian harbours and trials are in progress to test the efficiency and economy of different types of preservative treatment.

### Adhesives

Casein, which is imported from abroad, is an adhesive used in plywood manu-facture. During the war its price rose from about Rs. 300 to Rs. 4,000 and to-day it is Rs. 6,000 per ton. Other sources of protein from indigenous materials for adhesives have been explored with encouraging results. They have been developed from ground nut, other seed cakes, and from a waste of starch; the latest is the development of a weather resistant adhesive from cashewnut shell oil, which is available in India.

Growth defects in timber, like knots are localised and often form the weakest part of a wooden structure when solid wood is used. Such failures can be reduced by dividing wood into thin sheets or 'lamellae' which are again glued together so that the localised defects are distributed. By using higher pressure during lamination, compregnated wood is produced. Laminated and compregnated wood can be used for aeroplane propellers, bearings, textile mill auxiliaries, electrical insulators and sports goods.

One hundred and fifty million squarefeet costing Rs. 4 crores is the estimated plywood demand in India. Although this industry developed greatly during the war, it is still in its infancy, requiring constant research and guidance. The suitability of various Indian species of timber for the manufacture of plywood has been investigated, and with the installation of a new composite wood plant, it should be possible to devise methods of utilizing species of Indian timber hitherto found unsuitable.

### Cellulose and Paper

Wood, bamboos and grasses are important sources of cellulose, one of the chemical products now coming into prominence. They include rayon, cellulose and allied plastics, and nitrocellulose, the principal ingredient of certain explosives.

In modern civilisation, paper, boards and cellulose products play an impor-tant role. The development of the arts, science, agriculture, industry and commerce, the governance of countries, in fact almost every phase of human activity directed towards cultural progress, requires the use of paper pulp (cellulose) and boards. A number of the necessities and amenities of modern life is supplied directly or indirectly through cellulose as the basic material e.g. artificial silk and staple, fibre, paper, textiles, plastic materials, photographic films and foils, explosives, lacquers and varnish, power alcohol and constructional boards.

We are all familiar with the excellence of rayon, which has enabled women of moderate incomes to dress almost as smartly as their more affluent sisters. But there was never any reason why the story should stop there, and it has not. to chapter to the great story of the exploitation of the forests, to suit the increasing demands of modern civilisation.

#### Paper

Paper is a felted sheet of plant fibres, Limited quantities of handmade paper are still made from grasses, flax, straw and other vegetable fibres. Much highgrade paper is still made from rags and other relatively expensive materials.

Cheap and abundant newsprint and wrapping papers are however the result of processes, that turn logs of wood into endless strips of paper, in the form of rolls having any desired width and weight.

The present potential productive capacity of 15 paper mills in India is estimated to be about 110,000 tons per annum. In 1937-38 the total imports of paper and boards from abroad amounted to about 145,000 tons. The present per capita consumption of papers and beards in India may be taken to roughly about 1.4 lbs. as compared to 150 lbs. in the U.K., 175 lbs. in Canada and over \$00 lbs. in the U.S. A. Cheap and low-grade writing and printing paper will therefore be required in enouncus quantities, for the spread of literacy among the masses; for too long has India remained indifferent to the spread of mass education.

The acute famine of newsprint during the second world war has amply demon trated the necessity of making the country, as soon as possible, independent country, as soon as possible, independent of foreign imports, of newsprint. It is satisfactory therefore to learn that recently, bulk quantities of ground-wood pulp from the paper mulberry and bleached bamboo pulp were prepared at the Forest Research Institute and converted in one of the Indian mills into reels of 'mechanical' paper. The printing trials on a high speed rotary press have proved satisfactory. In view of the great difficulties of utilizing conferous woods which are most suitable for the production of mechanical pulp, investigations are in progress on the investigations are in progress on the possibility of utilizing soft woods of the broad-leaf species.

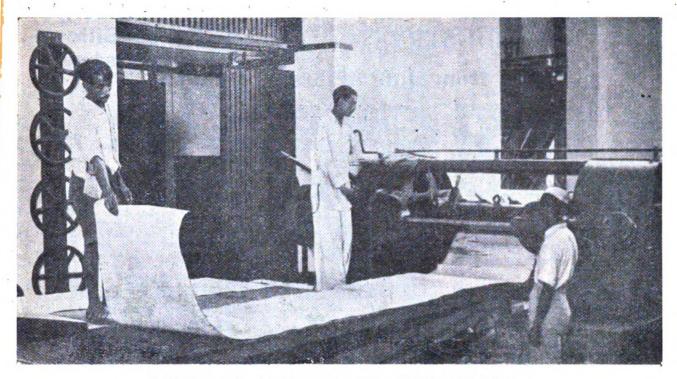
The demand for paper of all kinds is bound to increase in the coming years and investigations on the pos of manufacturing various types of paper and the suitability of particular rew materials for the purpose are very necessary. To give a few examples of necessary. To give a few examples of India's requirements: grease proof papers, high wet strength papers, cable insulation papers, water proof papers, surgical cotton and boards for heat and sound insulation, panelling, furniture, partitions and for the bodies of vehicles. It may be possible to manufacture the latter from saw mill and forest wastes, jungle grasses, and from hard wood which, at present, finds no use.

### Technical Training

A proposal is under consideration in the Research Institute, to organise regular and advanced courses of training in pulp and paper technology for a sufficient number of young men, who would in due course be able to fill in would in due course be able to all in supervisory and managerial posts in paper mills. The paper industry has so far depended on foreign experts to man responsible positions in the mills and the admission of Indian students in well-known technological foreign institutions has been extremely difficult. Training within the country on advanced standards, is preferable to the more expensive method of sending students abroad. The present proposal is to train about 15 students per year but facilities will have to be expanded greatly to meet the growing demand for trained technical personnel.

The above survey indicates where India stands vis-a-vis the other countries of the world in regard to the utilisation of her forest wealth. The comparison with some foreign countries especially those which are in the vanguard of industrial progress, reveals the tremendous gap between them and India in respect of forest utilisation. However, it is important to bear in mind that given proper direction, the utilization of India's forest wealth can develop into among the most promising indus-tries of the country. With an Indian Minister in charge of Agriculture, an Indian Secretary in charge of the department, and for the first time since the inception of Forest Research Institute tute, an Indian at the head of the Research Institute, planning for the growing needs of the country can be on more comprehensively national lines than ever in the past.

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Peeling Veneers for plywood at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun

# PLYWOOD INDUSTRY NEEDS PROTECTION

THE development of the plywood industry is desirable in the interests of the country in general, and in the interests of the Indian tea industry in particular". This opinion is expressed by the Indian Tariff Board in its report on the Plywood and Tea Chests industry's claim for protection. The Board also holds that there are good prospects for the export of plywood, especially to Ceylon where the tea trade is important, and to Middle and Far Eastern countries. Moreover, "plywood can now be used for almost every purpose for which timber was being used, and its use leads to considerable economy in the utilisation of the forest wealth of the world".

The Board states that the industry has made not a case for protection and State assistance. On the whole it is established on sound business lines and enjoys natural advantages, the principal raw materials—timber and adhesives—being available in the country. Two well-established factories have produced qualities of plywood suitable for the manufacture of tea chests, and it is hoped that other factories will also produce an acceptable quality if proper specifications are prescribed. The Board has therefore recommended that the revenue duty of 30 per cent should be converted into a protective duty of 25 per cent ad valorem on all varieties of imported plywood and battens, the duty to remain in force

until March 31, 1950. As announced on April 22 however, the Government has decided to continue the rate of duty at 30 per cent.

Tracing the history of the industry, the report states that the cessation of imports during the First World War encouraged the establishment of a few factories in Assam. These started production between 1920 and 1924. The indigenous industry had, however, to face serious competition from foreign manufacturers and had to apply to Government for protection. There was a tariff inquiry in 1927, but the Tariff Board's recommendations for the industry's protection were not accepted by the then Government. The revenue duty was raised in 1931 from 18 per cent to 20 per cent.

The industry came up against keen foreign competition during the period 1930-39 and could not make much headway. During the Second World War, however, a great expansion took place and the number of factories, big and small, rose to about 80. Later, some of these factories went out of production, and in 1947 only 43 were in working order with a rated capacity of about 60 million square feet of plywood.

The total annual demand for plywood in India is estimated at 150 million square feet. It is however expected that the demand for various //purposes / will steadily increase. The timber resources of the country are held to be ample to meet the needs of the industry even when the demand rises considerably over the 150 million square feet mark.

The industry's only other raw material—casien used as an adhesive—is available to the extent of 1000 tons per annum which can cover only 40 million sq. ft. of plywood. The Board therefore suggests that provinces, where at present no casien is being produced, should obtain all the casien they can from their dairies. Also, that the export of casien from the country should be prohibited.

#### Control of Imports

The Board's other recommendations are:

Importation of plywood for tea chests should be rigidly controlled during the period of protection and licences should be granted only to the extent that requirements cannot be met by the Indian industry.

It is essential to conserve timber suitable for the plywood industry and to rationalise its use. With this in view, the Provincial Governments concerned should as far as possible earmark species of timber suitable for plywood and make this available at a reasonable cost to plywood factories in their regions and in adjoining areas. This kind of timber should not be used by inefficient factories, resulting in wastage and loss.

Proper specifications should be laid down for plywood panels for tea chests

(Continued on page 712)

# DEVELOPMENT OF RAYON INDUSTRY

### Cellulose from Jute Fibre

Rayon industry in India in the near future, the demand for alpha-cellulose is so great that supplementary sources, (other than cotton linters) have to be looked for. Jute is better than wood in this respect; it is richer in cellulose, contains less lignin and is capable of easy purification. Researches conducted at the Indian Central Jute Committee's Laboratories on the possibilities of producing alphacellulose from jute fibres are described in an article in the February, 1948 issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The commonest and most important source of alpha-cellulose is cotton linters. These have several natural advantages, viz., high alpha-cellulose with a high degree of polymerisation (D. P.); being a by-product, the cost of linters is low; and the method of purification is easy. From the commercial point of view, bast fibres, such as jute, which have useful applications in the textile field, are not apparently profitable sources of cellulose. They are more costly than cotton linters, generally contain a much lower percentage alpha-cellulose of comparatively low D. P., and their purification which involves complete removal of lignin, is rather difficult.

### Suitability of Jute

Waste jute or jute products may, however, be a suitable source of supply for alpha-cellulose.

Lignin is removed easily from jute fibre by treatment with sodium chlorite (Textone): 0.7 per cent of the Chlorite in a fibre liquor ratio of 1:50 at the temperature of boiling water-bath and pH between 4-5 takes nearly 2 hr. to dissolve out all the lignin. A preliminary treatment of the fibre with 0.25 per cent Caustic soda solution (liquor ratio 1:50) at room temperature for one hour, the delignification with chlorine is completed in one hour. During delignification treatment the cellulose is not appreciably attacked. In case Textone is obtained the photometric properties of the Jute fibre on an industrial scale is not likely to be prohibitive.

The holo-cellulose obtained by the above delignification process is next treated with 9.3 per cent. sodium hydro-oxide solution (in a fibre liquor ratio of 1:100) at room temperature for 4 hours, when pure cellulose (98.5 per cent) is obtained. The alpha-cellulose is obtained in the form of a white pulp. The yield of alpha-cellulose is 58 per cent. on the weight of dry jute fibre.

The question of cost apart, alphacellulose from jute fibre appears to be suitable for the preparation of cellulose acetate for acetate rayon, Fortisan, moulding powder etc., for high tenacity viscose rayon.

Another article appearing in this issue of the Journal deals with the feasibility of briquetting "Coke breeze" in order to make it usable for industrial and domestic purposes. The metallurgical coke, as produced in Tata Iron and Steel Company's coke overs yields on screening "Coke breeze" dust (below 3/8" size). Prior to the use of coke breeze mixed with coal in the boilers, the accumulated breeze "tock at the Tata's was about 50,000 tons. The demand for the boilers was only 30 per cent. of the total output.

The conclusions reached after exhaustive trials at the Tatas are: the briquettes made in a hydraulic press using 3 per cent. coal tar and 7 per cent. pitch as binders were found to be quite satisfactory. The briquettes themselves are incapable of providing the necessary heat for maintaining the desired steam pressure. They can be used only in conjunction with coal replacing a part of the latter and are more suitable for boilers with steady load using forced draughts ensuring complete combustion. The briquettes must be made available in small sizes (2") to ensure proper air circulation.

# Protection for Ferro-Silicon Industry

The Government of India's Resolutions on the Indian Tariff Board's reports dealing with claims to ptotection by industries producing the following articles are published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated May 18, Ferro Silicon; Steel Belt lacing and Fire hose.

The Board's principal recommendation in respect of the Ferro-silicon and Steel belt lacing industries is that the existing revenue duties of 184 per cent. and 10 per cent respectively should be converted into protectiove duties at the same rates. With regard to the Fire hose industry, however, the Board has held that as the quality of the product of the indigenous industry has not proved acceptable to important classes of consumers in India, no protection or assistance need be given to the industry.

The Government of India have accepted the principal recommendations of the Tariff Board in respect of the Ferro-silicon and Fire hose industries. With regard to Steel belt lacing, they have decided that the case for protection should be referred back to the Tariff Board for re-examination in the light of factors arising out of the partition of the country as the principal producers are now in Pakistan.

## CAPITAL GOODS FROM HOLLAND

# Dutch Eager to Revive Business Connections

Canadian and Australian markets.

Indicating export possibilities during 1948, without taking into consideration the possible reaction on Dutch industrial economy of plans for European recovery, the pamphlet reveals that Holland is able to export about 75 kinds of capital equipment, the main groups being:

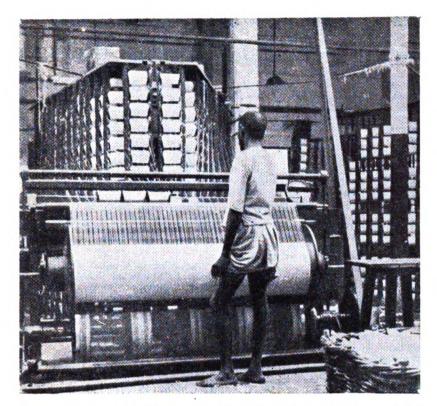
Wood working machines; factory requisition and plant, cranes and transport material; welding rods and transformers; concrete mixers; plant for the vegetable oil industry; engines and plant for mills and works; boring machines; air conditioning apparatus; photo printing machines; machinery for seed and grain working; condensers, compressors and evaporators; refrigerators; workroom outfit for opticians; weighing appliances; machines and tools; steel

constructions; lifts and parts thereof, hoists and electric concrete vibrators; grid caps, clips and strips; food preparing machinery; tea rollers; electric ovens for the ceramic industry; rubber rolers and tobacco processing machines.

In most cases, delivery terms are not specifically known. These can be settled by direct negotiations with the manufacturer concerned in Holland. The period of delivery is early in some cases, from one to two months. In other cases it extends from 8 to 18 months.

Dutch manufacturers, who are eager to revive old business connections, invite business enquiries from prospective Indian importers. A few have expressed their desire to have expert Indian agents to represent them in this country.

The pamphlet gives names and addresses of Dutch manufacturers and as far as possible details regarding types of machinery produced, period of delivery etc. Further information can be had from either the India Supply Commission, 45/47 Mount Street. London. W. I., or the Dutch Trade Commissioner in India, Post Box No. 260, Bozabay.



Preparing yarn for sizing in a textile mill; (bottom right) a weman-worker carrying bobbins

## INDIA TO IMPORT COTTON

THE world overall supply position of cotton is likely to remain difficult for some time, and, consequent on partition, India is likely to be a net importer of cotton to a substantial extent. These are the main conclusions of the Indian Delegation to the seventh session of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, whose report has been submitted to the Government of India. The session was held at Cairo and Alexandria from April 1 to April 8, 1948. The Indian Delegation consisted of Mr. R. G. Saraiya (Leader), Mr. C. S. Patel and Dr. V. G. Panse (Members), and Mr. N. G. Abhyankar-(Member-Secretary).

In view of the short supply position in India, particularly of long-staple varieties, the Delegation recommends that the existing acreage under cotton should be expanded with a view to increasing the poduction and export of raw cotton so as to strengthen our foreign exchange position. Attention should be paid to intensifying the work of increasing the production of improved varieties of cotton.

A deputation of botanists should be sent to cotton-growing countries such as Ecuador and Peru, to obtain improved varieties of cotton as, in the Delegation's opinion, long-staple varieties grown in these countries may supply breeding material suitable for Indian conditions.

Discussing import prospects from the main producing countries, the report observes that Egypt might consider some sort of barter agreement with India on the basis of an Indian supply of jute, linseed, tea and other commodities in return for Egyptian cotton. Brazil and Peru—particularly the former—might be prepared to consider definite proposals for barter transactions.

#### Barter Prospects

The Delegation recommends that the entire field of export commodities from India be reviewed and the possibility of using some of the major commodities, such as jute and oilseeds, for purposes of barter arrangements be explored and adopted to the maximun possible extent.

The report stresses the need strengthening the organisation for collection of statistics relating to Indian cotton. "This is necessary not only for the supply of relevant information to the International Cotton Committee. but also for the evolution of a correct cotton policy for the country".

In view of the partition of the country, the annual contribution of India to the International Cotton Advisory Committee has been reduced fron \$ 8,000 to \$ 4,000.

At the final sessions, the Egyptian Delegation moved two resolutions,

suggesting that quantitative and other restrictions on the import of cotton should be abolished and that producing countries should receive equitable shares in supplying the cotton requirements of military zones of occupation.

At the suggestion of the Indian Delega-tion, the Committee decided to post-pone consideration of these resolutions by the Standing Committee of the International Cotton Advisory Committee in Washington to a future date, that is, after consulting the various Governments concerned. The consensus of opinion in the Committee was that these two resolutions raised important issues of policy which could be decided only by the member-Governments themselves.

The eighth meeting of the International Committee will be held at Brussels in

### TRADE WITH IRAN

With a view to assisting India's trade with Iran, the Government of India have decided to grant licences freely for the import of all articles from that country, except those for which no licences are issued for import.



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INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1948

# PRE-PARTITION CLAIMS Procedure of Payment Explained

THE Government of India have been considering for some time the question of arranging for the speedy payment of the outstanding claims in respect of supplies and services rendered to the undivided Government of India up to and before the date of partition, said a Press Communique issued by the Partition Secretariat on May 23.

At the time of the partition there was an arrangement between the two Dominions that each Dominion will pay the claims arising in its area subject to subsequent adjustment but a large number of claims, particularly those relating to the areas now included in Pakistan, are still outstanding due partly to disturbances in the Punjab and the large-scale movement of poulations and partly to the discontinuance of payments by the Pakistan Government from about the middle of last December owing to a difference of opinion between the two Governments about the liability for these payments. In order to avoid hardships to the suppliers and contractors, the Government of India, after careful consideration, have decided that they should undertake the initial liability for these payments and recover Pakistan's share through the debt settlement. They have accordingly decided to prescribe the following procedure for the collection, check and payments of these claims :--

- (a) All bills and claims in respect of supplies and services rendered to the late Government of India up to and inclusive of the 14th August 1947, whether in the areas now in India or in Pakistan, should be submitted to the Government of India by the 1st of July 1948, at the latest.
- (b) The bills or claims should be sent to the officer mentioned below:—

Civil Departments: Accountant General, Food, Relief and Supply, Akbar Road, New Delhi; Defence Services: Military Accountant General, Hutments. Block of F'. New Delhi; Railways — N. W. Railway: Administrarive Officer, Accounts, E. P. Railway, Khyber Pass, Delhi; B. and A. Railway: Chief Accounts Officer, E. I. R., Fairlie Place, Calcutta: Posts and Telegraphs: Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Old Secretariat, Delhi.

These officers will tabulate the claims and arrange, where necessary, to have them checked before payment by the appropriate authorities in Pakistan.

- (c) All uncashed cheques issued by the authorities mentioned in para (b) above should also be sent to the same officer as other claims.
- (d) If any bills of claims have already been submitted to the Pakistan Government or the authorities in Pakistan a duplicate copy should be sent with particulars of the authority to whom the bill or claim was preferred and the date on which it was sent.

(e) After the bills have been duly checked the Government of India will arrange to make payment direct to claimants residing in India. For claimants residing in Pakistan payment will be made either by demand draft or through the Pakistan Government.

The Government of India have no doubt that the public will realise that the checking and payment of the outstanding claims is bound to take some time. They propose to expedite the settlement of these claims as much as possible and the public can co-operate in achieving this by sending in their bills and claims as quickly and completely as possible.

### Scholarships for Students From East Bengal

Students receiving scholarships in East Bengal who had to migrate to West Bengal institutions after partition will continue to receive their scholarships, says a Press Note.

The West Bengal Government have decided to accept the financial liability of the scholarships of the following categories of students with effect from August 15, 1947:—

- (i) Those who passed the Matriculation, Intermediate, B.A., and B.Sc. Examinations of the Calcutta University in 1947 and are prosecuting their studies in colleges within West Bengal or affiliated to the Calcutta University irrespective of the location of the schools or colleges in undivided Bengal from which they sat for their examinations;
- (ii) those scholarship holders who were prosecuting their studies in West Bengal colleges before the partition and are continuing to do so after the partition; and
- (iii) those scholarship holders who have migrated from East Bengal to West Bengal after partition with necessary transfer certificates.

### No Eviction of Non-Punjabi Refugees In East Punjab

Thas been decided that the East
Punjab Government will be reaponsible for rehabilitating in
East Punjab and East Punjab States
refugees from Sind, N. W. F. P.,
Baluchistan and Bahawalpur who are
of Punjabi extraction. Non-Punjabi
refugees from Bahawalpur will be rehabilitated in Bikaner and elsewhere.
Refugees from Sind, N. W. F. P., and
Baluchistan, who are not of Punjabi
extraction, will be rehabilitated in
Bharatpur and Alwar, etc.

According to a recent decision of the Joint Rehabilitation Board, non-Punjabi refugees, who are already carrying on business in East Punjab, will not be ejected even if they are in possession of evacuees' property. The number of such non-Punjabi refugees is not likely to be very large.

The misapprehension that the East Punjab Government contemplate eviction of non-Punjabis, who have settled down in the Province on other than evacues' property and without any assistance or allotment from the East Punjab Government, is unfounded.

## CONCESSIONS FOR REFUGEE CONTRACTORS

Two more Indian States Ratlam and Tonk have agreed to enlist refugee contractors and offer them concessions to undertake work in their territories.

Ratlam State has decided to relax the condition of security deposits from refugee contractors but will not make advance to them. Tonk State will afford all reasonable facilities to displaced contractors who should contact the State Engineer.

# INTER-DOMINION AGREEMENT Appeal to Press For Co-operation

WITH a view to the successful implementation of the terms of the Agreement arrived at between the Governments of India and Pakistan in the recent Inter-Dominion Conference held at Calcutta, the Government of India have addressed the President of the All-India Newspapers Editors' Conference seeking the co-operation of the Press in the matter.

The text of the Agreement, in so far as it relates to the Press, is as follows:—

"Both Governments recognize that the whole-hearted co-operation of the Press is

essential for creating a better atmosphere and, therefore, agree that every effort should be made in consultation with the representatives of the Press, wherever possible, to ensure that the Press in each Dominion does not: (a) indulge in propaganda against the other Dominion, (b) publish exaggerated versions of the news of a character likely to inflame, or cause fear or alarm to the population or a section of the population in either Dominion; (c) publish material likely to be construed as advocating a declaration of war by one Dominion against the other Dominion or suggesting the inevitability of war between the two Dominion."

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 104

### RECRUITMENT TO SERVICES

### Caste Distinctions to go

THE Government of India have reiterated their policy of doing away with communal and caste distinctions in regard to appointments to Central Services. In a circular addressed to all Ministries, Government have expressed the opinion that to recognise any distinction between the sub-sections of the Hindu community would amount to importing a fresh distinction which is not in consonance with the present policy of the Government.

They have decided that no caste distinctions should be recognised in the matter of appointments to various services irrespective of whether such distinctions are recognised by Provincial Governments or not in areas where these appointments are made. Posts reserved for Hindus other than those of Scheduled Castes will be open without further reservations to all Hindus without distinction of caste.

It will be recalled that in August 1947, Government of India resolved that it was not necessary to retain the system of reservation in respect of vacancies filled by competition, except for Scheduled Castes who need this protection in view of their backwardness.

It was also decided that in regard to posts filled from the open market otherwise than by competition, recruitment would be made approximately in proportion to the population of the various communities in the Indian Dominion. The reservations which were tixed are: Hindus (other than Scheduled Castes): 60 per cent; Scheduled Castes: 162 per cent; Muslims, 132 per cent; Others: 10 per cent:

The Government of India have, in consultation with all the Provincial Governments and the Federal Public Service Commission, arrived at the following decision in respect of the general conditions of service that should be applicable to officers of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service.

The Junior and Senior scales of pay for the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service will be as follows:—

Indian Administrative Service: Junior Scale:—Rs. 350—400—450—459—500—540—30—600—E. B. —30—870—40—950 (19 years); Senior Scale:—Rs. 800—(sixth year or under)-50—1000—60—1300—50—1800 (25 years).

The pay of commissioners or officers of equivalent status and that of Joint Secretaries to the Government of India will be fixed at Rs. 2,250 per month. The pay of a Secretary to the Government of India will be fixed at Rs. 3,000 per month.

Officers appointed to the Indian Administrative Service on probation should be started on the time-scale and permitted to count the period spent on probation towards leave, pension or interement in the time-scale.

INDIAN POICE SERVICE: Junior Scale;—Rs. 350—350—380—30—590— E. B. 30—770 - 40—850 (19 years); Senior Scale:—Rs. 600 (sixth year or under)—40—1000—1000—1,050—1050—1100—1,150 (in the 22nd year).

Officers in the Selection Grade of the Indian Police Service will receive a fixed pay of Rs. 1,250.

Officers of the Indian Administrative and Police Services will contribute compulsorily towards a Provident Fund at a minimum rate of one anna and a maximum rate of 2½ annas in the rupee. This subscription will be credited to the General Provident Fund maintained by the Central Government.

Officers of the Indian Administrative and Police Services shall be treated as officers of the first grade for purpose of travelling allowance.

Leave will be admissible as for Class I Officers of the Central Government in terms of the Revised Leave Rules, 1933.

Officers of the Indian Administrative and Police Services will be entitled to the same facilities as are admissible at present to Class I Officers of the Central Government under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, till such time as a separate set of Medical Attendance Rules is framed for them.

Regarding retirement benefits the terms are still under consideration.

## URS CELEBRATION AT AJMERE

### Prime Minister's Message

The Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has sent the following message of goodwill to the pilgrims gathered for the annual URS at the Dargah Khwaja Sahib at Ajmer on May 11.

"It is a matter of satisfaction to the Government of India and myself that the famous URS of Dargah Khwaja Sahib is being celebrated in Ajmer as usual. I would have greatly liked to be present at the URS myself but my preoccupations here prevent me from doing so. I send my greetings and good wishes to the pilgrims gathered for the URS and trust that the celebrations will be successful in every way. It is the particular desire of the Government of India to give every protection to the famous Dargah Khwaja Sahib and to maintain its traditions and customs".

#### Government Thanked

Gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Government of India for their share in ensuring the successful celebration of Urs Shareef in Ajmer was expressed in a telegram received by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on May 18 from Syed Asrar Ahmed Mutawalli, Durgah Khwaja Sahib. The telegram reports that "Urs Shareef ended to-day with utmost peace and all ceremonies were performed completely" and it expresses thanks to the "Government for better arrangements and for your personal keen interest in celebration of Urs Shareef"

### Recruitment to U. N. Secretariat

Two new schemes are at present under contemplation by the Nations Secretariat for educational and recruitment purposes.

The Educational Scheme, known as the International Internes Scheme or Volunteer Scheme, provides for a short-term course of instruction and practical training to be given at New York from 12th July to 3rd September 1948. The last date for the receipt of applications by the United Nations expired on April 30th, 1948. The "Internes" will be selected from amongst postgraduate students or junior civil servants. They will receive no salary but the United Nations has undertaken to provide them with free board and lodging for 7 weeks. Travel expenses of the "Internes" are to be borne by the sponsoring Governments or the "Internes" themselves.

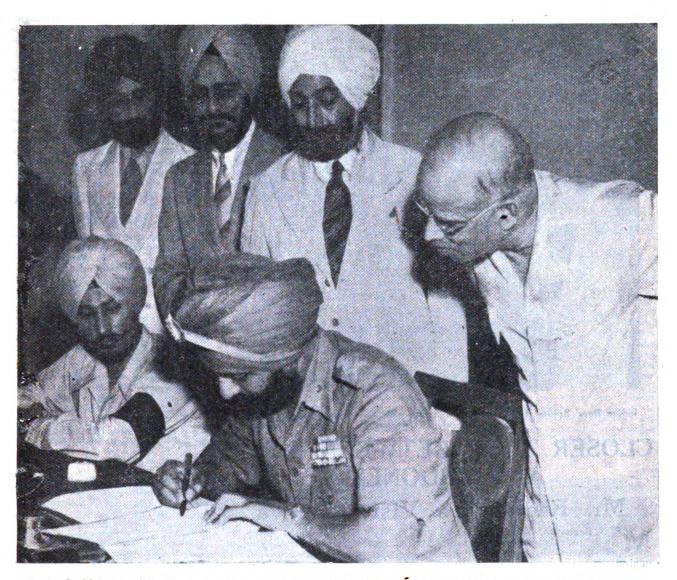
In view of (a) the short duration of the course (b) the small number of posts available—40 to be distributed among 56 Member countries—India cannot reasonably expect to obtain more than one or two of the "Interne-ships" and (c) the dollar expenditure involved for transportation and other purposes, the Government of India decided that the selection of candidates should be restricted to Indians already in the United States of America.

- 2. The other scheme known as the Student Trainees Scheme referred to in a Press Note dated 16th March, 1948 is not yet in force. It is intended as one of the means of recruitment to the regular staff of the United Nations Secretariat. Selection will be made on the basis of competitive examination to be held in India by the United Nations. The venue and date of the examination, the qualifications required of candidates, the number of Indian candidates to be selected, the terms and conditions of employment etc. are still under consideration by the United Nations Secretariat.
- 3. An examination of the large number of applications received at the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations indicates that the difference between the two schemes has not always been clearly understood. For reasons already stated it was not possible to take any action with regard to applications from candidates in India for the International Internes Scheme. The other Scheme has not yet been worked out in detail. A further communication relative to the scheme will be issued as soon as the necessary particulars are available. Prospective candidates are advised to wait for the publication of these details before submitting their applications.



Nearly 2,00,000 people visited the Indian Trade Exhibition held recently at Singapore, (Left) Mr. J. A. Thivy, India's representative in Malaya requesting the Governor of Singapore to declare the Exhibition open; (above and below) two stalls in the exhibition; (bottom left) An India-made surgical instrument attracts the attention of the Governor





H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala signing the Covenant of the East Punjab States Union Mr. V. P. Menon, States Secretary,

# SERAIKELLA AND KHARSWAN STATES TO MERGE WITH BIHAR

PRESS Communique issued by the States Ministry on May 18 said:

After the signing of the merger agreement of the Orissa States a dispute arose between the Government of Bihar and Orissa in regard to the integration of Seraikella and Kharswan. It was then explained that the integration of these States with Orissa was temporary and that in the event of the failure of the two Provincial Governments to settle this dispute by joint consultation a Tribunal would be appointed to examine the matter and to give a finding on the question whether these States should be merged as they are with Orissa or should be transferred to Bihar.

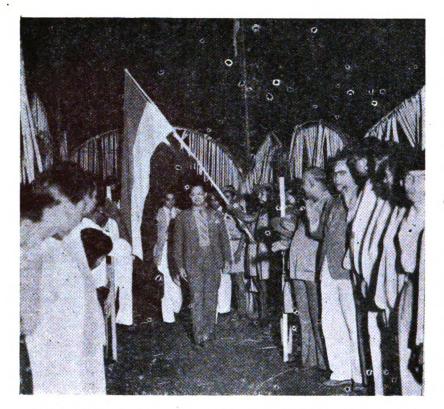
Subsequently it was agreed between the two Provincial Governments that

the prolongation of this dispute and the contest before the Tribunal and attendant would merely accentuate bitterness and would prejudice inter-Provincial relations and therefore the dispute should be referred to the Ministry of States for decision which both sides agreed to accept as final. The Government of India congratulate both the Governments on this wise decision which they hope would avoid all unpleasant-

Accordingly, during the last week the States Ministry heard the parties to the dispute. After careful consideration of the merits of the case the States Ministry has decided that on account of the situation of Seriakella and Kharswan as island territories in Singhbhum district it is impossible for these States to be efficiently managed by any other Government than that which is responsible for the administration of that district. The States Ministry therefore consider that these two States should be transferred to the Government of Bihar. Necessary action to give effect to this decision is being taken accordingly.

#### C. P. TO RETAIN SURGUJA AND JASHPUR STATES

The Government of Bihar has laid claim to the integration of the States of Surguja and Jashpur with that Province in preference to the Central Provinces and Berar. It was at first agreed that an attempt should be made to settle the claim by mutual discussion between the two Governments and if necessary by joint inspection. Subsequently, in order to cut short the prolongation of the dispute with attendant adverse reaction on the relations between the two Provinces, both Governments agreed to abide by the decision of the States Ministry. On May 15 the representatives



Indian Boys' Scouts' troops present a Salute with a National Flag to India's Consul-General, Mr. Ragbavan

# CLOSER TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA

### Mr. Raghavan's Visit to Java

R. N. Raghavan, Consul General for India, recently made a week's tour of Republican Java where he fulfilled a heavy programme, meeting Indian Nationals, presentation to the Republic of gifts from India of agricultural implements and machinery, meeting leaders of the Republic, granting interviews to many publicmen, and students proceeding to India on scholarships, and receiving deputation from various institutions.

At Jogjakarta, capital of the Republic, Mr. Raghavan called on President Soekarno, the Premier, Dr. Hatta, and Surhaji Agus Salim, Foreign Minister.

Motoring to Soorakarta soon after arrival, Mr. Raghavan visited 70 Indian ex-army men awaiting repatriation to India and arranged for steps to be taken prior to their departure while Mrs. Raghavan visited local orphanages. The Consul General was officially received by the Republican Governor and Mayor. At the luncheon given in his honour local Indians also joined. On his way back, Mr. Raghavan visited the famous Buddhist monument Bo Robodur, not far from where the Indonesian Cultural Congress was proposed to be held. En route, men, women and children gathered on the roadside to greet India's Consul General with Jai Hind Merdeka".

In a short and simple ceremony on May 7. Mr. Raghavan formally handed over India's gifts of agricultural implements and machinery to the Republic Economic Minister, who graciously acknowledging the gifts conveyed the Republic's gratitude to India for her

continued. support. Presenting the gifts Mr. Raghvan emphasized the role Indonesia had to play as a bridge between India and Asia, a role which the very name Indonesia signified.

The Chinese Vice Consul to the Republic, Ne Shu Chun, gave a dinner party in honour of the Raghavans.

Twelve Indonesian students who are shortly proceeding to India on scholarships met the Consul General, who gave them an account of what exactly student life in India would be and what arrangements were being made for their departure to India.

# GIFTS FROM INDONESIAN ARTISTS

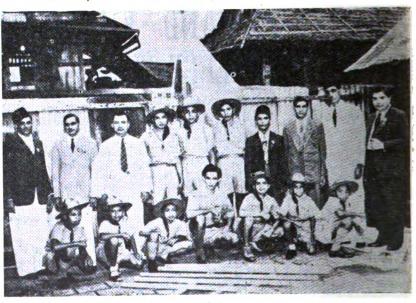
Reflecting the growing Indian-Indonesian friendship and reminiscent of the past history of close relations between the two peoples, the Indonesian artists have presented two gifts to Mr. Raghavan, Indian Consul-General in Batavia.

The first one is an exquisitely carved Balinese wooden bust of Mahatma Gandhi; the artist who has not seen Gandhiji in real life has captured the expression of the Mahatma's face in a realistic manner.

The Balinese carving artist uses thirty instruments with wooden mallet and the technique consists of chipping woodbits gradually with highly sharpened instruments—not with handpressure—but with light taps, the mallet revealing delicacy of touch normally unsurpassed.

The other gift from the famous artist Ameria Sunasa, eight by five in size, is an oil painting of Gandhiji, depicted in yogic meditation pose with wheel (Dharma Chakra) in the centre and the Star of Bethlehem and the Crescented Moon in the blue firmament.

Indonesia's famous lady artist also presented a five by four size oil painting of poet Tagore standing beside one of the many circular walls of stone engraved with the story of the life of Buddha at the great Berobodur Monument.



Mr. N. Raghavan, India's Consul-General in Batavia with members of the Indian Boys' Scouts' Troops

# NEW INDIA'S AIMS AND PROBLEMS

SARDAR Hardit Singh Malik, High Commissioner for India in Canada, addressing the Canadian Club, Winnipeg, on May 6, stated that a Government decree in India had outlawed caste and brought hope to millions. One of the first moves by India, following the granting of Dominion Status was to declare discrimination of caste a criminal offence. Another early move of the new Government was to commit itself to a policy of nationalization of basic industries.

"The aims of the new Dominion were summed up by Premier Nehru: to bring freedom to the common man, to end poverty, ignorance and disease and to build a prosperous nation with justice for all".

The High Commissioner for India asked Canadians to realise that powerful forces in the East are capitalizing on poverty, misery and distress.

He was confident that relations with Pakistan would continue to improve. Muslims were returning to India and settling down to work, disrupted by the strife which followed independence.

The closest and friendliest relations would continue with U. K. and the Commonwealth, he said.

The speech was enthusiastically received.

Over one thousand Indians waving the tricolour and Canadian flags received Sardar H. S. Malik, on his first visit to Vancouver (British Columbia) on May 9. An address of welcome on behalf of the Indian residents was read by Sardar Pratap Singh, President of Khalsa Society, who said, "We welcome you to this province and this great city of Vancouver, the Gateway of Orient. Nearly 40 years ago when some of us first landed here in 1905 we helped to cut virgin trees and clear the land in the major part of the area now covered by the thriving metropolis.

We had one qualification in harmony with the true spirit of Canada, the land of the pioneer and the adventurer. Although handicapped in many ways we exerted our energy in primary producing industries, such as logging, lumbering, farming, The result is that today our small community of about 1,400 owns and operates 15 saw mills and logging operations of various sizes and conducts many successful farming enterprises, including fruit, dairy, and general farming. Grown and developed in such circumstances we are naturally happy at the

dawn of the new year when free India occupies an important position in the affairs of the Commonwealth and the world. Now as Canadian citizens we shall observe with pride the growth of closer relations between Canada and India".

The High Commissioner replying in Punjabi, said, "Free India sends her greetings to you on attaining Canadian citizenship. You have made notable contributions to India's struggle for independence and India is proud of you."

From the station, the High Commissioner's party were driven through Vancouver streets in a procession of 110 cars gaily decorated with Indian tricolours and the Sikh emblem.

#### Visit to Gurdwara

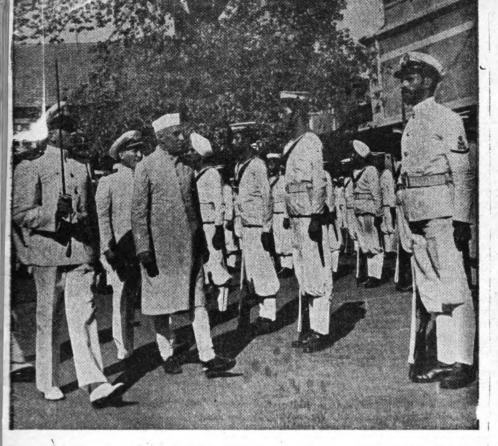
In the afternoon, the Sikhs welcomed the High Commissioner at the Gurdwara, where about 1,500 men and women were present. After singing hymns and songs of welcome, the Secretary Sardar Harnarain Singh read out the demands of Indian residents namely, (1) setting up of a Government sponsored school for Indian children and (2) establishment of an Indian Government liaison officer at Vancouver.

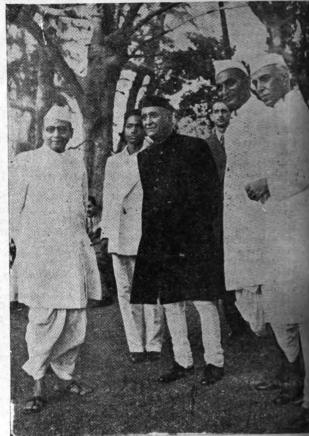
A resolution supporting the Nehru Government was passed.

The High Commissioner exhorted the Indians to prove worthy of the franchise and privileges of Canadian citizenship granted to them.

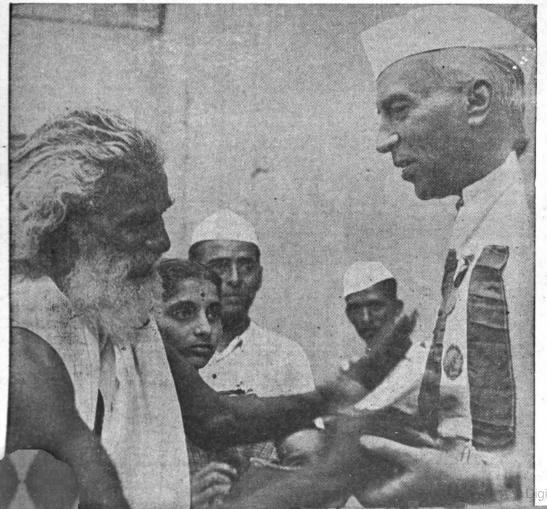


Her Excellency Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, India's Ambassador to U. S. S. R., among members of the diplomatic corps and their families at the May Day Celebrations in Moscow





The Prime Minister inspecting a Guard of Honour by the Royal Indian Navy at Bombay (Below): A pleasant interlude during the busy A. I. C. C. session. An Indian sadhu manages to meet the Prime Minister without appointment and is seen here pinning the national flag on Pandit Nehru's vest.

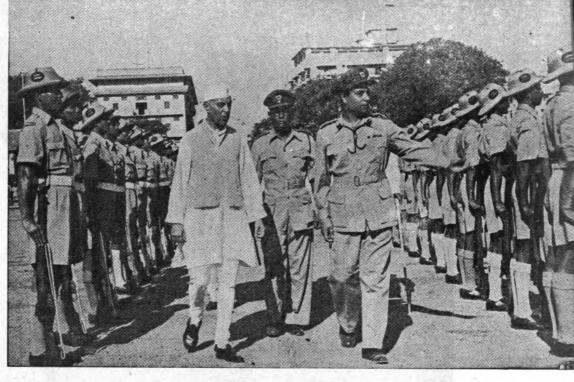




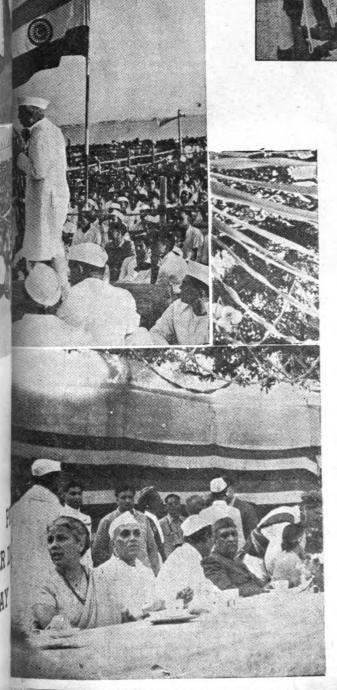
WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN BOMBAY

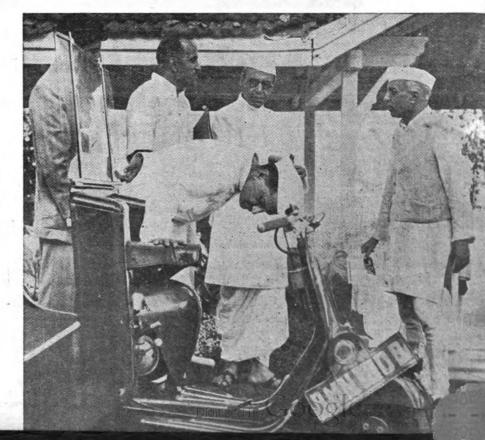
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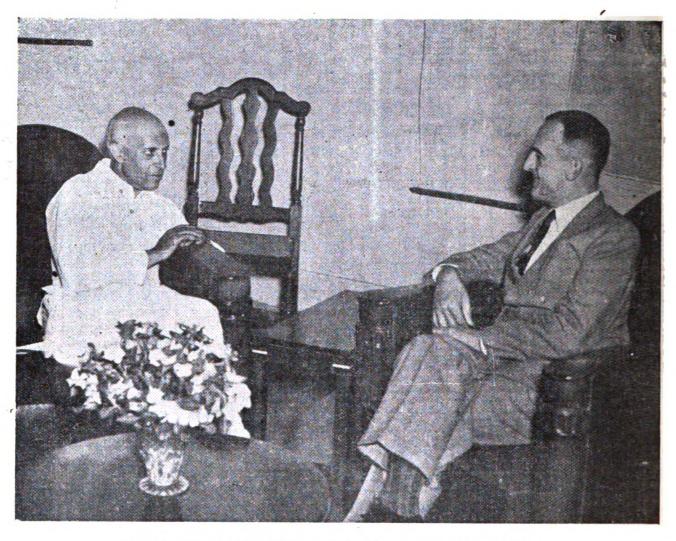
eft) Bombay Governor's 'At Home' to
Prime Minister. Left to right: Mr.
G. Kher, H. E. Sir Maharaj Singh, Dr.
ajendra / Prasad and Pandit Nehru.
Below) A mammoth gathering at
howpatty Sands addressed by Pandit
Nehru



The Prime Minister inspecting the Bombay Home Guards. (Below left):
Bombay Premier's 'At Home' to Pandit Nehru. Left to right:
Lady Maharaj Singh, (Pandit Nehru, Mr. B. G. Kher, H. E.
Sir Maharaj Singh. (Below right) The Prime Minister inspecting a moterrickshaw, a new feature in Bombay's transport







H. E. Armin Daeniker, Swiss Minister to India, calls upon Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

# IRAN GREETS FREE INDIA Purse Presented for Refugee Relief Fund

N inspiring and impressive gesture of goodwill towards India was provided on the occasion of a reception given by the Indian community at Teheran to the Indian Abmbassador, His Excellency Syed Ali Zaheer, on May 10.

Darband Hotel, a historic site which was built by the late Raza Shah, maker of modern Iran, was filled to capacity as members of the Iranian Government, diplomatic Corps, members of Iranian Parliament and prominent editors and others arrived to do honour to free India's first Ambassador to Iran and through him to India.

In a welcome speech on behalf of the Indian community, Sardar Ajit Singh said: "India's freedom was not an easy schievement. Millions laid down their lives for it and our leaders have had to undergo enormous sacrifices. The great-

est of all sacrifices and sufferings has been the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. It was up to Indians to live in conformity with principles of equality, freedom and tolerance that Gandhiji had preached. It was in accordance with these principles that our country had sent out His Excellency Syed Ali Zaheer to Iran. He was not merely a leader of the Shia community in India but an important public personality who has served his country under the guidance of the Mahatma".

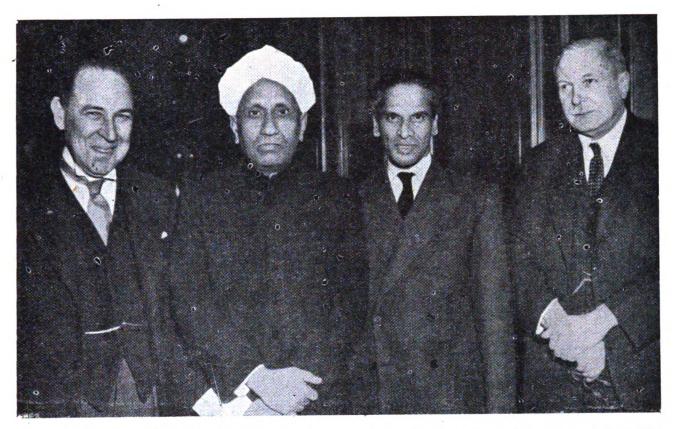
A purse of over Rs. 21,000 was presented to the Ambassador on behalf of the Indian community to be forwarded to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as contribution towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

His Excellency the Ambassador replying said: "When I started for Iran I broadcast a short message on the eve of my departure. I said in that message that now that India has attained its freedom it will be my endeavour as India's Ambassador to re-establish those old ties of friendship and harmony between the people of these two ancient countries who have been the torch-bearers of civilisation in the past,

#### India's Ideal

I can say today with confidence that since my arrival I have become conscious of a reciprocal feeling among the Iranian people and throughout my stay I have received nothing but courtesy and felt a desire on the part of the Iranian people to be on the most friendly terms with us. Clouds of suspicion and reserve which prevailed here for a short time because of the absence of knowledge about the conditions existing in India under its newly attained status of independence have gradually lifted.

It is now generally realised that under the guidance of our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Government is determined to establish a true democratic republic within its boundaries inhabited by people professing different faiths and religious with equal rights



Sir C. V. Raman, distinguished Indian Scientist, at a luncheon party given by Mr. V. K. Krishna' Menon, Iadia's High Commissioner in London. Sir John Anderson (left) and Sir Charles Darwin (right) are also seen in the picture

for all. Under the same aspiration my Government is further determined to maintain a policy of complete neutrality in the present-day world and not to be drawn into the whirlpool of power politics. Our ideal is to have peace and tranquility in a world free from suspicion in which all countries may unite to work for the betterment and higher standard of life for the human race as a whole.

His Excellency then referred to the vast schemes of reconstruction now in progress for raising the standard of the common man in India and how the Indian Government were tackling the outstanding problems under the inspiring leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

His Excellency thanked the Indian community for organising this function and for the very handsome contribution made for the refugees in India.

Mr. Abbas Khaleli, editor of the Iqdam, on behalf of the people of Iran, welcomed free India's first Ambassador, He referred to the great friendship between the two countries from time immemorial. He assured the people of the great ancient land of India that the whole of Iran wished well to India in her march forward as a free nation and that they were all anxious to grasp this hand of friendship extended to Iran and other Muslim countries in the Middle East.

He hoped that relations between these countries would now be further strength-

ened and that they would be bound in closer cultural and other ties.

He paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and concluded "Iran Hindustan Zindabad" and "Pandit Jawaharlal Zindabad".

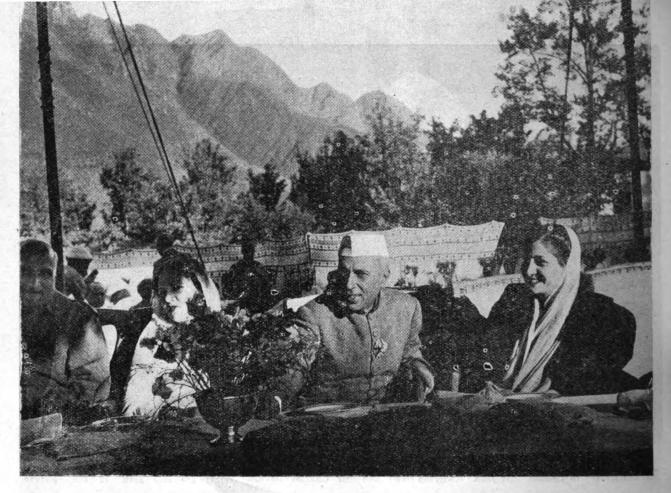
Several other Iranians joined in welcoming the emergence of India as a great free nation. Hundreds of Iranians joined in echoing the slogan "Iran Hindustan Zindabad".

The Governor-General is pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Sashi Bhusan Sinha, at present an acting Judge, to be a permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court, with effect from the 19th June 1948.



Indian naval officers undergoing training in the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. The picture shows Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon with a group of trainees





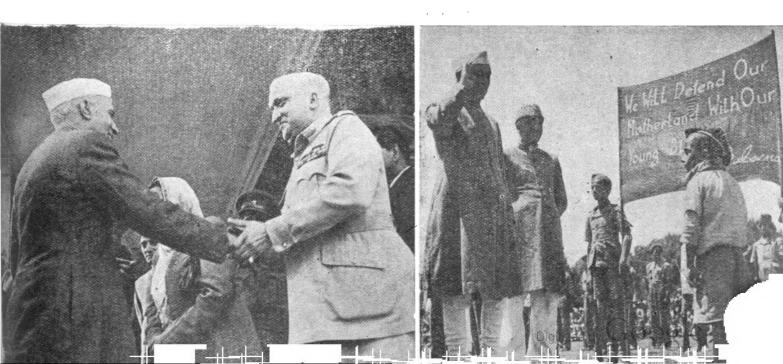
KASHMIR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS: The Prime Minister at a garden party in Shalimar Bagb. Seated from left to right are H, H. the Maharaja of Kashmir, Begum Abdulla, Paudit Nehru and the Maharaja of Kashmir. (Below): The Prime Minister in a river procession in Jhelum. By his left are Sheikh Abdulla and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (back to the camera)

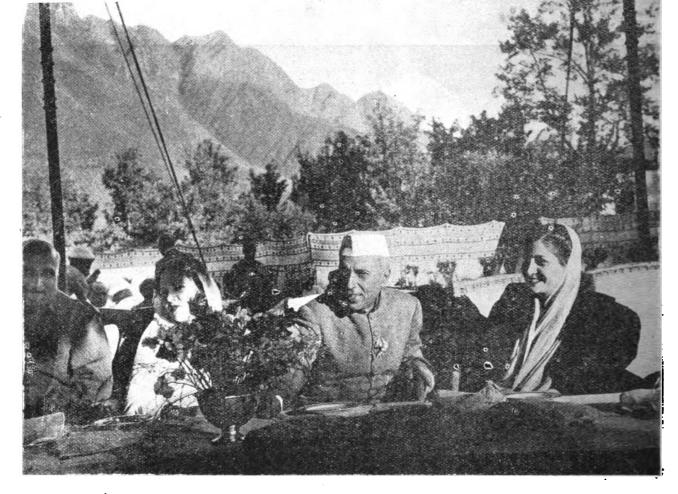


PANDIT
NEHRU
IN
KASHMIR

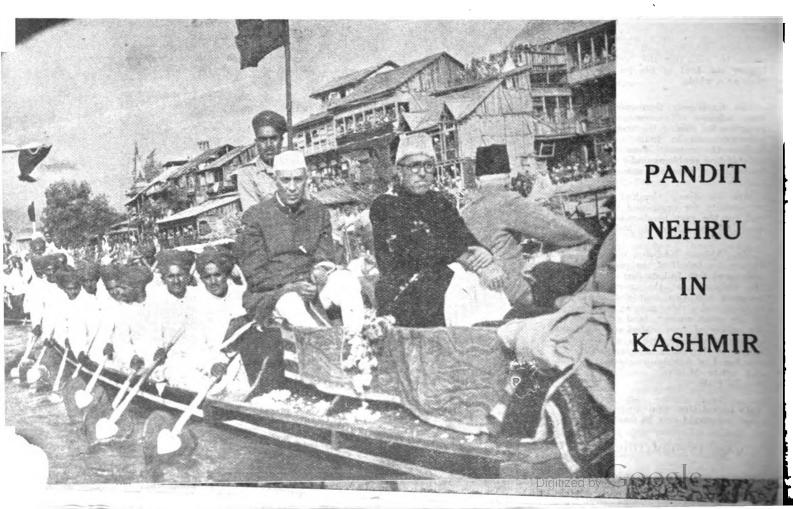


Prime Minister inspects a detachment of Kashmir Women's Advance Corps in Srioagar. (Below left) The Maharaja greets the Prime Minister. (Below right) A member of the Kashmir Balasena (Boys' Militia) salutes the Prime Minister who pleasantly returns it



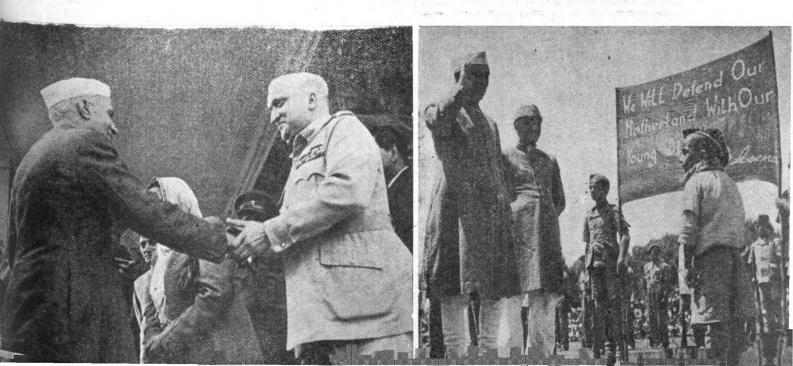


KASHMIR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS: The Prime Minister at a garden party in Shalimar Bagb. Seated from left to right are H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir, Begum Abdulla, Paudit Nehru and the Maharani of Kashmir. (Below): The Prime Minister in a river procession in Jhelum. By his left are Sheikh Abdulla and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (back to the camera)





Prime Minister inspects a detachment of Kashmir Women's Advance Corps in Srinagar. (Below left) The Maharaja greets the Prime Minister. (Below right) A member of the Kashmir Balasena (Boys' Militia) salutes the Prime Minister who pleasantly returns it







Equipping an R. l. A. F. Tempest before it goes into action against raiders in Kashmir. (Right) Rockets being loaded

# National Markings for RIAF Aircraft

The new National Markings for aircraft of the Royal Indian Air Force have now been approved by the Government of India.

These National Markings are to be shown in roundels consisting of the Asoka Chakra on the wings and the fuselage and the vertical tri-colour flash on the fin.

The Chakra which is to be of specified dimensions, will be in Navy blue and

will be painted on the upper and lower sides of the wings in case of monoplane aircraft and on the upper side of the upper wing and the lower side of the lower wing in case of biplane aircraft. The Chakras are also to be painted on both sides of the fuselage just behind the trailing edge of the wings.

The tri-colour flash, which is to be shown on the fin will be so painted that the saffron colour is towards the leading edge and the green on the trailing edge of the aircraft.

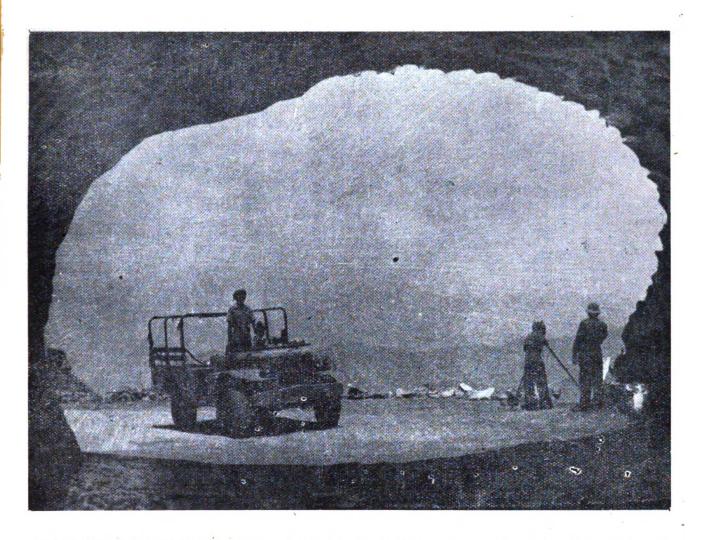
# SHORT-TERM SERVICE COMMISSIONS

The last date for receiving applications for permanent and Short Service Regular Commissions in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps has been changed from May 15 to July 15.

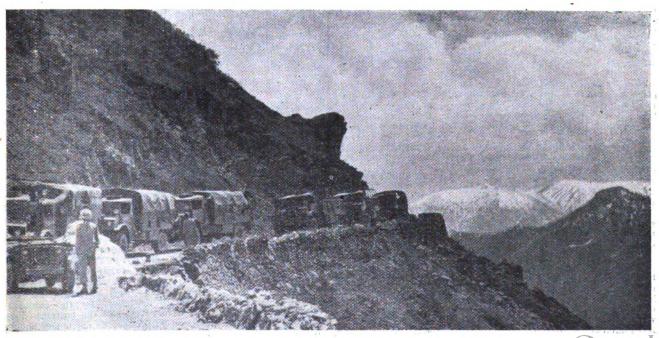
The decision to grant permanent and Short Service Regular Commissions in the IAOC to selected candidates from among the Ordnance Officers (civilian) and civilian Gazetted Officers was announced in the last week of April. Officers discharged after January 1, 1947, are also eligible to apply.

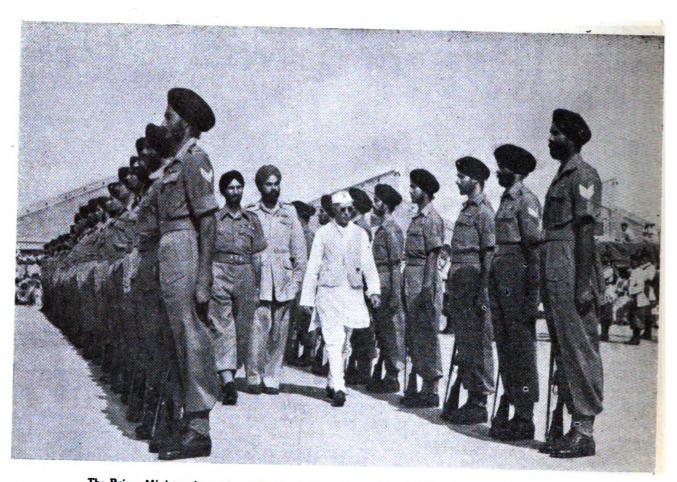
Ground crew servicing an aircraft and (Right) two Fighter pilots on return from their reconnaissance sorties furnish reports to their Commander





NEGOTIATING THE BANIHAL PASS: Pictures show vehicles of an Indian Army convoy negotiating the 9,000 feet Banihal Pass which was covered with 30 feet of snow during winter months when vehicular traffic was not possible





The Prime Minister inspecting a Guard of Honour by a Sikh Regiment at the Delhi Cantonment

# "Vital Link in India's Armed Services" Pandit Nehru's Tribute To C.O.D.

A purse of Rs. 12,000 towards the refugee relief fund was presented to the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, when he visited the Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi Cantonment on may 21. The Commanding Officer, Col. A. J. A. Rodrigues, presented the purse.

The Prime Minister, on arrival, inspected a guard of honour presented by the 16th Battalion, the Sikh Regiment, The band of the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre was in attendance.

Thanking the officers and staff of the Central Ordnance Depot for their generous contribution, the Prime Minister said: "You are a vital link in the Armed Services of this country and if one link breaks the whole chain breaks". He congratulated the workers on their smartness and discipline and hoped that they would keep up the same spirit of service to the country.

Accompanied by Major-General Tara Singh Bahl, G. O. C., Delhi Area, Brigadier Rodrigues, Director of Ordnance Services, and Col. Rodrigues, Commanding COD., Delhi, the Prime Minister went round the depot and inspected the 505 Command Workshop.

### Employment of Ex-Servicemen

For the seventh month in succession, the Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour has set up a new record in the number of persons placed in employment. During April 1948, 18,581 applicants, of whom 4,820 were ex-Servicemen, were found jobs by the 54 Employment Exchanges in India. The number of displaced persons from Pakistan placed in the same month rose to 6,030 bringing the total placements of such persons to 31,734

The total number of persons placed in employment since the inception of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation upto the end of April 1948, was 3,47,319 of whom 2,01,140 were ex-Servicemen.

During April 1948, 2,963 ex-Service personnel were selected and posted to 296 training centres in the Dominion of India, bringing the total number selected and posted, upto the end of that month, to 53,805.

Postings during the above month included 2,856 ex-Servicemen posted to vocational and technical training centres and 107 disabled persons posted to training centres for war-disabled. The total number of persons under training at the end of the month was 12,337 which included 2,606 displaced persons.

#### PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 695)

as also for other categories of commercial plywood. The Government should constitute an ad hoc committee for this purpose. "In view of the importance of the export trade in tea to the economy of the country." states the report, "we cannot afford to take any risks in packing tea in unacceptable containers. The Board also rejects the suggestion that plywood of a slightly lower grade would be adequate for the internal transport of tea.

Under the control of the Forest Research Institute an inspecting agency should be established to test the quality of Indian plywood and to see that it satisfies the prescribed specifications.

A statutory cess of 8 annas per 100 square feet of plywood manufactured in India should be levied on the basis of actual sales. The proceeds of this cess should be handed over to the Forest Research Institute for carrying on research in the manufacture of plywood. A panel should be constituted to act as liaison between the Institute and the industry in the plywood research activities of the Institute.

Indian manufacturers of plywood should send their technical men for training and periodical refresher course to the Forest Research Institute.

The Central Government should give every facility and assistance for the import of machinery for the manufacture of plywood and the customs duty paid on such imported machinery should be refunded.



Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, talking to Gurkha Officers at Bangalore, during his recent tour of Madras and Bomby areas

# PENSIONS OF EX-INDIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

Government of India have decided that pensions of all lex-Indian military pensioners, which were forefeited on political grounds, be restored in full, with retrospective effect from the dates they were forfeited, except in cases where pension has already been restored prior to August 15, 1947.

Pensioners, who are nationals of the Dominion of India by birth or domicile, including those who have migrated from Pakistan to India or who are resident of an Indian State which has acceded to the Indian Dominion will apply for restoration of their pensions, by registered post, to the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions), Old Indian Militar Hospital Lines, Allahabad, giving the following particulars:-

- (i) Name, regimental number, rank and name of unit (in the case of family pension, number, rank and name of the unit of the deceased).
- (ii) Name of treasury or post office from which the pension was last drawn and from which it is now desired to be
- (iii) The date up to and for which the pension was last drawn.
- (iv) Treasury or post office serial number, if known.

- (v) The rate and kind of pension COMMISSIONS TO ENGINEERING (i.e., whether it was service, disability or CRADITATES family pension).
- (vi) A copy of the letter ordering forfeiture of pension and where a copy of the letter is not available, an affidavit of the pensioner, duly countersigned by two well-known, trustworthy persons, showing the reasons for forfeiture of pension.
- (vii) Whether the restoration of pension was previously applied for and if restored, the date from which it was restored.
- (viii) Pension Certificate, if available, or number and date of Pension Circular in which pension was originally sanctioned.
- (ix) A certificate of identification containing permanent identification marks (in duplicate) signed by a magistrate or a civilian gazetted officer, or a King's Commissioned Officer or a King's Commissioned Indian Officer or an Indian Commissioned Officer or a serving Junior Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army.

The Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions) will, after making necessary enquiries, issue orders regarding payment of pension.

## NATIONAL CADET **CORPS**

TO implement the Government's decision for the formation of National Cadet Corps, a Directorate of National Cadet Corps, under Col. G. G. Bewoor with a picked military staff, has just been formed under the Ministry of Defence. The Directorate is speeding up arrangements and the Corps will begin functioning early in the coming academic year.

The long summer vacation for Colleges and Schools is being taken advantage of for training instructors for the senior and junior divisions. The immediate strength of the senior division will be 15,000 and of the junior division 30,000. The Corps will be officered by selected members of the staff of colleges and schools. The nucleus of Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and NCO's will also be provided to train the senior division. Those selected from members of the staff of the universities will be granted commissions in the newly-formed Territorial Forces. The Junior Division will be officered by members of the staff of schools alone.

Recruitment to the Corps will be entirely voluntary. Cadets will be given travelling expenses and free rations or allowances in lieu while attending training camps or courses.

Steps are being taken to obtain equipment and clothing for the cadets.

In order to ensure uniform standard of training, discipline and the national character of the corps, the Government of India will exercise general control over the corps but it is expected that there will be a substantial delegation of powers to Provincial Governments, particularly, in respect of the junior division.

. It is proposed to grant permanent regular commissions, in the Indian Army to selected Engineering graduates.
Candidates for the commissions must
be Indian nationals and must possess the minimum qualification of associate membership of the Institution of Engineers or an equivalent qualification recognised by the Institution or must have passed the Membership examination of the Indian Institute of Engineers, parts A&B, or such other equivalent examination accepted by the Institute, or have a degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering of a recognised University.

Candidates must be between 21 and 27 years of age on Jan. 1, 1949. Preference will be given to unmarried candidates. Candidates previously rejected by the Services Selection Board may also apply, if otherwise eligible. Candidates will be interviewed by the Services Selection Board and they will be given the travelling allowance.

Selected candidates will have to go through a training course at the Indian Military Academy.

## G. O. C.-in-C. Visits Kashmir Front

The G. O. C.-in-C., Western Command, made a tour by air of the forward areas in the Jammu Province recently.

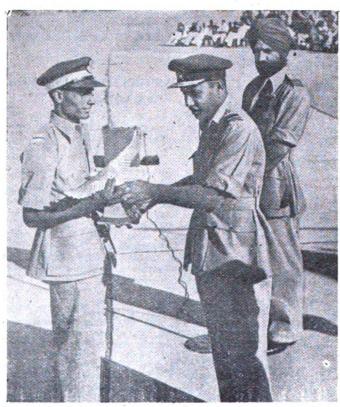
Speaking to the officers and men at Jhangar, Rajaori and Naushahra, he congratulated them on their achievements and the bravery with which they had conducted the operations on high hills and at far off places. He said that as soldiers of India they should live up to the high traditions of the Indian Army, in their handling of inhabitants of occupied villages.

He found that the troops everywhere displayed a very high morale and showed supreme determination to drive out the raiders from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir. All the troops were in excellent heart and felt satisfied with the few amenities it has been possible to provide, caring little for more.

Addressing the Army officers at Jammu G. O. C.-in-C. reminded them of their heavy responsibilities towards the country and asked them to continue to carry out the sacred duty entrusted to them by the Government i.e., to rid this beautiful land of Jammu and Kashmir of the raiders. He asked them not to develop a feeling of self-complacency as a result of their successes so far and warned them never to underestimate the strength of our enemy no matter who he may be.



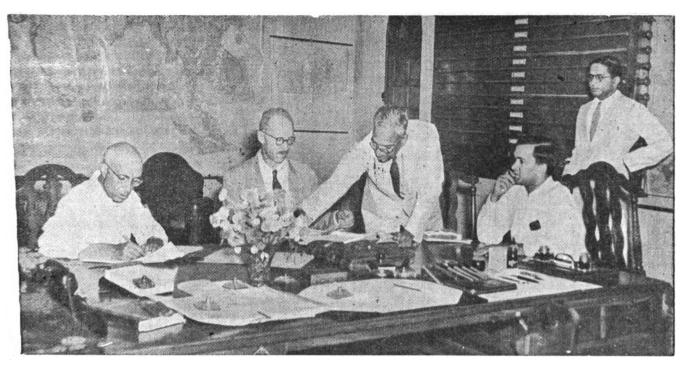
Major-General Thimmayya talking to officers of the Kumaon Regiment



Air Vice-Marshal Mukherjee presents the Nabha Trophy to officer cadet Low for securing the highest marks in ground subjects in the Advance Training School at Ambala.



Patiala Trophy presented to officer cadet Bhargawa for being the best pilot at the School



Pandit Nehru, signing on behalf of the Government of India, the Air Transport Agreement with Sweden. Mr. C. A. M Hallenberg, Consul-General for Sweden (second from left) signed on behalf of the Government of Sweden

# India Signs Air Pact With Sweden

bilateral air transport [agreement between the Governments of India and Sweden was signed in New Delhi on May 21 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, and Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Communications, on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. C.A.M. Hallenborg, Consul-General for Sweden, on behalf of the Government of Sweden.

The Agreement mainly follows the pattern of the Agreements concluded in the past between the Government of the U.S. A., the Netherlands and France. It defines the conditions under which the scheduled air services of each country are to be operated between the territories of India and Sweden. It provides for the categories of traffic which shall be carried, the use of airports, control of rates for carriage between the territories of the two Parties and exchange of information and statistics.

The Annex to the Agreement describes the routes to be operated by the airlines of the two Contracting Parties. An airline designated by the Swedish Government will have the right to fly the following route and to make traffic stops in India at the places mentioned:—

Sweden, points in Europe, points in the Near East, in the Middle East, Iran and Pakistan to Delhi & Calcutta and thence to points in Burma and Siam and beyond, via intermediate points in both directions. The route for operation by an airline designated by the Government of India is left to be settled at a later date by mutual agreement.

An interesting feature of the agreement is that it makes it possible for the Swedish Government to designate the Scandinavian Airline System, which is a combine of the National Airlines of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, as the airline to operate on the route to and across India. Before this is done however, it will be necessary for similar agreements to be conculded between India and Norway and Denmark. It is expected that negotiations for such agreements will commence in the near future.

#### **USE OF STATE EMBLEM**

The State Emblem of the Indian Dominion, which consists of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka showing the three loins standing on an abacus which has a Dha: ma Chakra in the centre, a bull on the right and a horse on the left, can only be used by officials of the Dominion authorised to do so by the Government of India.

In this connection, the attention of the public is drawn to the provisions of Section 69 of the Trade Marks Act of 1940 which prohibits the use of the State Emblem in any trade, business calling or profession.

Persons using the State Emblem without being duly authorised to do so by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, shall be liable for action under the Trade Marks Act of 1940.

# New Stamps To Commemorate India-U. K. Air Service

Special first flight stamps and covers to commemorate the inauguration of India's external air service from Bombay to London were issued from May 29 in 28 cities and towns in the country.



The design of the stamp shows a

Constellation aircraft in flight against light cloud back-ground. On top, the words 'Air India International' appear in white letters and below the aircraft 'First Flight' and '8th June 1948' in small lettering and at the bottom 'India Postage' in white on solid colour. The value panel is in the bottom right The border and background are in cobalt blue and the inset in black. The paper is water-marked all over with multiple five pointed stars. The stamps, which are of the value of 12 annas have been printed by the off-set proces in the India Security Press, Nasik.

Specially designed first flight envelopes will be available free of charge to the purchasers of these stamps.

Digitized by



H. M. L. S. Sutlej at anchor in Bombay Harbour: Commissioned in February, 1941, H. M. I. S. Sutlej saw service in Atlantic and British coastal waters and subsequently participated in the landings on Sicily and in the asseult on Rangoon she arrived in Bombay from Britain, where she had taken a contingent of Indian Ratings for naval training

### FIRST INDIAN

The first Indian officer to be promoted to a high rank in the Royal Indian Navy is Captain A. Chakravarti, R. I. N., Chief of Staff, Naval Headquarters, India, who has just been constituted Commodore 2nd Class.

Commencing his sea career in the f.'M. M. T. S. "Dufferin" as a cadet in 1928, he passed out with distinction in 1930 and was awarded the Viceroy's Gold Medal as the best cadet of the year.

He joined the Royal Indian Marine as a cadet and underwent training in the United Kingdom for about three years. Shortly after the outbreak of the war in 1939 he was again sent to the United Kingdom for a long specialist gunnery course. On return to India in the imiddle of 1941 he was appointed Ind-in-command of the R. I. N. Gunnery School which was then located in Bombay. In 1943 as a Lieut.-Commander he held the appointment of Staff Cificer Gunnery to Naval Headquarters.

### **COMMODORE**



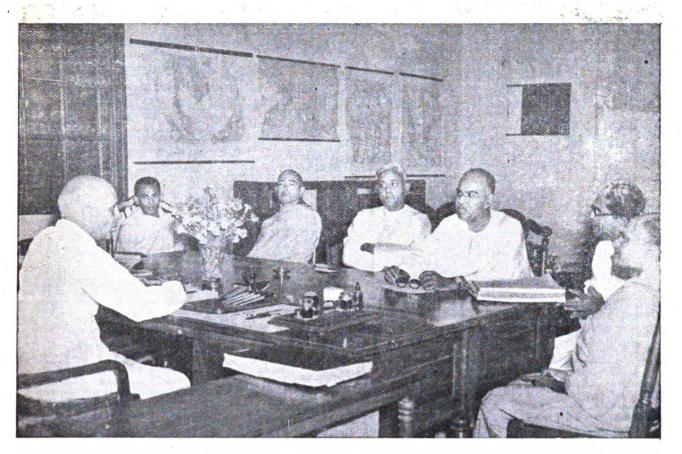
Commodore A. Chakravarti R. I. N.

Commodore Chakravarti has a distinguished war service and was mentioned in despatches during Minesweeping Operations off Burma and Malacca Straits. In 1946 he successfully completed a Staff Course at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, and on return was appointed Commanding Officer of the then H. M. I. S. "Himalaya" the largest Gunnery School in Asia.

He led the Indian Naval contingent during the Victory Parade in London in June 1946. Since June 1947 he has held the appointment of Chief of Administration at Naval Headquarters and has in addition been officiating as the Chief of Staff, since March this year.

#### RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

As a subsidiary measure to facilitate the resettlement of ex-Servicemen in civil life, the Employment Exchanges helped 2,490 ex-Servicemen, between December 1946 and March 1948, to secure yarn quota from the Regional Textile Controllers, with a view to enabling them to set up their own hand-looms. As a general rule, each ex-Serviceman, entitled to yarn quota was permitted to set up only one loom to be worked by himself.



Members of the Mahabodhi Society met Pandit Nehru recently along with Dr. S. P. Mukerjee, President of the Society and His Excellency U Win, Burmese Ambassador in India. The possibility of displaying in Burma some sacred Buddhist relice given over by Ceylon to India, was discussed

# Municipal Corporation For Delhi

The establishment of a Corporation in Delhi amalgamating the existing six local bodies operating in Delhi urban area, and introducing a number of modern and novel features into the Civil Administration of India's capital has been recommended by the Delhi Municipal Organisation Enquiry Committee, in their report published today.

Modelled more or less on the pattern of other Corporations in India, the proposed set-up which will be based on Adult Suffrage will have a Council consisting largely of elected members. Aldermen and a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor, a highly-paid Chief Executive Officer, and a net work of Committees. To enable the Corporation to maintain a very high standard of services, its finances are to be strengthened by various Government grants, a better method of assessment and imposition of new taxes.

The local Bodies which should be amalgamated and known as the Delhi Municipal Corporation according to the report are (1) The Delhi Municipal Committee, (2) The New Delhi Municipal Committee, (3) The Notified Area Committee, Civil Station, (4) The East Delhi Notified Area Committee (5) Shahdara and (6) Mehrauli.

The Council of the Corporation should consist of between 55 to 75 members, not including Representatives of Special interests and Aldermen, the Committee recommends.

The Delhi Improvemnt Trust should continue to function independently of the proposed Corporation, but the public should be associated with the Trust's Activities in a larger measure than now, the report suggests.

The continuance of the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority and the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board and the setting up of a Passenger Transport Board with a monopoly of Passenger Transport Service in the urban 'area are also recommended.

The committee have come to the conclusion, that some control of Municipal Administration by Government is inevitable anywhere in India and particularly in Delhi, the Capital of the country. In their opinion, the old prejudice against government control will no longer be justified in view of the composition and character of the Central and Provincial Governments with whom the Corporation will deal

### CINEMATOGRAPH FILM RULES

In order to minimise the danger of accidents through faulty storage of films, the Government of India have promulgated rules regulating storage and transport of cinefilm throught, the country.

Frequent fires and explosions involving considerable loss of life and property, that have recently occurred in places where film is either stored or handled, have on investigation been found to be due to lack of proper safety measures.

These rules called the "Cinematograph Film Rules, 1948" specify the precautions to be taken and the necessity for segregation of this highly inflammable material from congested localities. They were gazetted in the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power's Notification No. P. 108, dated 23rd March, 1948 and came into force on the date of the Notification. (The Notification was published in the Gazette of India of April 3, 1948).

Persons interested in the storage and transport of cinefilm having a nitro-cellulose base should in their own interest apply to the Chief Inspector of Explosives in India, M Block, New Delhi, for further information regarding storage, licences and other mattere connected therewith.

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Sardar K. M. Panikkar, India's Ambassador to China, presenting credentials to President Chiang Kaj-Shek

# Pandit Nehru's Felicitations to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek

THE following message has been sent by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, to Chiang-Kai-Shek on his assumption of office as the first elected President of the Chinese Republic:—

"On behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf I have great pleasure in offering felicitations on Your Excellency's assumption of the office of President of the Chinese Republic. Your election as President is the most appropriate tribute by the great Chinese Nation to your invaluable services in steering the Ship of State through many years of travail and suffering. The long ties of friendship and cultural association between China and India and in more recent times, the friendship and sympathy shown by Your Excellency and the Chinese Nation in India's struggle for freedom make your assumption of the exalted office of President of the Chinese Republic a special occasion for rejoicing by the people of India.

"The Government and the people of India wish the Chinese people peace and prosperity under your distinguished leadership".

"The silken bonds that unite India and China have always been precious to ma," 'said General Li Tsungh-Jen, Vice-President of the Republic of China to Sardar K. M. Panikkar, Indian Ambassador, at their first official meeting in the Chinese capital.

#### Gen. Li's Assurance

Sardar Panikkar was the first Ambassdor to be received by General Li after his assumption of office a few days back.

General Li said that it would be his endeavour to further cultural neighbourly ties between the two countries. India and China, working together would be a great force for peace, he said.

The Vice-President who has been a serving General and has not had time to go abroad now intends to visit foreign countries. One day he hopes to visit India too.

He expressed this appreciation of the message of goodwill sent by Prime Minister Nehru on the occasion of the formal assumption of office by Generalissimo Chiaug-Kai-shek and himself as President and Vice-President of China under the new constitution.

# MOROCCON LEADER ON FREE INDIA'S ROLE

The Ambassador of India in Egypt, Dr. Syud Hossain called on Emir Abdul Kerim, the famous Moroccon leader at Cairo on May 19. Dr. Syud Hossais was cordially received by the Emir who asked him to convey his greetings and felicitations to Pandit Nehru on the attainment of freedom by India.

The Emir said that during the 20 years of his exile in Reunion Islands there had not been a day that he had not followed India's struggle for freedom with interest and sympathy. "India was", he said "the citadel of European Imperialism and its pivot. Now that India is free the whole of the Orient must become free. I look to India to be the champion of the national freedom of all Oriental peoples".

It will be recalled that Emir Abdu Kerim led the Ribt rebellion of 1921 and was interned in the Reunion Islands for more than 20 years. He was released last year when be escaped from the ship carrying him to France and sought sanctuary in Egypt where he was welcomed by the Egyptian Government



ing fit: A scene from the Kurukshetra Camp, where every male adult takes physical exercise daily to keep himself fit

# DISPERSAL OF REFUGEES IN EAST PUNJAB CAMPS

ISPERSAL of over three lakhs of refugees out of a total of six lakhs at present in camps in East Punjab, including Kurukshetra, has been planned by the East Punjab Government to be executed in the next six months.

Proposals in this connection were reviewed at the seventh meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board held in Simla on Sunday, May 9, 1948, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation presided and among those present were Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. Premier and S. Ishar Singh Majhail, Minister of the East Punjab Government; Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation; Mr. Brij Naravan. Financial Adviser, Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry; Mr. P. N. Thapar, Financial Commissioner (Refugee Rehabilitation), East Punjab Government; and Mr. Tarlok Singh, Director-General, Rehabilitation, East Rural Punjab Government.

#### Work for Every Refugee

It is expected that a large number of refugees will be absorbed under the new land settlement proposals which are expected to be finalised shortly. Active assistance to refugees to whom evacuee factories have been allotted, in the procurement of essential materials to start work again has been planned. Smallscale cottage industries will also absorb a number of refugees. At the same time, housing accommodation in many towns of East Punjab is being increased both by the construction of new buildings and the repair of damaged houses so that refugees can be easily absorbed in the economic life of these towns. Three new towns at Faridabad, Gurgaon and Anandpur are planned to provide accommodation for nearly 1,00,000.

Work will be found for all able bodied refugees whether in camps or outside. Employment offices are being opened in every camp and registration has already been taken in hand. There is an immediate demand for 50,000 men to work on the new development projects in the

Province. As the work on these projects and on the construction of roads progresses, there will be still larger demand for men. Every refugee who is drafted on this work will be given a living wage, though the work he does might entitle him to a lesser amount. The difference between what a refugee earns and what is actually paid to him as a living wage will be debited to the Relief account. Those refugees who refuse to work will not be entitled to free rations but those who are infirm or incapable of undertaking manual work will continue in camps and draw free ration until they are rehabilitated.

The Board approved of plans to give priority to dispersal of refugees at present in bivouac tents. They will be either accommodated in larger tents or they will be given assistance to build hutments by digging and putting up walls over which double fly roofs will be provided. These hutments will have protection all round and will be able to stand the rigours of the summer heat and rains. In many camps large hutments are being constructed to provide shelter for children during the day. All camp hospitals will have thatched roofs.

#### Evacuation of Harijans

The Board further decided that management of the Kurukshetra Camp will be transferred from the Central Government to the East Punjab Government from June 15, 1948.

The Board also considered the question of expediting the evacuation of Scheduled Castes who are still stranded in West Punjab. According to information received there are still several thousand Harijans who remain to be evacuated. Representations have been made to Pakistan authorities for their early evacuation. The Board considered the present rate of evacuation unsatisfactory, and measures were proposed to expedite this movement.

# RETURN OF MUSLIM EVACUEES

#### Government Policy Clarified

The Government of India have considered the case of Muslim evacuees returning from Pakistan into India and have decided that whilst Muslim evacuees are welcome to return to their homes, such return would be subject to any interests that have been created in evacuees' property in the meanwhile, in pursuance of plans for rehabilitation of non-Muslim refugees.

The Pakistan Government are being informed that it is not possible for India to permit one-way traffic of evacuees from Pakistan into India. It is hoped that discussions will take place between the representatives of the two Dominions at a very early date with a view to organising movement of refugees to their homes on a planned basis, on Govern-mental level, in order to produce twoway traffic of evacuees satisfactory to both the Dominions. While the Government of India have no desire to hamper the movements of individuals who may wish to cross the border on bona fide business or short visits, steps are being taken to ensure screening of large-scale movements of Muslims from Pakistan into India by rail, road or other means of transport.

The Government of Irdia have also considered the case of Muslims who left their homes temporarily for other parts of India owing to disturbed conditions and now desire to return to their homes. It has been decided that the property of such evacuees should be released in all cases where such release is justified. Custodians of Evacuees Property in Centrally Administrered areas have been informed of this decision and Provincial Governments and States which have acceded to the Indian Union have been invited to follow the same policy.

#### C. P. TO RETAIN TWO STATES

(Continued from Page 701) !

of both the Governments submitted their claims to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister for States, at Mussoorie. After careful consideration of the case on merits, the States Ministry is of opinion that the case for the retention by the C.P. and Berar Government of the States of Surguja and Jashpur is much stronger than the claim of the Government of Bihar. From many points of view, administrative, linguistic and economic, it is desirable that these two States should remain as at present with the C.P. and Berar.

#### No Union of Orissa States

An agitation is being sponsored by interested parties regarding the formation of a separate Union of the Orisss and Chhattisgarh States. The Government of India wish to make it clear that they will not countenance in any way the formation of such a Union. These States will be completely integrated with their respective Provinces with a common judiciary, legislature and executive as early as possible.

# FAIR WAGES TO LABOUR Expert Committee to Report

As a measure preliminary to the appointment of a Central Advisory Council on industries the Government of India are setting up an expert committee to study and report on the determination of fair wages to labour and fair return on capital. The following is the text of a Government of India Resolution announcing the personnel and functions of the Committee.

In pursuance of paragraph 9 of their Resolution dated April 6, 1948, on Industrial Policy, which deals with fair remuneration to labour, the Government of India propose shortly to constitute a Central Advisory Council. The main function of this body will be to advise Government on the principles to be followed for the determination of (a) fair wages to labour, (b) fair return on capital employed in the industry, (c) reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking, and (d) labour's share of the surplus profits, calculated on a sliding scale normally varying with production, after provision has been made for (b) and (c) above.

The Government of India agree with the view expressed at the recent Labour Conference that subjects (b), (c) and (d) are of such a complex nature as to require preliminary study by experts in order to facilitate detailed consideration by the Central Advisory Council. They have accordingly decided to appoint a Committee of Experts consisting of the following members: (1) Sir Biren Mookerjee, (2) Mr. A.D. Shroff, (3) Mr. S. P. Jain, (4) Prof. Radha Kamal Mukherjee, (5) Mr. Asoka Mehta, (6. Mr. Khandubhai K. Desai, (7) Mr. V.S. Karnik, and not more than two representatives each of the Ministry of Industry and Supply, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce.

#### Points for Consideration

The Committee is requested to pay particular attention to the following points:—

- (1) How should 'capital employed in the industry' be determined?
- (2) How should depreciation and taxation be treated for the purpose of arriving at the gross profit to be allocated between capital, labour and reserves?
- (3) What are the purposes for which provision should be made by way of reserves and what should be the extent of such reserves?
- (4) What should be a fair return on capital employed in the industry? Should it be at a uniform rate for all industries or should the rate vary from industry to industry and, if so, on what principles? If the fair return is not reached in some years, should provision be made for making it up later, and, if so, how?

Note:—The fair return should be such as not to discourage adequate investment.

- (5) Should the fair return on capital employed in an industry vary with the level of taxation if the industry is (a) a joint-stock company; or (b) a private company?
- (6) How should labour's share of the surplus profits (after making provision for fair return on capital and reasonable reserves) be determined on a sliding scale normally varying with production?
- (7) Should surplus profits be shared every year or should a part be held in reserve for equalisation or any other purpose such as provision against past or future losses?
- (8) How should labour's share of the distributable profits, as determined under (6) and (7) above, be distributed, that is, whether by each undertaking or by each industry or by industry as a whole in each region or for all industrial undertakings in the country or by a combination of these methods?
- (9) How should Government undertakings be treated for (1) to (8) above?

(10) What should be the nature of the machinery for the determination of fair return, etc. on the principles finally accepted by Government? and

(11) If, in the light of the considerations mentioned above, profit sharing appears impracticable, what, if any, are the alternatives available to give effect to the principles underlying Government's declared policy?

# INCREASE IN NEWSPRINT CEILING PRICES

In view of the higher landed cost of newsprint, the Government of India in the Ministry of Industry and Supply have, by a notification in the Gazette of India, dated May 14, 1948, increased the ceiling retail prices of newsprint as follows:—

l rice per lb

(a) newsprint in reels
(i) at a customs port

(ii) at any other place (b) newsprint in sheets (i) at a customs port

(ii) at any other place (c) Waste newsprint including reels end and

clippings.

7 annas 71 anna

6 annas

6) anna

4 annas.

An extra charge of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas per lb. may be made in any case falling within (a) or (b) if the newsprint has been imported from any part of Europe.

# DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY-CRAFT TRAFFIC

The Government of India have set up a Committee with headquarters at Bombay to investigate the possibilities of developing India's country-craft traffic. It consists of:

Mr. C. A. Buch, General Manager, Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay; (Chairman)

Mr. M. C. Veerabahu Pillai, Member, Constituent Assembly;

Mr. B. M. Desai, Department of Commerce, Baroda; (Members);

Mr. G. Dattatreya Rao, Bunt Hostel Road, Mangalore; (Member-Secretary.)

The Committee will examine and report on steps necessary to ensure full utilisation of country-craft (sailing vessels) in the development of the country's economy and to prevent wasteful competition between country-craft and steamers, regard being paid to the different needs served by the two classes of transport.

The Committee will also consider measures to improve this traffic generally, and technical improvements in particular, bearing in mind the need for keeping the capital and operational costs of the vessels at levels which would enable them to cater for the traffic for which they are suited. Technical im-

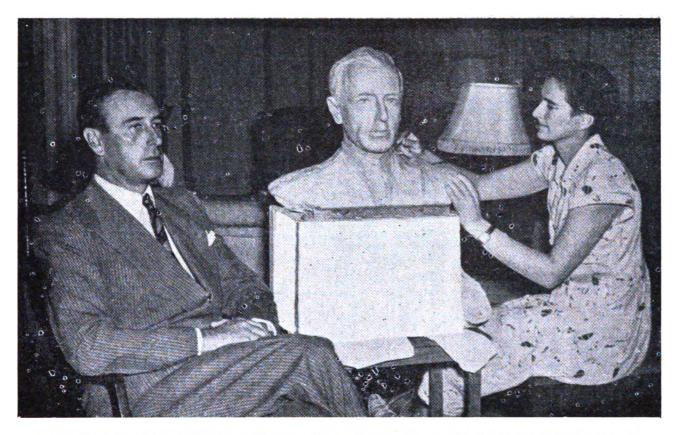
provements will apply to design, construction, equipment (navigational, life-saving and other), manning and related matters.

#### Modification of Law

Modification of the law applicable to country-craft and sailing vessels, especially in regard to registration, periodical surveys, load line, life-saving equipment and navigational instruments are other points to be considered.

The Committee's observations on the following matters are also sought: Measures necessary to prevent fraudulent "jettisoning" of cargo and other malpractices; possibility of standardising sailing vessel freight rates and improvement of types of craft and increased use of mechanical propulsion.

During the latter part of the war, the suiling vessel traffic on the West Coast of India was organised with a view to affording relief to the Railways and coastal shipping in the movement of essential items. Control over the traffic was exercised under the Defence of India Rules, and this successfully assisted in the movement of approximately a million tons of cargo per annum during the years 1944-46. The control was terminated in September 1946. Since then the volume of cargo offering for sailing vessels as well as the freight rates declined to some extent.



Lord and Lady Mountbatten sit for Clara Quien, a well-known Dutch sculpturess, who is modelling their portrait busts



INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1948

## INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE

N pursuance of the conclusions reached at the recent interDominion Conference in Calcutta, the Government of India have decided to allow the export of fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, fresh milk and milk products, fish (dried and fresh), poultry and eggs and local spices by land to Pakistan without any licensing restrictions. Therefore, no application for an export licence for these commoditioes need be submitted, and instructions have accordingly been issued to the Customs and Excise staff concerned to allow their movement without the production of an export licence.

The position in regard to cloth is that there is at present an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan governing the supply of cloth from India to Pakistan and that of cotton from Pakistan to India. Licences for the export of cloth, which is covered by this arrangement, are being issued but, for the present, applications for ordinary exports on commercial and private account are not being entertained.

The present arrangements, which are of an interim nature, will come to an end shortly, and due notice will be given to the trade as to the manner in which applications for future exports should be made.

Meanwhile, the export of handloom cloth is being freely licensed, and intending 'exporters of handloom cloth to Pakistan should apply to the nearest Export Trade Controller or Deputy Chief Controller of Exports as the case may be.

In regard to other commodities, the position is being actively considered and quotas will be announced shortly. Pending the fixation of quotas, ad hoc licences are being issued to cover immediate requirements only. As a rule, preference will be given in the grant of licences to manufacturers, or to those who have to their credit substantial sales in the past in territories which are now included in Pakistan.

### Breach of Indo-Pakistan Agreement

The Pakistan Government have issued a press note asking all companies incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1913 with registered offices in West Punjab to give a detailed statement of shares held by non-Muslims in such companies.

It has also been stated that these shares are evacuees' property and vest in the Custodian and that dividends accruing thereon should not be paid. This is contrary to the Inter-Dominion agreement arrived at in the Conference of March 13 to 15 under which shares of Joint Stock Companies were freely transferable from one Dominion to the other. The Government of India are protesting to the Pakistan Government against this breach of the agreement.

### WAGONS KEEP MOVING

A survey of rail movements for the period April 15—May 15 reveals that over 150 train loads—roughly equivalent to 150,000 tons—of foodgrains, gur, sugar, steel and other essential commodities were carried from ports and producing centres to the consuming areas in the country. These 150 specials, which were planned by the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport, do not include the large wagon quotas allotted for several other items such as asbestos sheets required for the construction of refugee houses and stalls in Delhi and phosphate manure for the 'grow more food' campaign in North India.

Eleven grain specials, mostly gram, were despatched during this period to South India from the E. P. Railway, while 150 to 220 wagons—equivalent to 3 to 5½ trains—a day have been carrying foodgrains from Bombay port to deficit areas.

#### Gur, Sugar, Textiles

As regards gur, about 100,000 tons were lifted from the broad gauge stations of U. P. and 17 special trains were despatched from the producing areas. Gur prices which fell to as low as Rs. 8, rose to about Rs. 10!8 a maund as a result of this clearance of stocks. Five train loads of sugar were cleared from different areas on the E. P. Railway to Bombay.

To help ease the textile position in the East Punjab and Northern India, three special trains carrying cloth were run from Bombay, two for Delhi and the third for stations on the O. and T. Railway. Arrangements were also made to clear textiles from Ahmedabad and Baroda areas. Other movements include 13 special trains carrying steel from Tatanagar and wagonloads of manganese ore for shipment to the U.S.A. and other hard currency areas.

#### MORE SHIPS TO CARRY COAL

More ships, hitherto carrying rice from Burma, will henceforth be available for the movement of coal from Calcutta to other Indian ports. The Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport, at its meeting on May 13, was informed that, to start with, the Food Ministry would be able to release immediately at a ships for this purpose.

The Committee also arranged for special facilities for the transport of steel and other materials required for railway passenger coaches now being built at the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore. Similar assistance has been provided for carrying materials from up-country stations to the ship-building yard at Vizagapatam and for transporting boring machinery from Bombay to Roorkee for the construction of 300 tube-wells on behalf of the U.P. Government.

# Concessions to Railway Staff

A scaling down by half of the privilege passes issued to gazetted officials and a general levelling up of the number and conditions of privilege passes to non-gazetted and lower paid employees is a prominent feature of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Railways to Railway Administrations. Under the old rules, lower paid employees were entitled to get two sets of privilege passes from the sixth to the fifteenth year of their service and three sets of passes after putting in 15 years of service. Under the new rules, they will get three sets of passes each year from the sixth year of their service onwards.

Permission to use any or all the sets of privilege passes due on either home or foreign railways, has now been extended to all staff who will thus be able to utilize the passes due to them on any Government Railway, and even on those other Railways in India which have signified their acceptance of these rules. This is a great concession and increases the value of each pass appreciably. This is also a considerable improvement over the old rules, which allowed only one set of passes issued to non-gazetted staff to be valid over 'foreign' railways.

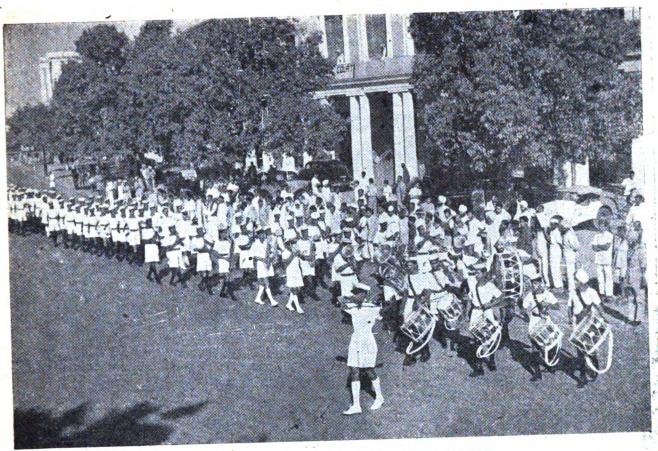
The Railway Ministry have, however, had to refix the classes of travel which would apply to non-gazetted staff in view of the substantial increases in pay which have resulted from Government's acceptance of the Pay Commission's recommendations. The class of pass admissible to a railway employee is based on his pay and the recent increase in emoluments would, under the old rules, have meant that he would have been entitled to travelling in a higher class than formerly. The revised regulations have, however, also raised the pay limits which entitle staff to a higher class of travel and though this has been resented by some employees and their Unions, others, more national-minded, have accepted the fact that railwaymen cannot expect to travel in higher classes than their countrymen of equal status in other walks of life.

# INFORMATION MINISTRY'S FILM DIVISION

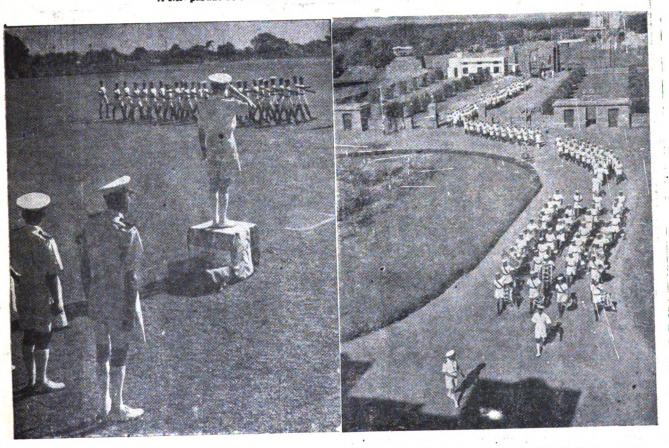
The organisation for the production and distribution of information films and news reels which the Government of India are re-establishing at Bombay will be called 'Films Division', Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The information films produced by the organisation will be known as DOCUMENTARY FILMS OF INDIA' and the weekly news reel 'INDIAN NEWS REVIEW'. These names replace the old 'Information films of India' and 'Indian News Parade'.

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A RIN parade at the recent Armed Forces Tatico held in New Delhi



(Left) Rear-Admiral J. T. S. Hall, C.-in-C., R. I. N. takes the salute at a march past. (Right) The R. I. N. Tattoo party parade through Connaught Circus, New Delhij

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INDIAN INFORMATION Regd. No. D-25



The Prime Minister being greeted by His Excellency M. Novikov, Soviet Ambassador in India. at a show of "Sun Flower," a Russian film in Hindi. Dr. Rajendra Prasad is on the right

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